

InvestKL says **more** MNCs coming

> Confidence stems from good investor sentiment due to region's growth

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KUALA LUMPUR: InvestKL Malaysia is confident of attracting more multinationals to invest in Greater Kuala Lumpur and the Klang Valley despite the competitive and challenging global economy due to encouraging investor sentiment, said its CEO Zainal Amanshah.

"Investor sentiment is good because this region is the growth area. If you read the recent Unctad 2012 World Investment Report, the growth in Asia and Southeast Asia is a very strong proposition for companies in the US, Europe or Japan," he said.

Speaking at the signing of memoranda of understanding (MoUs) between AECOM Technology Corp, MIGHT-METEOR Advanced Manufacturing Sdn Bhd and Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) yesterday, Zainal said Malaysia has a strong proposition comprising cost competitiveness, talent availability with employable local graduates, livability, ease of doing business, a pro-business government and politically stable environment.

InvestKL is a government entity that has been mandated to attract, facilitate and service multinational companies (MNCs) into Greater KL and Klang Valley. Since its inception in mid-2011, it has attracted six

MNCs to invest in Malaysia, with AECOM being the sixth. It targets to attract 100 MNCs by 2020.

"There is a lot more in the pipeline. We're very serious about making KL, Greater KL and Malaysia a talent hub, driven by the economic activity in the country as well as the region. There will be other initiatives. This is the first of many," Zainal said.

He said InvestKL is in talks with several companies, especially those in services, and these projects will create more high-income jobs.

"It's not just having headquarter operations. The proposition of KL is that they can come and set up not just headquarters, not just manufacturing but centres of excellence, knowledge centres, for example back office operations. These are the types of high skill, high income activities we are looking at," he said, adding some of the deals are likely to be finalised in the second half of the year.

Zainal also said some interest is coming from the US while Europe is very selective. Other priority countries include the UK, Germany and France, Switzerland and the Netherlands.

He said InvestKL is also talking to Japanese companies which are looking to expand to Asean. "Other countries are maybe Korea and China, but the ones I mentioned earlier on are the priority for us

and seem to have more interest," he said.

Yesterday, AECOM signed two MoUs — with MIGHT-METEOR and UPM.

The MoU with MIGHT-METEOR will see selected engineering graduates employed by AECOM undergoing the prescribed Technology Specialist in Specific Domain Expertise programmes with mentorship and guidance by AECOM.

The MoU with UPM will see the exchange of staff for teaching and industry placements, as well as collaboration in research activities and programmes in innovation and commercialisation.

