ENHANCING THE VALUE CHAIN IN TEDUH WELDING TOWARDS SUSTAINING COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGES

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ABSTRACT

The construction industry has been the thrust of the country's development during the past twenty years. In fact, the pace of construction activities had been one of the main indicators for the state of economic conditions of this nation.

After enjoying some robust and booming time during the past 1990s until 1997, the construction industry has experienced such a gloomy years starting from 1998 since the government had to cancel or defer the construction of some mega projects such as Bakun Hydro Dam in Sarawak, Ipoh-Rawang Dual Railway Track, etc. During this recession years, some construction-related companies had some difficult times which forced them to either diversify their activities or to ultimately divest some of their business activities to survive.

Nonetheless, the recently announced Ninth Malaysian Plan seemed to give a new hope to this sector when the Prime Minister promised some concrete plans which involved total allocation of between RM150 billion and RM200 billion. This is hoped to revive the sector which had contracted for six consecutive quarters by 1.6 percent in 2005 and later, is estimated to grow 3 percent in 2006, the highest in nine years. The Public Work Minister, Dato Seri S. Samy Vellu said that the 3 percent growth forecast is based on an estimated RM56 billion worth of projects to be awarded in 2006, which is 13 percent more than last year's RM49.38 billion and 2004's RM50.64 billion.

One of the construction players in the State of Terengganu is Teduh Welding Sdn Bhd and is looking forward to achieving a better performance and result with this recent announcement. Even though the company is considered small and only started involving in the welding and steel related activities in 1999, it had, in the past couple of years, ventured into the construction industry which is somewhat closely related to its existing core business. Now, the construction business has become the major contributor to the company's total revenues.

Thus, the purpose of this applied business project is to look into the possibility of finding ways and to identify the company's internal weaknesses and strengths. We try to help the company to rectify and overcome the weaknesses and to turn the strengths into the competitive advantages to make the company as one of the most envious players in the industry in term of its profit maximization and sustainable profit growth. Besides that, we are also going to help the company to look for potential opportunities that the company may tap into and identify the threats that it may need to avoid or overcome. In order to execute this, we will look into the Concept of Value Chain where each function has a role in lowering the cost structure and increasing the perceived utility (Value) of the products through differentiation. These transformation processes involve primary and support activities that add values to the products.