

Gas Malaysia to fund Perak gas pipeline

TANJUNG MALIM: Gas Malaysia has agreed to absorb most of the cost for the implementation of the RM180 million project to supply piped gas to Perak.

International Trade and Industry Minister II Datuk Seri Ong Ka Chuan said Gas Malaysia would fork out RM120 million for the project, which would serve to boost industry in the state.

"Initially, our understanding was that the cost would be split between the Perak government, Gas Malaysia and the industrial sector.

"I have discussed the matter with Gas Malaysia and they have verbally agreed to absorb the cost, which was supposed to be borne by the industrial sector," he said after launching Politeknik Sultan Azlan Shah's Centre of Technology at Behrang, near here, yesterday.

Ong hoped that the state government would bear the remaining cost to help the piped gas supply project get off the ground as soon as possible, since it was one of the main issues raised by investors.

He said the project would help attract more investors and businesses to Perak, as well as encourage Proton to move its manufacturing plant in Shah Alam to Proton City, near here.

"Proton needs a (steady) supply of gas to Proton City before they can relocate their plant," he said, adding that the speedy implementation of the piped gas project would greatly benefit the state.

On the Free Trade Agreement with the European Union (EU), Ong said Malaysia was still discussing the matter with EU member countries.

"It is a complex process as we have to discuss it with 28 European countries," he said.

Discussions on the agreement between Malaysia and EU first commenced in 2010, but were put on hold last year as both sides were still studying guidelines and limitations.

Earlier, Ong witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between the motor sports industry and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia.



**Datuk Seri
Ong Ka
Chuan**