State govt praised for using new technology

By Geryl Ogilvy Ruekeith

KUCHING: Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Johnity Ongkili has praised the Sarawak government for its commitment to and focus on the development and usage of new technologies.

Citing an example, the minister mentioned a recent collaboration by the state with an agency within the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (Mosti), the Agency of Remote Sensing Malaysia (ARSM) and the State Fisheries Department with regards to the breeding of 'terubok' fish.

This collaboration would see a research on locating the source of river pollution that has disrupted the breeding of 'terubok' in Sarawak. The research would also monitor the movement of the fish from its natural habitat.

DATUK SERI DR MAXIMUS JOHNITY ONGKILI

"Under the 10th Malaysia Plan, ARSM is also planning to collaborate with other relevant agencies to develop a fish locating system and to develop its biodiversity database," he said when officiating at the Sarawak's zone 'Malaysia Innovative 2010 carnival' at Kuching Waterfront yesterday.

"The system will be able to help fishermen to locate the fishes through the satellite sea surface temperature (SST) image capturing censor."

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In addition, he mentioned that ASRM would also collaborate with the Land and Survey Department by using the remote sensing to expedite the preparation of land cover maps needed for a more organised implementation of development.

Speaking to The Borneo Post during the exhibition, ARSM research officer Halim Aziz stated that the system could detect censors based of water current, temperatures and plankton rich areas. Based on these three elements, a forecast would be generated and the information would be channelled to fishermen, thus saving them time and cost.

However, images could be taken only when a satellite hovers above Malaysia.

Based on land cover mapping, Halim said the system could also help capture images which are important for historical archive in the future.

"Through the image capture, future generations could see from an aerial view, the development of the town and cities here throughout the years. In addition, the system can also help out to detect forest fire, construction and progress throughout Malaysia," he said.