

02 MAR 1998

Malaysia-Telemedicine

MALAYSIA, LOCATION FOR THE FIRST EVER TELEMEDICINE APPLICATION

KUALA LUMPUR, March 2 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has been chosen as one of the three locations worldwide for the world's first ever Patient Information Folder (PIF), a telemedicine application, which gives healthcare professionals direct access to leading specialists in other countries through computers.

Pusat Pakar Utama in Kedah has been selected to carry out clinical trials simultaneously with St Mary's Hospital and Hammersmith Hospital in London and University of Southern California in Los Angeles in four weeks' time.

Prof R.I. Kitney of Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, London, who developed the system, said today the trial run was expected to take three months while the general usage worldwide would be one year after evaluations.

The evaluations were essential because the United States Food and Drug Department was particular about the system going into hospitals, he told reporters after demonstrating the system to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Technology Park Malaysia, here. Also present Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng.

Kitney, who is Director for the Centre for Biological and Medical Systems said Malaysia was picked as one of the clinical trial centre as the country was developing the Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC).

The system also enables doctors at designated hospitals to gain access to medical records of patients using smartcard.

PIF is an advanced electronic patient record system which is capable of handling a very wide range of multi-media data.

The system, he said, also enabled key requirements of advanced healthcare access to remote expert, borderless medicine and direct access to the international medical market.

Kitney said this facility provided the integration of the national healthcare community into international medicine, allowing among others patients who had sought specialist care abroad could now be treated within their local environment.

The system in Pusat Pakar Utara will be installed by the Kulim Technology Management Sdn Bhd, the technology facilitator.

Kulim Technology Management Sdn Bhd Group General Manager Mazli Mohd Ramli said the company was in the process of installing the hardware of the system and once completed those involved including doctors would undergo training to get them familiar with the facility.

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