

Croatia-Southeast Asia Business Advisory Network to support tech development in Malaysia

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22/02/2019

By Samantha Tan

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 22 (Bernama) – The establishment of Croatia-Southeast Asia Business Advisory Network would not only support technology development in Malaysia, but also help the country to achieve its ambition of becoming a developed nation.

Functioning as a knowledge hub and business incubator, the advisory network focused on entrepreneurship, technology development and innovation. This is timely, as these factors are the key drivers transforming Malaysia.

Croatian Ambassador to Malaysia Kreso Glavac said the advisory network, which focuses on businesses and people-to-people relations, would act as a framework to further boost collaboration between the two countries.

“The objective is to help Croatian companies and people to provide information and know-hows, as well as connecting them with Southeast Asian countries,” he told Bernama after the 10-year anniversary celebration of Croatia’s participation at Malaysia Technology Expo (MTE) 2019 here, Thursday.

The event was officiated by Deputy Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Wira Dr Mohd Hatta Ramli.

August last year, Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said that Malaysia can still become a fully developed nation but it might take a little longer than the original target of

the year 2020.

“Maybe we cannot achieve it by 2020, probably we can by 2025,” he was quoted as saying.

The advisory network was created as a dynamic cooperation platform of private sector entities, governments and experts from Croatia and Southeast Asian region namely Malaysia, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar and Brunei.

It aims to enhance regional integration via facilitating trade and investments, development of the small and medium enterprises by building synergies and partnerships, promoting policy dialogues, exchange of best practices and fostering corporate responsibility.

Glavac said the Malaysian government is aware of the potential from collaboration between European Union and Croatia, following the positive interests from ministries namely the Entrepreneur Development and Energy, Science, Technology, Climate Change and Environment.

The ambassador said the awareness on technology and innovation among young Malaysians is a significant signal of the nation's talent and creativity. Therefore, he added, it was vital to gain support from partners to create partnerships.

“When you are talented to invent something, you need partners. Croatian innovators also had partners and friends who collected talents and knowledge from other countries,” he explained.

He pointed out Nikola Tesla, a Serbian-American inventor, who was born in modern-day Croatia in 1856, as a great example.

This year, in its 18th edition, MTE is a one-stop showcase of the latest research and development including technologies, inventions and innovations, as well as designs and ideas. Croatia has been participating in MTE since 2009.

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