

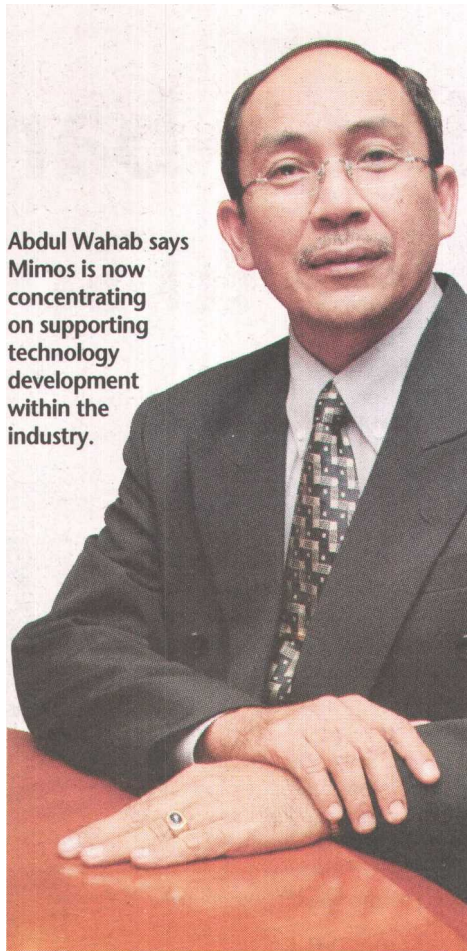
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# Global Mimos in the making

By Rozana Sani



Abdul Wahab says Mimos is now concentrating on supporting technology development within the industry.

**S**OME 12 months after embarking on a corporate restructuring exercise, Mimos Berhad is more than ready to play its role as a strategic agency under the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry to grow the information and communications technology (ICT) industry at both the local and global levels.

While the first part of its restructuring exercise focused on capability building and a shift in mindset among its workforce, Mimos is now concentrating on supporting technology development within the industry while serving the nation and preparing itself to be a global player, according to its president and chief executive officer Datuk Abdul Wahab Abdullah.

To do so, the agency is working closely with State Governments to support the respective States' ICT rollout, boosting research and development collaboration with universities, and has even embarked on a tripartite partnership with Multimedia Development Corporation (MDeC) and Malaysian Venture Capital Management Bhd (Mavcap) to give the industry a leg up.

Mimos' initiative with State Governments in

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the post-restructuring period recently kicked off with Kedah through a partnership with Kedah ICT Holdings Sdn Bhd (KICT), a subsidiary of Kedah Chief Minister Inc.

Under the pact, Mimos will work with KICT to promote and utilise Mimos' current products: Agribazaar, a Web service portal based on supply chain technology, and MyGfl, a lifelong learning application.

"We're also engaging with Terengganu, Perak, Malacca and part of Penang. But the real traction is Kedah, as they are moving very fast and keen to have a tighter collaboration. Kedah will be a recipient of all eight technology areas that Mimos is focusing on, which are in line with the State's ICT roadmap," Abdul Wahab said.

The eight technology areas are cyberspace security, encryption systems, grid computing and multi-service networks, wireless broadband, nano-electromechanical systems/microelectromechanical systems, advanced informatics, knowledge technology, and micro energy systems.

On linking with the academia, Abdul Wahab said Mimos will seal partnerships with several universities next week to create Mimos' virtual research team.

"We at Mimos will concentrate on applied research that will be complemented by basic research from the universities. To work together, we are going to overlay the grid computing and give them the computational power right to the desk of the researcher. Then they will be our virtual researchers who will work with us in basic and applied research that will drive the nation's centre of excellence in the respective areas."

Mimos' Grid Computing Centre is expected to have full hardware build-up by end of next month. It is currently running at 70 to 80 per cent capacity.

Of the tripartite partnership with MDeC and Mavcap, Abdul Wahab said the consortium will launch a business development effort earliest by the fourth quarter of this year.

"The three organisations have had monthly meetings to review the industry – particularly, the recipients of MDeC and the Ministry's funds as well as Mavcap's investee companies – and ways to mitigate risks. Mavcap's role is to look at the funding risks; Mimos, the technology risks, whether players are working on the right technology areas; and MDec, the market risks, whether there is a market in the first place."