

Transfer of technology ^{TU} unsatisfactory, says don

Star 10 SEP 1999
By S. INDRAMALAR

BANGI: The transfer of research and technological findings by local public universities to the private sector is at a very unsatisfactory level.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Anwar Ali said revenue from such activities in UKM was also not high although it had been increasing every year.

"Besides increasing revenue and enhancing academic experience, local industries will benefit from these research activities," he said at the inauguration of the UKM-Malaysian Technology Development Corporation Technology Incubation Centre by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at UKM yesterday.

"Under the Seventh Malaysia Plan, UKM has (up

until early 1999) carried out 240 Intensification of Research in Priority Areas (IRPA) funded research projects at a cost of RM63.4 mil.

"However, I am sure that with the establishment of the UKM-MTDC incubation centre, UKM academic staff will be able to multiply their efforts and productivity," he said.

In his speech, MTDC Director Haii Abdul Muis Hassan said the corporation planned to set up more of these centres in local public universities to encourage the growth of technology-based companies.

He said there were three such centres at local universities including the one opened yesterday.

The other centres are at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) and Universiti Malaya (UM).

"Plans are already un-

derway to establish more incubator centres at other campuses like Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Universiti Sains Malaysia and Universiti Teknologi Mara," said Abdul Muis.

"Each centre will have its own focus.

"For example, the UPM-MTDC technology incubator focuses on businesses concerned with Information Technology and Multimedia while the UM centre houses businesses in Advanced Electronics and Core Science Technology.

"The UKM-MTDC technology centre will in turn focus on biotechnology and chemical engineering companies," said Abdul Muis.

He added that MTDC was also collaborating with the Penang Development Corporation in developing a technology incubation centre in Bandar Bavan Baru, Penang.