

Headline
Date
MediaTitle
Section
Journalist
Frequency
ADValue

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22 Jul 2009
Borneo Post
Business
N/A
Daily (EM)
3,213

Language
Page No
Article Size
Color
PRValue

English
B1
279 cm²
Full Color
9,638



TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER: Ongkili (left) sharing a light moment with a representative of a local company that received Technology Licensing Agreement (TLA) certificate after officiating at the Mimos Technology Preview @ National ICT Month at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre (KLCC). — Bernama photo

ICT sector expected to grow 7 pct this year

KUALA LUMPUR: The information, communications and technology (ICT) industry is forecast to grow seven per cent this year if business confidence and the equity market see a strong pick-up, said Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Dr Maximus Johnity Ongkili.

He said that last year, the industry sectors, including hardware, software, solutions and service providers, contributed about RM40 billion to Malaysia's gross domestic product (GDP), a two per cent decline from the previous year.

In 2007, the ICT fields contributed RM48 billion to Malaysia's GDP, a 10 per cent increase from 2006, Ongkili said.

"The ICT industry before the economic crisis was forecast to grow over the next few years at an average annual growth rate of 10 per cent, making Malaysia one of the fastest ICT growing markets in Asia," he said during a media briefing after witnessing a document exchange ceremony between Mimos and its technology recipient.

According to Ongkili, the ICT industry, which is based on innovation will continue to flourish.

He also emphasised that at Mimos, research and development (R&D) was being conducted based on market needs to ensure that technology could be commercialised for sustained growth.

Mimos, he said, had so far transferred eight of its technologies to various recipients.

Mimos yesterday transferred its technology platforms to three local companies, Jaring Communications Sdn Bhd, Mutiara.Com and Smart Computing Sdn Bhd.

Mimos also exchanged technology licensing agreements with six local companies, Disability Solutions Sdn Bhd, Alam Teknokrat Sdn Bhd, Innovision Business Solutions Sdn Bhd, Phytofolia Sdn Bhd, Quantum Beez Sdn Bhd and Fabtronic Sdn Bhd.

The recipients were announced during the technology transfer ceremony. — Bernama