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Accolades for `Discovery University`

SKUDAI, Sat. - Universiti Teknologi Malaysia has been officially themed a "Discovery University" to mark its scientific breakthroughs and strong working relationship with industries.

Focusing on the new theme, the university plans to excel further in research and development through collaborative efforts with private companies.

Launching the theme at UTM campus today, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad congratulated the university for discovering new technologies and products.

He urged all universities to go beyond their conventional role as knowledge-provider to become technology generators.

"Universities must become `discovery` agents that will focus on developing products applicable to the local industries.

"Other than producing graduates, universities have a responsibility to produce market-driven products," he said, citing UTM's findings on solar technology, membrane technology and "sine slab" as achievements which have made the country proud.

He later presented Discovery Excellence Awards to Associate Professors Dr Ahmad Fauzi Ismail, Dr Noraieni Mokhtar and Hadibah Ismail, all from UTM.

Ahmad Fauzi and Noraieni have each won a gold medal for their inventions at 27th International Exhibition of Inventions, New Techniques and Products in Geneva last May.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir launched the Marine Technology Laboratory at the university. Apart from providing laboratory facilities for students and developing the local shipping industry, the centre will generate "invisible" income in terms of international trade.

He was proud to note that the laboratory had been endorsed by the International Towing Tank Conference.

"This proves the international community is confident of Malaysia's achievements and I am convinced marine technology will continue to grow here."

Also present were Menteri Besar Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman, Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak and UTM vice-chancellor Datuk Dr Ahmad Zaharudin Idrus.

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