

MORE ICT DEVICES

DIGITALISING THE EDUCATION SECTOR

ICT Zone Asia wants to help cultivate critical thinking skills among students

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THE education sector is in critical need of information and communications technology (ICT) solutions as most of the country's public schools are lacking information technology (IT) devices.

ICT Zone Asia Bhd chief executive officer and managing director Tommy Lim Kok Kwang said there were plenty of opportunities for the company in the ICT sector.

"We are working with our channel and strategic partners to make digital devices more affordable through our rental and leasing business model," Lim told the *New Straits Times* recently.

"In the long run, we hope that

by creating a digital environment in schools, it will not only cultivate critical thinking skills but also encourage these future leaders to innovate and further drive research and development (R&D) efforts.

"Following our listing on the LEAP (Leading Entrepreneur Accelerator Platform) Market of Bursa Malaysia on Dec 15, we now look forward to growing our business and market share," he said.

ICT Zone Asia is principally involved in the rental, leasing and trading of ICT solutions to the public and private sectors.

Lim said with the digitalisation of the economy and rapid pace of technological evolution, there were plenty of opportunities in Malaysia.

The ICT industry has grown to

RM34.7 billion last year from RM27.9 billion in 2016 at a compound annual growth rate of 7.5 per cent.

"Given the pace of change this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic and how significantly market conditions have shifted, it is even more essential for ICT Zone Asia to develop and grow with the industry," he said.

Prior to its listing, the company had launched the first syariah-compliant ICT Zone Ventures Scheme under the Interest Scheme Act 2016 of Registrar of Companies Malaysia in 2011 to finance the company's rental and leasing business.

As at Jan 31 last year, the company's cumulative investments increased from RM2.2 million in the first year to RM34.1 million with 1,047 ICT interest holders.

ICT Zone Asia plans to expand its revenue stream by adding device management software and computer security software to its

range of products in the first half of next year.

Lim said the company had seen a rise in the use of digital tools to enable file sharing, virtual video and audio teleconferencing, as well as project management tools when the work-from-home mandate was implemented.

"Since the Movement Control Order (MCO) was first implemented in March, ICT Zone Asia has seen an about 20 to 30 per cent increase in the rental and leasing of ICT hardware and software from our customers.

"Our first e-commerce platform, www.komputermurah.my, which was launched in February, now offers refurbished ICT hardware at an affordable price," he said.

On expanding the komputermurah.my platform, Lim said the company planned to expand its inventory, improve logistics solutions and finalise its flexi-buy policy that would carry a unique buy-and-return policy.



ICT Zone Asia Bhd chief executive officer and managing director Tommy Lim Kok Kwang says the company is trying to make digital devices more affordable.