

Publication : The Star Online
Title : Be resilient Ong tells SMEs
Date : 8 April 2005, Friday
Page/URL : www.thestar.com.my



NEW GADGET: Ong trying out a high tech phone at one of the exhibition booths after opening MCA's ICT resource centre at Wisma MCA in Kuala Lumpur Thursday.

Be resilient Ong tells SMEs

KUALA LUMPUR: Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) have been urged to enhance their resilience through the use of knowledge, technology and innovation in this era of rapid globalisation.

MCA president Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting said SMEs must find renewed strength from within their own industries and build up these industries to become psychologically, technically and financially resilient.

He said this was one way to respond to globalisation, technological advancements and widespread market liberalisation, which, more often than not, was disadvantageous to small countries, including Malaysia.

"SMEs form about 92% of all registered companies in Malaysia and this can be increased by another 7% as is the case in some advanced countries – they make up 99% of all companies in the United States and 99.7% in Japan.

"The Government is also giving priority to developing a more conducive and business-friendly environment in order for them to thrive," Ong, who is also Housing and Local Government Minister, said when opening the MCA ICT Resource Centre at Wisma MCA here yesterday.

Ong said the centre aims to nurture a pool of promising entrepreneurs and help them realise their full potential.

He said all SMEs were welcome to seek help from it.

MCA ICT bureau chairman and Deputy Science, Technology and Innovations Minister Datuk Kong Cho Ha said the centre, which opened its doors to the public in mid-January, recorded over 130 walk-in enquiries last month alone.

SMEs, he added, must turn threats to their competitiveness and sustainability into new opportunities, explore new markets, develop new products, redesign processes and add value while reducing cost.