

28 NOV 1996
Robotics-MOU
MALAYSIAN ROBOTICS CENTRE READY NEXT YEAR

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 28 (Bernama) -- The official opening of Technology Park Malaysia (TPM) by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad here today was highlighted by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to establish a Centre for Robotics and Flexible Manufacturing System (FMS).

The MOU was signed between TPM and Japanese robotics manufacturers, Fanuc Ltd and Mitsui & Company Ltd. The ceremony was witnessed by Dr Mahathir.

The centre is scheduled for completion by the third quarter of 1997 and will be one of the largest and most advanced facilities of its kind in this part of the world.

The centre, announced in the 1997 Budget speech of Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, will enable engineers and technicians to learn a wide range of the latest technology such as robot applications, robo-machines, FMS and computer-based machine tools.

The project was conceived by Dr Mahathir and Fanuc chairman Dr S. Inaba when the Prime Minister visited Japan in May this year arranged by Mitsui.

Dr Inaba was present at the ceremony to sign the MOU along with Mitsui director Takashi Suzuki. Representing TPM was its chairman Tan Sri Dr Omar Abdul Rahman who is also the science advisor to the Prime Minister.

The MOU provides for TPM, Fanuc and Mitsui to negotiate a sales and training contract by the end of this year and set up a joint company for immediate operation.

TPM staff would also be trained in Fanuc to run the centre.

Fanuc is a US\$1.5 billion company well-known for robotic machines. It controls more than 50 per cent of the world market share in such products.

Mitsui is the international marketing organisation for Fanuc. --

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