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Local IT firms award scholarship to S. Korean

Fauziah Ismail in New York

NEW YORK, Sun: Two Malaysian information technology companies have awarded a scholarship to a non-Malaysian PhD student from the State University of New York (SUNY) for her research on flexible semiconductors.

IRIS Technologies and TL Technology Research chief executive officer Chas Yap presented the scholarship to South Korean physics student Na Myung Hee at the Malaysian Consulate here over the weekend.

Na began her research in flexible semiconductors two years ago and is expected to complete work in another two years.

The discovery of flexible semiconductors could revolutionise the manufacture and applications of products which use semiconductors, since they allow them to bend like rubber without losing any of their properties.

These semiconductors could help expedite the transition from electronic to optical computers by allowing us to exploit optics in semiconductors much more efficiently than before.

Yap, speaking at the presentation ceremony, said the two companies are committed towards searching and identifying technologies which are applicable to benefit mankind.

"What we had done was to identify the technology ... flexible semiconductors may be new to many of us now but we may be using it in our daily lives in the future ... help develop the technology and put it to commercial use.

"It is part of our contribution ... the technical aspect towards helping the Government achieve the status of industrialised nation under 2020 Vision," he said.

It is understood that the companies are negotiating with the university for the rights to manufacture the flexible semiconductor.

IRIS Technologies and TL Technology Research were introduced to SUNY by the Graham & James LLB law firm.

The companies have also initiated cooperation with New Jersey-based Physionics for the prototype of passenger and baggage identification software which has been implemented at the Langkawi International Airport.

Malaysian consul-general Saw Ching Hong described the private sector initiative as "enhancing further the US-Malaysia scientific cooperation".

"It will help bring the multimedia industry in Malaysia to a higher level of performance.

"The scholarship is timely ... complementary and in line with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's vision for the 21st century and the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC)."

Saw also hopes that the scholarship is a start of many more to come especially for Malaysian students in the US, to spur them into doing research which will benefit the country.

He also advised Malaysian students who attended the ceremony to study hard. "Like Dr Mahathir said, the MSC is only an idea, a blueprint that he help lay down.

"Whether we succeed or not will depend on you, the young people. Go home after you graduate and help the country achieve this vision."

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