



KL Hospital can now operate virtually anywhere

By Toh An Nee

Kuala Lumpur, Fri: Kuala Lumpur Hospital (KLH) now owns a fully-equipped Malaysian-made mobile trauma surgical unit – the world's first – that can be transported to a disaster zone or to a hospital and set up for immediate use.

The mobile operation theatre (OT) was designed jointly by KLH emergency medical and trauma department director Dr Abu Hassan Asaari Abdullah and Johnson Medical Group technical director Agne Nilsson.

Launching the mobile unit here today, Abu Hassan told reporters he came up with the idea of building such a unit in 1996.

He designed it with Nilsson over 18 months while the construction took six months.

The hospital purchased the unit from Johnson Medical for RM 1.7 million.

The company had invest-

ed heavily into research and development, and the unit actually costs RM3 million.

He said the unit, located behind KLH emergency medical and trauma department, will be operational in two weeks as the department's four OTs will be closed for renovation.

If any other hospital needs to use the unit, it can be easily dismantled and transported by normal low-bed trucks and a standard crane, Abu Hassan added.

It can be installed and ready for use in three hours.

Nilsson said the unit is the first in the world which successfully separates an OT into halves during transportation and allows for a larger OT than those normally seen in other mobile theatres.

It comprises three separate containers which can be docked and bolted together using specially-designed docking channels to ensure a secure fit.

Its main features include an OT, separate induction and disinfection rooms, and a storage facility for sterile goods. Over 80% of the equipment is locally manufactured.

Johnson Medical's group general manager Fredrik Nyberg said the unit's ventilation system is unique as it provides 100% fresh air filtered through special sterile filters, developed by Johnson Medical and patented worldwide, to ensure high standards of hygiene in the OT.

Nyberg said the unit complies fully with the Health Ministry's stringent guidelines on functionality and safety.

Its other unique features include stainless steel protected doorways and high density wall surfaces to minimise maintenance, removable cabinets and shelves, and multi-movement ceiling pendants which provide medical gas and electrical services.