

IT alone not enough for business, says CM

By CHRIS MASKILONE

KOTA KINABALU: Companies embracing Information Technology (IT) advocated by the Internet as a business tool must be prepared to transform traditional corporate culture, said Chief Minister Datuk Chong Kah Kiat.

Companies planning to use the Internet to build more productive and competitive businesses would require more than just choosing the right technology, he added.

Launching the Cisco Network Academy Programme at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Friday, he said the State Government had also envisaged utilising IT towards boosting the State's economic growth. His speech was delivered by Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Tham Nyip Shen.

"To take full advantage of the Internet's bene-

fits, companies must transform not just their processes but also their cultures," he said.

Apart from that, Chong said "the growing importance of networks and networking has forced us to rethink our assumptions about the nature of networks and how best we can develop and manage them".

There were also several key issues that would need to be addressed in the IT field, including meeting the challenge of providing adequate bandwidth as modes of network usage continue to evolve and change.

Another problem was whether it was fair to assume that no single unit of the academy has undergone more dramatic changes in environment, services, expectations and responsibilities than the office directly responsible for supporting IT, he said.

The Chief Minister also pointed out that, as both creators and consumers of information, the institutions of higher education should also provide leadership in addressing the questions that concern intellectual property in the digital property policy in the digital age.

"In other words, as beneficiaries of the free flow of information, colleges and universities should be active advocates by keeping instructional and scholarly information affordably accessible," he said.

Chong said a lot of changes could be expected but such challenges could be faced with industrial and university collaboration.

"UMS has initiated such a collaboration, which would bring a lot of benefits to Sabah and I hope such an effort would be carried out more in the future," he said.

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