

# Take eGov solutions to Latin America: IE

By **MICHELLE YEO**

**INTERNATIONAL** Enterprise (IE) Singapore is encouraging Singapore companies to utilise e-Government (eGov) opportunities in Latin America as the region embarks on a drive to increase its productivity and transparency.

Citing the Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), IE Singapore noted yesterday that Latin America outperformed the developed economies during the 2008 financial crisis as well as recorded the largest increase in foreign direct investments in the same year, presumably signalling a robust economy.

It also noted that Latin American countries have been building on international demand for commodities as well as their strong fundamentals to seek more foreign direct investment by improving their business environments through implementing eGov solutions.

The group director for the Americas at IE Singapore, G Jayakrishnan, said: "Latin American governments recognise that well-run eGov services will be an important catalyst to further unlock the tremendous potential of their economies."

"Singapore companies have the expertise and experience to partner, contribute and learn from Latin America in this critical undertaking," he added.

The latest success in this area is the Memorandum of

Understanding (MOU) facilitated by IE Singapore and signed between the Singapore e-Government Leadership Centre (eGL) and Panama to provide eGov training to Panama's public officials.

"This MOU with Panama is our first opportunity to share our experience and learn from Latin America," said Joseph Teo, centre director for eGL.

In addition, IE Singapore is also currently leading an expedition of five Singapore-based eGov compa-

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nies in Brazil and Columbia to explore business opportunities.

One of the highlights of this mission is the "Singapore ICT Day", a half-day seminar for Singapore companies to showcase their eGov solutions and the Latin American hosts to share their eGov masterplans.