

JOHOR PORT PARTNERS ACCESS WORLD

Firms to cooperate and combine resources to raise volume of soft commodities traded in state

KUALA LUMPUR

JOHOR Port Bhd, a unit of MMC Group, has entered into a soft commodity strategic alliance agreement with global logistics company, Access World.

Under the alliance, Johor Port and Access World will cooperate and combine resources to increase the volume of soft commodities entering and being traded in Johor.

"As a regional commodity hub, everything from cocoa, coffee, palm oil, coal, steel and aluminium — and most things in between — have been catered to via the port's flexible facilities.

"This strategic alliance is a part of our initiative to position Johor Port as the cocoa commodity trading hub and for Johor Port to be designated as an approved delivery point under the various International Commodity Ex-

changes," said Johor Port chief executive officer Shahrull Allam Shah Abdul Halim Pasir Gudang, Johor Baru, yesterday.

The agreement was signed by Shahrull and Access World regional general manager for Southeast Asia, Yanto Tan, and witnessed by Transport Minister Anthony Loke, Johor Port chairman and MMC Corp Bhd group managing director Datuk Seri Che Khalib Mohamad Noh and Access World Asia Pacific commercial director, Alfred Vermeulen.

Besides cementing Johor Port's position as one of the top London Metal Exchange (LME) operators, soft commodities are another big pillar, especially in Southeast Asia, and it speaks volumes about the existing strengths and future potential of Malaysia from a market demand perspective.

Johor Port will tap rising demand for safe, efficient and in-



Transport Minister Anthony Loke (centre) with Johor Port Bhd chairman Datuk Sri Che Khalib Mohamad Noh (left), Johor Port Bhd chief executive officer Shahrull Allam Shah Abdul Halim (second from left) and other officials at the strategic partnership signing between Johor Port and Access World in Pasir Gudang yesterday.

ternationally compliant soft commodities warehousing.

Customers can also look forward to the convenience of one-stop value-add services such as repacking, enabling them to maximise and localise their supply chain to serve regional markets via the Southern region.

"Johor Port understood our

concept and value propositions. The ease of doing business that Access World Group has experienced here from an investor's and customer's point of view has resulted in 15 years of working relationship with Johor Port," said Tan.

"Since 2004, when we listed an LME approved warehouse in Jo-

hor Port, Access World has further diversified its commodities business in Johor Port where we now also provide specialised warehousing and logistics services for soft commodity products like cocoa-beans to service our global clients.

"We look forward to more years of working together," he added.