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Pagoh education hub operational next year

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MUAR: The Pagoh Higher Education Hub (HPTP) is expected to begin operations by the middle of next year, a year earlier than expected, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

"The first phase is 70% completed. I expect the universities to start using some of the facilities next year, and not in 2017 as planned," he said.

Muhyiddin was speaking to reporters after a briefing on the Pagoh Development Plan in Pagoh yesterday.

The development of Bandar Baru Universiti Pagoh will include infrastructure to support HPTP, Bernama reports.

"One encouraging thing is the planned Malaysia-Singapore High Speed Rail (HSR) Project.

"After discussion with the Land Public Transport Commission, they agreed to align the railway to HPTP. This will provide a catalyst for the rapid growth of Bandar Baru Universiti

Pagoh," said Muhyiddin.

He said efforts to attract foreign universities to set up campus in HPTP are under discussion. Imperial College London has agreed to collaborate with Universiti Teknologi Malaysia in HPTP.

Muhyiddin said the latest development of HPTP was a catalyst for increased activities and provided more benefits in terms of human capital development with the creation of more than 25,000 jobs.

The first phase of HPTP involves the development of Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM), International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), UTM and Politeknik Pagoh.

At the event, Muhyiddin witnessed the inking of an MoU between Tunas Selatan Construction Sdn Bhd and UTM, UTHM, IIUM and Politeknik Pagoh to build residential colleges for some 7,000 students.



Education Ministry Secretary-General II Datuk Seri Dr Zaini Ujang briefs Muhyiddin on the progress of the Bandar Universiti Pagoh project after signing the MoU.