

## Press Clipping

# Focus on efficient cargo movement

### Chan: Total supply management the way to give Malaysia competitive edge

THE Government is giving top priority to transport, logistics and supply chain management as an overall strategy to improve national competitiveness, Transport Minister Datuk Seri Chan Kong Choy said.

He said this could be achieved through comprehensive and rigorous efficiency and productivity improvements in that sector.

"It is also for this purpose that the Government has developed state-of-the-art infrastructure to facilitate the movement of cargo and trade.

"The Government is also now reviewing the sector so that it can formulate a comprehensive plan to develop an integrated transport and logistics environment in the country and promote total supply chain management," he said at the 20th Annual Asian Freight & Supply Chain Awards (AFSCA) 2006 in Kuala Lumpur last week.

In addition, he said, the Government was pursuing continuous efforts to promote Port Klang and the Port of Tanjung Pelepas (PTP) as cargo transhipment centres, and the KL International Airport (KLIA) as a regional aviation hub together with the newly opened Low-Cost Carrier Terminal (LCCT) that serves as regional hub for low-cost airlines.

Apart from the seaports and airports, Chan said Malaysia was also blessed with an efficient network of roads, highways and railways.

"Again, by leveraging on superior and state-of-the-art infrastructure, I am confident that Malaysia can emerge as an integrated logistics services hub by handling greater volume of cargoes and passengers in the coming years ahead.

"I would like to urge and encourage members of the Asian Freight and Supply Chain community to seriously consider Malaysia as your next potential business hub."

Chan said the logistics and supply chain industry was vital in today's businesses.

"In fact, transportation, logistics and supply chain functions are critical to every organisation's ability, to satisfy demand for its products.

"To be considered world class, transport and logistics professionals must strive to be efficient and effective in every aspect. This is the only way to sustain in global competition with other



Chan ... confident that Malaysia can emerge as an integrated logistics services hub

nations of world class standards.

"As for Malaysia, we cannot refute that Malaysia's competitiveness will be impaired, if our goods do not reach their destination on time and at the best rates.

"To place ourselves on the global chart, we need to compete with other world-class nations and improve supply chain network all over the region."

Furthermore, he said, with transport and logistics professionals being under constant pressure to cut costs and improve efficiency, through the global supply chain, it was no wonder, why supply chain management had been given much attention of late.