

AIA aims to grow takaful business in second half of this year

KUALA LUMPUR: Insurer AIA Bhd plans to grow its takaful business in Malaysia during the second half of this year.

"The focus of the second half is for us to expand the takaful business significantly," said chief executive officer Bill Lisle.

He did not reveal the figures, but said the company was eyeing to tap the potential in the wake of the launch of its unified takaful entity, AIA Public Takaful Bhd, in March.

Lisle made the remarks after unveiling the newly refurbished AIA Financial Centre in Jalan Ampang yesterday.

The renovated centre is a RM36mil initiative that involves the restacking of its head office operations from three buildings to two, and streamlining of front-line services under a new 5,000 sq ft customer service centre.

"The opening of our new headquarters reflects our commitment to the Malaysian market, as well as to the customers, employees, partners and community," Lisle said.

The renovation project included linking Menara AIA and Wisma AIA via a 30 ft urban canopy, which connects the two buildings and serves as an outdoor meeting terrace, according to a company statement.

The sixth floor of Menara AIA has been transformed into a 6,000 sq ft staff recreational area with a gymnasium, a 300-seating capacity auditorium, as well as a staff lounge with pool tables, video game consoles and a jukebox.

The insurer has also submitted an application to KL City Hall to build an overhead walkway connecting the AIA Financial Centre with the AIA Cap Square Tower, which houses some 250 agency offices across Jalan Ampang.

This is part of the company's vision to create an "AIA financial hub". -