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PKFZ to focus on logistics initially

Can generate economic activities to enhance container ports

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PORT KLANG: The Port Klang Free Zone (PKFZ), which kicked off operations last November, will now place more focus on logistics-based industries, said its general manager for business development, Chia Kon Leong.

He said it wanted the various aspects of the logistics industry such as freight, packaging, transportation, shipping and cargo to take root and flourish and add value to the PKFZ.

Chia said logistics generated economic activities that would contribute and further enhance Port Klang's three container ports' throughput as well as their competi-

tiveness vis-a-vis other container ports worldwide.

He said following the logistics industries taking root, the PKFZ would then turn its attention towards the manufacturing and trading aspects of the zone.

Chia said Port Klang's container throughput over the years had grown in tandem with its proactive measures beginning with the formation of the Klang Container Terminal in 1986, Klang Port Management in 1991 and West Port in 1994.

The overall Port Klang throughput last year was 6.3 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) and this year it is forecast to touch the seven million TEUs mark.

Port Klang, which reached its best ever ranking as the world's 11th busiest container port in 2002, had gradually slipped to 16th position last year despite achieving a 14.1%

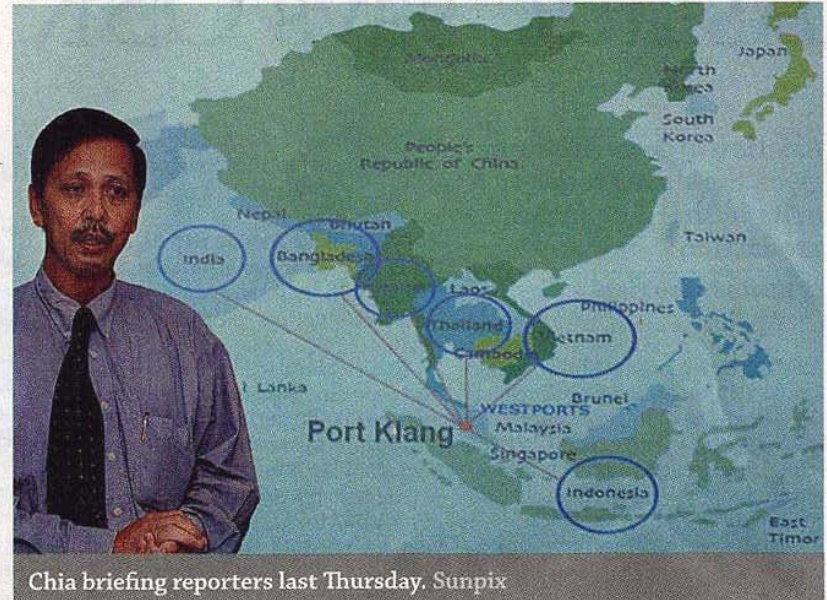
growth in throughput from 2005.

"Unless we take a different approach (to increase container throughput), Port Klang will continue to lose its competitiveness," Chia said.

He said the next way forward to boost its container throughput was through the generation of cargo and this was where PKFZ played a vital role in providing the infrastructure involving the integrated logistics, manufacturing, trading and distribution aspects.

PKFZ would serve as a vehicle for cargo generation and convergence to augment the growth and competitive position of Port Klang, Chia said.

The PKFZ has been designed to promote entreport trade and manufacturing industries involved in producing goods primarily for export.



Chia briefing reporters last Thursday. Sunpix