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Local education system can provide knowledge workers for MSC

CYBERJAYA, Thurs. - The Malaysian education system will have no problem supplying the 20,000 knowledge workers needed for the Multimedia Super Corridor, Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today.

The Government's emphasis on education has led to an abundance of public and private universities and colleges, which would provide the MSC with its most crucial asset - human capital.

"The key determinant for the MSC's success, for our leap into the Information Age and mastering of the knowledge-driven economy, is human capital," he told 600 first-year students during their orientation at the Multimedia Universiti here.

"As the first private university to be located within the Multimedia Super Corridor, the MMU is in a prime position to fulfil this need and develop our human capital," Najib said.

Wholly owned by Telekom Malaysia Bhd and twin sister campus of Universiti Telekom (Unitele) in Malacca, the MMU will be launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on July 9.

Najib cited the MMU's research and development joint ventures with 60-odd MSC companies as examples of "smart partnerships" between industry, academia, entrepreneurship and venture capital, which should be emulated.

Foreign companies involved in the MSC like Nippon Telegraph and Telephone, Lucent Technologies, Intel and Alcatel have also contributed towards setting up multimedia chairs in the university.

The MMU's "intelligent features" include multimedia lecture facilities, intelligent building systems, energy-efficient systems, a digital library and an integrated campus management system.

While one faculty building and some computer laboratories are still undergoing construction, university president Dr Ghauth Jasmon said they would be completed by the time classes start in two weeks.

The 600 pioneer students will be joined by 2,800 seniors from Unitele, Ghauth said, adding that MMU would eventually have the capacity for up to 16,000 students in six or seven years.

The RM350 million university has four faculties - Creative Multimedia, Engineering, Management and Information Technology.

Tuition fees range from RM9,000 to RM13,000 a year, depending on the course.

MMU offers four Bachelors of Science programmes under the Faculty of Creative Multimedia, six Bachelors of Engineering (Faculty of Engineering) as well as four Bachelors of IT and two Bachelors of Multimedia (Faculty of IT).

Its Faculty of Management offers four Bachelors of Business Administration programmes, two Bachelors of Multimedia degrees, a Bachelor of Accounting and a Bachelor of Financial Engineering programme.

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