Powering the Agriculture Industry

When the Malaysian government started the knowledge society (K-Society) initiative, it focused mostly on bringing up the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) industry to be of global status.

However, it soon spilled over to other industries as well. This includes the agriculture industry, which happens to be one of the focuses of MIMOS and its latest business partner, Oracle.

Signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) recently, the two will jointly develop and deploy a Sensor Grid pilot project for the agriculture business sector. The pilot entails the planned integration of Oracle's technologies with the precision sensors that MIMOS developed.
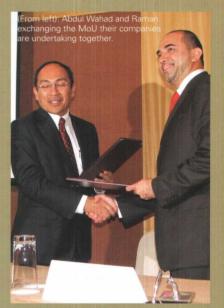
"The commercial potential for an agricultural-based Grid solution is tremendous in Malaysia as it is a key generator for economic growth. This is how we will take Malaysia's agriculture industry to the next level," says Dato' Abdul Wahab Abdullah, President and CEO of MIMOS.

K. Raman, Managing Director of Oracle Corp Malaysia (Oracle), believes this initiative to be a groundbreaking one as he mentions that there is none like it so far.

"To my knowledge, this is the first initiative of its kind, globally and it is Oracle's first joint venture of such nature. To develop a Grid-based solution for the agriculture business truly shows that Grid computing has arrived for the masses and is applicable to just about every business vertical there is out there," he adds.

MIMOS currently has a pilot set up at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM). According to Abdul Wahad, Oracle's participation will improve the current pilot and speed up its development process.

"By combining national research and development resources, our indigenous industries and Oracle's massive databases, we can certainly rollout a working system by the second quarter of 2008. This can then be rolled into our agriculture-based national development corridors," Abdul adds.

(From left): Abdul Wahad and Raman exchanging the MoU their companies are undertaking together.

Moving forward, MIMOS plans to adopt a successful working model into other industries and has made plans to make use of Oracle's database management systems. This is the next step forward for both MIMOS and Oracle. **>bt**