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Mimos tech platforms to back corridors

MIMOS technology platforms are being developed to support the growth of the regional economic corridors, including the Sabah Development Corridor (SDC), and enhance the capacity, competency and competitiveness of the local ICT industry within these corridors through the creation of new ICT jobs.

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister, Datuk Dr Maximus Ongkili, said in its effort to expand its collaborations with existing partners within SDC, Mimos has been working closely with the Sabah State Economic Planning Unit on technology and competency development programmes as well as funding and cost risk mitigation with the likes of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and Yayasan Sabah.

Ongkili said it is important that Malaysia takes advantage of the current financial crisis to strengthen its research and development (R&D) competency development activities, in preparation for economic and business opportunities when the economy bounces back.

He said Mimos, as a strategic agency under his Ministry, continues to undertake world-class research conducted by world-class researchers and scientists who are able to enhance their good scientific practice by creating an enabling environment for technology transfer that can lead to the development of new classes of products and services.

Among the innovative technology platforms and/or proof-of-concepts developed by Mimos are wireless sensor network, grid computing, Mimos security platform, intelligence informatics, knowledge technology and wireless communications.

"All are aware that Mimos' role and commitment is to develop technology platforms for the indigenous industries, including small and medium enterprises (SMEs), to further develop these technologies into products and applications to serve the global market needs with the ultimate aim of helping move Malaysia's ICT industry higher up the value chain and shift the economic needle," he said.

As Malaysia aspires to be a high income economy and move upwards the ladder of the Global Innovation Index (Malaysia was ranked 25th in the Global Innovation Index 2008/2009), growth must be driven by productivity, innovation and creativity, said Ongkili.

This means our local indigenous industries must compete through innovation and creativity to produce new and differentiated products and services using sophisticated production processes in line with the shift towards an innovation-driven high-income economy, he added.

He said turning knowledge and skills into innovation and staying at or close to the international innovation frontier requires a higher degree of research and development such as at Mimos. – **Larry Ralon**