

## M'sian companies urged to invest in Pakistan

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**Kuala Lumpur:** The Board of Investment For Pakistan (BOIP) is inviting Malaysian technology companies to seize investment opportunities in its capital Islamabad, particularly in the development of its 5.2-hectare information technology (IT) park.

The project, to be developed on a built-design-operate concept at an estimated cost of US\$50 million, is expected to be completed in three to five years, said BOIP's Honorary Investment Counsellor, Datuk Salim Fateh Din.

He said interested parties could go for 100 percent investment or even form joint-ventures with the locals.

Salim said he was informed of the investment opportunities for Malaysians in a meeting with several Pakistan ministers during his recent visit to the country.

The ministers he met included Pakistan's Interior Minister, Aftab Ahmed Sherpai, Minister of Information Technology, Dr Shafeez Sheikh, Minister for Privatisation, Wassem Haqqi and chairman of Islamabad Capital Development Authority, Kamran Lashari.

Among projects in which Malaysian companies could participate were infrastructure development, road building, health care services and power generation.

"This is a good time for Malaysians to invest in Pakistan, as the government has changed its attitude in attracting foreign direct investment into the country," Salim said.

"Malaysian investors will be given priority," he told reporters at a press conference here yesterday.

Salim said Awais also informed him that the Pakistan Government admired Malaysia's Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) and had high regards for Malaysian companies. In view of this, Malaysian companies stand to gain much by becoming early investors in the country's key projects currently being developed, he said.

Since its establishment in June this year, BOIP has successfully formed links with various agencies in Pakistan and has conducted a comprehensive feasibility report on the automotive industry, motorbike industry and is currently in the final stages of completing a report on Pakistan's marble and onyx industry.

"BOIP produces investors' information guide on various sectors. For example, under the minerals and mining sector profile, it highlighted that Pakistan had 185 billion tonnes of coal reserves.

"This illustrates the opportunities to invest in the energy- generation and coal mining sector," Salim said.

Apart from helping to facilitate entries of Malaysian companies into Pakistan, the BOIP also connects Malaysian investors to local partners and relevant agencies and helps to identify joint-venture opportunities.

The safety and well-being of Malaysian businessmen in the country are also looked into by the organisation's officers in Pakistan.

Interested parties who are looking at investment opportunities in Pakistan can contact the BOIP office at 03-2161 2118 or send their enquiries to [boi@streamyx.com](mailto:boi@streamyx.com) - Bernama