

# Sabah poised for Far East hub status — CM

**KOTA KINABALU:** Chief Minister Datuk Musa Aman says he is confident that Sabah is poised to achieve hub status for the Far East region.

Commenting on the theme, "Sabah - Hub For The Far East", chosen by organizers of the Sabah International Exhibition (SIE2010) to be held here Oct 15-19 this year, he said it is relevant to steps that the state has taken and are taking.

"Of late, economic activities have seen rapid growth due to initiatives under the Sabah Development Corridor (SDC)," he said in a message contained in the brochure promoting the SIE2010 event.

Musa said the government, through the Sabah Development & Investment Authority (Sedia), the implementer of SDC, would focus on two key strategies.

"The first is to develop logistics and the second is to address labour needs. Both are crucial factors in turning Sabah into a state that is

more attractive for trade and investment."

The SIE2010 is jointly organized by the Sabah state government, the Federation of Sabah Manufacturers (FSM) and the Malaysian International Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MICCI) Sabah branch.

Musa is happy to note that the SIE this year is taking the initiative to promote "green" business at the one-day international business conference to be held in conjunction with the expo.

"The pertinent issue of climate change is in fact the responsibility of every nation," he stressed.

The business conference, scheduled for Oct 15, would focus on issues related to government policies and incentive packages and on smart partnership of private and public sectors to support and encourage green technologies.

Commenting on this, Musa said the SIE had taken the right step in creating an appropriate platform for prominent speakers to meet with key policy-makers and

business communities in the region to discuss the implementation of green technologies.

"There is still a lot of potential for business in Sabah, a state endowed with abundant natural resources.

"Coupled with social and political stability, Sabah provides a conducive environment not only for business but also travel and living," the Chief Minister said.

"The SIE is Sabah's premier trade fair organized biennially since 2000. Since its inception, the international expo has become one of the largest and most successful trade events in the BIMP-EAGA region.

"More than 30,000 visitors were recorded at its previous four-day expo, featuring products and services from both local and overseas exhibitors," the brochure promoting the SIS2010 stated.

The exhibition to be held at the exhibition hall on the concourse level of 1Borneo shopping complex at

Menggatal, will include sections for manufacturing, handicrafts, agriculture and agro-based, real estate and green technologies, covering carbon capture, renewable energy and conservation.

The organizers of SIE2010 have decided to add two new sections for the expo: Services - finance, aviation, marine, tourism and hospitality, education, ICT, logistics and research and development; Automotive Parts - ABC, brake lining, clutch, transmission, oil pumps, water pumps, engine parts, suspension parts and body parts.

The chief minister, in his message, urges local and foreign businesses to tap into opportunities and potentials in the state by participating in the SIE2010 and the business conference on the first day of the expo.

Musa is scheduled to give a keynote address at the conference with the theme, "Growing Money from Trees".