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Telemedicine

TUN HUSSEIN EYE HOSPITAL PIONEERS TELEMEDICINE TECHNOLOGY

PETALING JAYA, 18 Jan (Bernama) -- The Tun Hussein Onn National Eye Hospital today became a pioneer in responding to the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call to promote telemedicine technology, with the setting up of an electrodiagnosis system at the hospital here.

The system, known as Electrodiagnostic Neurophysiological Automated Analysis (ENAA), would enable a patient with visual complications to be electronically diagnosed at the hospital and the data compiled be assessed by an ophthalmologist in England.

The person responsible for creating the multimedia based system, Dr Demetrius Papakostopoulos of the Electrodiagnostic Department of Bristol Eye Hospital, England said with the setting up of the ENAA system here, the Tun Hussein Onn hospital is now telematically linked to the Bristol Eye Hospital.

"The ENAA system provides objective, reliable, non-invasive assessment of visual function, from the eyes to the brain using computer information and communication technologies," he said.

He said the system is designed in such a way that tests could be undertaken in remote locations by non-expert operators.

"The results are transmitted via communication networks to the Electrodiagnostic Centre of Bristol Eye Hospital where they are analysed and then returned in a few minutes, if necessary." he said.

Dr Papakostopoulos, who is here to oversee the setting up and also to train the hospital's staff on the system, said the technology would also enable clinicians to both diagnose and predict the course of conditions including vascular disease, glaucoma, multiple sclerosis, autism and diabetes with wide ranging applications in neurosurgery, endocrinology, neurophysiology and psychophysiology.

He said the system has proven to be cost-effective, as patients were no longer required to travel to centres of expertise for treatment.

Telemedicine technology is one of the flagship applications to be promoted in the first phase of the Multimedia Super Corridor development.

Dr Mahathir who recently visited the United States to promote the MSC project said, Malaysia could become a regional centre for telemedicine with its vast biogenetic resources and wide knowledge of ethnic medicine. --

BERNAMA

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