Broadband Penetration Impacts Economic Growth

One of the key topics at the 12th International Advisory Panel (IAP) meeting focused on the need for broadband penetration to increase on a massive scale for the nation to continue progressing. At the meeting, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak quoted a World Bank report which said that there would be a 1.3% increase in economic growth for every 10% increase in broadband penetration. Although only 24% of Malaysian households have broadband currently, he said that the Government's target of 50% broadband penetration by the end of next year is achievable.

Ng Wan Peng, Chief Operating Officer of the Multimedia Development Corporation (MDeC), said the country's High-Speed Broadband (HSBB) programme would also contribute to an increase in broadband penetration by connecting 1.5 million households out of the country's 5 million by 2012. C.J. Ang, President of The Association of the Computer and Multimedia Industry of Malaysia (PIKOM), believes that there should be a price reduction for broadband services in order for the take-up to increase and a massive broadband campaign targeting households that are not on broadband yet.

(Sourced from The Star)

Scomi Group Awarded Drilling Fluids Contract in Indonesia

Scomi Group Bhd was awarded its first Drilling Fluids (DF) contract worth RM56 million in Indonesia for major client Chevron in May this year while work commenced in mid September. Awarded to PT Scomi Oiltools, which has been operating in Indonesia for over 19 years, the contract will be providing integrated DF chemicals supply and engineering services for a duration of four years.

Scomi Oiltools has previously provided DF products and services to Pertamina and BP West Java. The contract requires Scomi Oiltools to formulate solutions for challenging drilling environments which include high temperature wells and acute angle drilling. The company issued a statement saying that it will be able to provide Chevron with practical solutions for their requirements with the backing of its research and development team at Scomi's Global Research and Technology Centre.

(Sourced from Bernama)

Radicare Looking for More Opportunities in the Middle East

Realmild Facilities Management Sdn Bhd, which provides Integrated Facilities Management (IFM), is now strengthening its position in the Middle East through its subsidiary Radicare (M) Sdn Bhd with a project in Dubai. Hidaya Yahaya, Realmild's general manager for information technology and procurement, said that the market demand for IFM in the Middle East was very encouraging, adding that the project contributed about RM10 million annually to Radicare's turnover of RM400 million.

At the same time, Radicare has also appointed SAS Malaysia, a business intelligence and analytical software service provider, to help reduce its cost of budget preparation through automating non-productive tasks like data consolidation and re-keying data. The company aimed to save 10% annually from its operational cost. Hidaya explained that the company has invested around RM250,000 for the first phase which covers the financial and budgeting sector. The second phase, which covers operation management and human resources, will be launched by the end of the year.

(Sourced from Bernama)

Johor Considers Building New Dam

The Johor Government is considering building a new dam in Kahang as an alternative water source for the state. According to State International Trade and Industry, Energy, Water, Communications and Environment Committee Chairman Tan Kok Hong, the suggestion was made after several of the state's dams showed low water levels even during the monsoon. He said that although the problem was anticipated at the beginning of the year and the dam's capacity was raised, it has not helped to solve the problem as the water level at the dam is still quite low. Tan said the other dams had not reached critical level and assured the public that the state would be able to provide water for at least two additional months before running dry.

(Sourced from The Star)