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23 Apr 2010
Malaysian Business
Supplement
MIOR AZHAR
Fortnight
25,000 / 50,000

Language
Page No
Article Size
Color
ADValue
PRValue

English
M1,2
984 cm²
Full Color
10,718
32,153



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APRIL 16TH – 30TH, 2010

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MIMOS FILES MORE IPs



Wahab: IP is valuable

AS MALAYSIA'S ECONOMIC competitiveness is increasingly driven by knowledge-based industries, Intellectual Property (IP) is now a critical component of the country's present and future success in the global economy.

Without a doubt, all businesses today have intellectual property (IP), regardless of their size or sector. IP can mean a brand, invention, design or other kind of creation, and it can be legally owned.

Datuk Abdul Wahab Abdullah, president and chief executive officer of MIMOS, points out that largest economies in the world have a lot of their wealth and influence tied up in IP.

With the massive transformation of economies from manufacturing-based to knowledge-based, Intellectual Property (IP) has become increasingly recognised as a key business asset of a company. And MIMOS realises that too.

BY MIOR AZHAR

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LEAD STORY

'IP is very valuable and in developed nations, it is highly prized,' he adds, explaining that IP comprises the creativity and innovation that people develop and own, much as they own physical property such as land, a building, or a business. It is also a legal concept that enables persons to control and benefit from their creativity and innovation.

Realising the importance of IP, MIMOS has, over the past three years or so, been very prolific in churning out IPs for its technologies.

'With the IP that MIMOS has generated, we would also be able to reposition Malaysia's indigenous industries to play in niche markets globally. This means, without having to invest in research, which has a long gestation period and high market uncertainty, the local industries are able to focus on building the brand and marketing channels,' says Wahab.

Prior to 2006, MIMOS had only two IPs for patenting. Now with Wahab at the helm, MIMOS has been ramping up its IP activities significantly and to date MIMOS has 780 patent disclosures (and counting).

The target is to have 1,000 patent disclosures by year-end.

In addition, according to World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) Report, Geneva, Feb 8, 2010, the total PCT patent applications from Malaysia last year was 218.

'Of that amount, about 40% or 90 applications of the total was from MIMOS,' says Wahab, adding that while the commercialisation rate of developed nations is 5%, MIMOS' rate of commercialisation is 25%.

In 2009, MIMOS was also the only Malaysian patent applicant ranked in the top 1000 Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) applicants list at the 186th place, No other Malaysian organisation made it to the list.

MIMOS also had the highest number of IPs filed at the Intellectual Property Corporation of Malaysia (MyIPO) in 2009 and was recognised at the National IP Award 2009 with two awards namely in Trademark category for Knowledge Grid Malaysia and Industrial Design category for WiWi Access Point.

'All these achievements are somewhat impressive as we only focus on developing IT-related technologies namely in the area of cyber security, encryption systems, grid computing and multi-service networks, wireless broadband, micro-electro-mechanical/nano-electro-mechanical systems, advanced informatics, knowledge technology and micro systems

TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

According to Wahab, due to its IP status, MIMOS technology platforms developed at its labs continues to gain momentum from the indigenous industries.

'The transfer of MIMOS technology platforms is a testament to the value-add that we can bring to the technology recipients by enhancing their existing products and

services, giving them the competitive edge in the challenging market space,' he says.

At MIMOS, once the research and development phase is complete, IP licence is obtained and a MIMOS technology is ready for commercialisation, local companies are able to license the technology from MIMOS to enhance their existing products or services.

MIMOS then guides the company on technology integration and training in the course of technology migration.

So far, MIMOS has developed 21 technology prototypes, transferred its technology platforms to 11 local companies and received more than 150 technology transfer applications from potential recipients.

'In fact, three companies are bringing their applications to Europe and the Middle-East soon,' says Wahab.

MIMOS has also collaborated with foreign corporations to develop and license technology to them, such as the mobile mapping solution for disabled people jointly developed together with Blue Badge Finder from the UK.

