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UPM-IT

UPM, A LEADING CAMPUS IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

SERDANG, March 16 (Bernama) -- Universiti Pertanian Malaysia (UPM) has been selected as one of a member of a global consortium network comprising 15 top information technology universities in the world, UPM Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Syed Jalaludin Syed Salim said.

He said UPM had been included as the consortium member, named "High Performers" handled by Sun Microsystems last December.

Among the world's top universities included in the consortium are Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), University of Illinois in Chicago, Syracuse University in New York, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, University of Tennessee and University of Tokyo.

"UPM now is the leading campus in Malaysia and Southeast Asia particularly in information technology and as a multifunctional and multipurpose university," he told reporters.

Dr Syed Jalaludin was asked to elaborate on its venture in information technology, of which UPM had entered into a joint venture with the Malaysian Technology Development Corporation (MTDC) Bhd setting up the UPM-MTDC Incubation Centre 1 to boost the implementation of the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC).

The centre -- to be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on April 3 -- covers a 0.48ha area, and will initially have 13 local multimedia companies including a Multimedia Academy.

He said the multimedia component in UPM was expanding with its facilities such as multimedia lab, high technology equipments, software products from the students and staff.

Asked on the benefit that UPM could obtain from the consortium, he said that the global super computing network would enable UPM to be linked globally and enhancing the capability of MSC, developed by the government.

"UPM can work together in the network and partner with other universities to do massive research or work as a group and open a lot of possibilities which give the staff and students opportunities to do research using the network on certain fields such on aerospace technology, engineering and designs which need big computing network," he said.

Other benefits include the US\$2 million worth of four-month training stint in information technology at Sun Microsystems for 20 UPM's staff.

He said UPM was fortunate that its location was situated in the MSC zone and that the new venture capital would enable UPM to play its role as the intellectual-based information technology centre.

"UPM could not turn to other industry or zone such as manufacturing but it could venture in the information technology industry. We have been working on the multimedia industry about two years back even before the MSC announcement," he said.

To support the MSC to be operative, functional and developed fully, he said the university needed to take the new undertakings by working together with the government, venture capitalist and the entrepreneur, of which the UPM-MTDC Incubation Centre 1 could offer.

Dr Syed Jalaludin said UPM needed to be very creative and innovative on how to play its role as the multimedia centre and in the MSC projects.

"UPM also needs to drive the changes internally and transform the university by using the multimedia and build new working environment," he added. -- BERNAMA

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