

# Surgery goes mobile

By JOSEPH SIPALAN JR

KOTA KINABALU, Mon.- The Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) will have three new medical mobile surgical units (MSUs) which will begin operations two weeks from now.

Fredrik Nyberg, the group general manager for Johnson Medical Equipment Sdn Bhd, said this during a press conference for the units today.

Present were Johnson Medical technical director Agne Nilsson and Dr Charanjeet Singh from the department of anaesthesia and intensive care, Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

The project to instal these MSUs is being undertaken by Johnson Medical, a Swedish company which started operating in Malaysia since 1993.

The new MSUs comprise eight container-size compartments made almost entirely with locally available material which make up three fully functional operating theatres (OTs).

The OTs are being set up to cater to the increasing number of people being put on the waiting list, since one of the permanent OTs in the hospital went

out of order recently.

There are currently four working OTs out of five, and with the addition of these mobile surgical units, there will be added capacity to the existing OTs which are working above capacity, and in a state of wear and tear.

"This unique medical facility is not only the first of its kind in Asia, but also worldwide," Nyberg stated during the press conference earlier, adding the medical facility was entirely designed and manufactured in Malaysia.

According to Nyberg, one standard Johnson's MSU consists of three 30 foot cabins which are docked together. The facility consists of a main OT, separate induction and disinfection rooms, and store for sterile goods.

The cabins also utilize special HEPA (High Efficiency Particulate Air-Filters) filters which were designed and developed by Johnson Medical and is patented worldwide.

The MSUs were first introduced into Malaysia by Johnson

Medical two years ago and set up at the Hospital Kuala Lumpur. The units to be completed in Queen Elizabeth Hospital are the first of its kind worldwide, as it is above ground level.

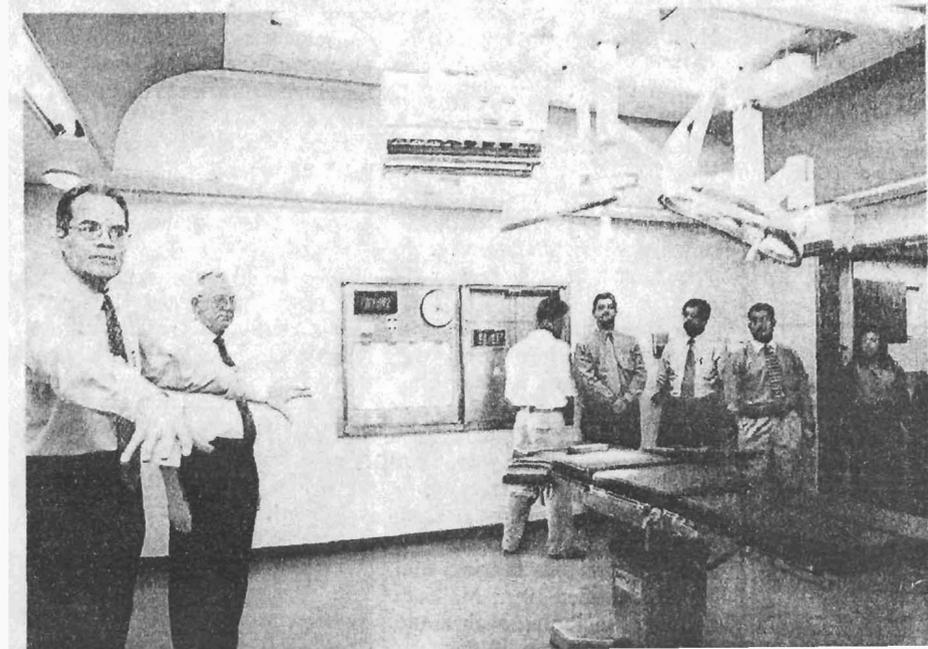
"These units can not only serve as additional capacity to existing hospitals, but also provide first-class facilities at smaller clinics in rural areas," said Nyberg.

He added these MSUs comply with the ISO standards for container specifications, and designed to accommodate the combined weight of heavy equipment and also of the staff and patients.

Johnson Medical Equipment plans to expand its operations to other Asian countries such as China, Indonesia and Singapore, which have shown great interest in the system. -BP



Nilsson showing the press the three mobile surgical units.



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