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Mahathir-MSC

DR MAHATHIR HANDS OVER MSC STATUS CERT TO UNITAR

KUALA LUMPUR, June 22 (Bernama) -- Universiti Tun Abdul Razak (Unitar), which received the MSC status certificate from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today, plans to secure research grants to develop e-learning and information technology (IT) security.

Unitar president and chief executive officer Datuk Dr Syed Othman Alhabshi said the university would also like to develop IT networking, together with the two areas, through United Multimedia Sdn Bhd (UMM).

Both are subsidiaries of KUB Malaysia Berhad (KUB).

All the research findings would be commercialised later, Dr Syed Othman told Bernama after the handing over of the certificate at the Putra World Trade Centre, here.

The MSC, or Multimedia Super Corridor, is a 750 sq km area from the Kuala Lumpur City Centre to the KL International Airport in Sepang which has been designated as a hub for multimedia development and products.

KUB chairman and chief executive officer, Datuk Hassan Harun, said the certificate was given by the MSC Advisory Council to Unitar and UMM in recognition of their contribution in producing an IT-based workforce.

Unitar, the first virtual university in the country and the region, established in 1999, is currently offering IT-based bachelors, masters and doctorate programmes to 4,000 students.

Education is delivered through the use of e-learning technology like the Internet, web-based or CD-based courseware and facilitator-based tutorials.

UMM's principal activities are to provide the IT infrastructure and virtual education solution in a full convergence environment.

On the use of 100 per cent English as the medium of instruction at Unitar, Hassan said all the students, the majority of them being Malays, did not face serious difficulties in undertaking their courses.

"We want to test their knowledge and not their English. At the end of the day, all of them are doing well with their English," he said.

The university, he said, was proud to produce IT graduates who were fluent in English as envisaged by the government.

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