

Tham: More investments mean more job opportunities

By WATI ANDI SAMSIAR

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah hopes to attract more investments in the IT (information technology) sector that will subsequently create more job opportunities as well.

Sabah minister of Resource Development, Datuk Tham Nyip Shen said that with the availability of proper training, the pool of IT professionals in Sabah would increase in the near future.

At present he said many IT graduates from Sabah had to find jobs in the Klang Valley and Pulau Pinang due to the lack of job opportunities here.

Tham was speaking to reporters after officiating at the launching of the Internet Training Centre at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS).

"With such an investment through UMS, we are hoping that the IT industry in Sabah will develop further," he said.

The training centre is a joint effort between the Cisco

System and UMS in collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

In a speech earlier, which Tham delivered on behalf of Datuk Chong Kah Kiat, the Chief Minister said that to take full advantage of the IT benefits, companies must transform not just their processes but also their cultures.

"We must continue to reiterate our key imperatives of focusing on our technology competencies and keeping pace with continuous growth and learning," he said adding in technology there are no half-measures.

Kah Kiat pointed out that a successful society in future must not only be computer-literate and familiar with the emerging technologies but also successfully update themselves in order to develop new technologies.

"Information technology is not only transforming our education, it is changing

every aspect of our lives and our vision is to use technology to drive Sabah's economic growth," Kah Kiat said.

As such, Kah Kiat said there are many issues that should be addressed in regard with the IT field, among others, to identify the expectations of users for levels of service in different contexts and the future core applications as well.

"Most important we have to identify how university can ensure that adequate disaster and emergency planning is happening in all distributed centres and that these plans are tied to the enterprise-wide plan," he suggested.

As colleges and universities extend access to electronic libraries, databases, computer applications and other secured or subscription services, the need to authorise users becomes critical, he said.

"In other words, as beneficiaries of the free flow of information, colleges and

universities should be active advocates for keeping instructional and scholarly information affordably accessible," he pointed out.

Increasing numbers of students are becoming more receptive to interactive and asynchronous than to the broadcast learning style that typifies higher education today, Kah Kiat added.

He commended UMS for initiating such collaboration in IT field while describing the service as inevitable, and could bring a lot of benefit to the state as a whole.