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Centre

SMART TECHNOLOGY CENTRE TO PIONEER STRATEGIC ALLIANCE

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 8 (Bernama) -- The UKM-MTDC smart technology centre, which Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will open tomorrow, is set to intensify university-to-industry technology transfer especially in biotechnology.

It would serve the development and manufacturing sectors from the research stage right to product design and marketing, said Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia consultancy and innovation bureau director Prof Madya Dr Marzuki Mustafa.

Besides biotechnology, the centre could also undertake research in engineering, telemedicine and multimedia, he said in a special edition of Senada, the university's newsletter.

The centre, located on a 2.4 ha site within the UKM campus complex, is a joint venture between the university and the Malaysian Technology Development Corporation (MTDC).

It also has a universal database for retrieval of information on consultancy, services and equipment the centre provides to clients.

The centre would later have a biotechnology academy to help realise a national aspiration to see the biotechnology sector contributing significantly under the Second Industrial Master Plan (IMP2) for the 1995-2005 period, he said.

In conjunction with the centre's official opening tomorrow, the prime minister will witness the signing of eight memorandums of understanding between UKM and companies on research undertakings.

They include the MoUs between UKM and;

\* Digital Technologies Sdn Bhd for the multimedia-smart school projects;

\* Laxana Corporation (M) Sdn Bhd for the Cilibangi project;

\* Interactive Channels Sdn for Internet-based research and thesis databank application; and

\* Harta Semarak Sdn Bhd for the extension and commercialisation of new technologies in treatment of potable water and effluent waste.

-- BERNAMA

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