

Tawau. For the time being, the Department of Civil Aviation is limiting development plans for the Lahad Datu airport to terminal building improvements.

In November, 1989, the Prime Minister announced plans to develop the Federal Territory of Labuan (an island off Sabah) into a tax haven. If the Government goes ahead, the basic infrastructure of the present airport will have to be improved. Currently, Labuan airport does not have the capability of handling B747 operations. Furthermore, the terminal building is quite small.

1.3.3 Consultancy Services

Most of the airport development projects were implemented with the assistance of consultants. Some of the consultants who have been involved in airport development projects include:

- Sir Frederick Snow and Associates (U.K)
- Acres International Ltd (Canada)
Acres provided consultancy services for air transport requirements, development of a national aviation plan and master planning of four major airports in Malaysia, including the Subang International Airport.
- Minconsult Sdn Bhd (local)
- Ranhill Bersekutu Consultants (a joint venture with Ranhill of Australia)
- Jurutera Consultants (local)
- Avtel (Australian)
Avtel and Jurutera Consultants are currently preparing the Subang Airport Phase II Master Plan.

Although some airport development projects can be carried out by local consultancy firms, foreign consultancy expertise is, however, still required. Foreign groups are advised to team up with local engineering firms in order to enhance their chances of success in tendering.

The three most important areas of airport development for Canadian companies to focus on are as follows :

- Airport infrastructure planning
- Airport development planning
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) studies

Malaysia does not currently have local expertise to conduct complex EIA studies relating to the aviation industry.