

Press Clipping

Westports ready to handle halal shipments

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WESTPORTS MALAYSIA is ready to handle shipments coming from the halal industry, a hub for which is being developed in Port Klang, said its executive chairman Tan Sri G. Gnanalingam.

He said the port had the sufficient logistics capability, infrastructure and facilities to handle the shipment, but stressed that the development of logistics halal standard should be industry-driven.

"It is the responsibility of everybody such as the manufacturers and port operators to ensure compliance. While it is difficult to locate a halal container box among the millions around the world, there are systems to trace it," he said at the World Halal Forum in Kuala Lumpur last week.

He added that the role of ports were basically to provide faster connectivity in order to ship the products to its consignees.

"What people don't realise is this. We handle the inventory of companies and our job is just to provide faster connectivity and get the inventory out of our hands. The faster you get the goods out, the faster you are going to get paid and the faster the you get your turn-around time," he said.

Earlier, Gnanalingam gave a power point presentation on the role of ports in the halal industry, covering topics on the port's infrastructure, its enhancing abilities to the Selangor Halal Hub and the Port Klang Free Zone (PKFZ).

The forum has set the stage for Malaysia to take the lead and play an even prominent role in its efforts to become a global halal hub, using its edge over other Muslim nations in trading, logistics, Islamic banking and halal certification.

Westports, the country's leading and world-class seaport, would play the role of logistics enhancer due to its location in the vicinity of the Selangor Halal Hub and the development of the halal hub currently taking shape at the PKFZ.

Both these facilities, located on Pulau Indah, home to Westports, mark a significant development in making the country a centre for the manufacturing and exporting of halal products.

The port has begun its promotional efforts by wooing potential investors from China to come to Port Klang.

At the recent shipping mission to Shanghai and Shenzhen, Westports discovered how excited the Chinese were about the developments taking place in Port Klang.

The halal hub at PKFZ, coupled with the impressive productivity rate of Westports has impressed the Chinese business fraternity.

Speakers at the forum included MISC Integrated Logistics Sdn Bhd (MILS) chief executive officer Hilmi Mohd Nashir and Port of Rotterdam's (POR) senior business development manager Capt Kees Westrate.

Hilmi gave an overview of the company's expertise in logistic facilities for the halal industry and also spoke on how the company was discussing with relevant authorities to come out with the standard operating procedures for halal logistics certification.



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Westrate ... 'halal distribution centre at Port of Rotterdam has secured halal certification'

"Halal certification is only for the manufacturers. There is no halal certification for products going from the manufacturers to the ports," he said, adding that the logistics process needed to be certified and addressed.

Westrate touched on the POR and its relevance to the halal industry, adding that the halal distribution centre at POR, which is the largest port in Europe, had secured a halal certification.

"We initiated project with partners and they have actually three and half hectares of land for the warehouse," he said.

He said POR Authority was working market parties to offer Halal supply chain solutions with full Halal certifications to position itself as the gateway into Europe.

"As port authorities, we are promoting our port and the halal distribution centre at the port would ensure the logistics process is transparent," he said.



MISC Integrated Logistics Sdn Bhd
CEO Hilmi Mohd Nashir

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