

Malaysia, The 18th Country To Join INCF On Brain Disease Studies

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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 9 (Bernama) -- Malaysia is the 18th country in the world to join the International Neuroinformatics Coordinating Facility (INCF) to carry out neuroinformatics research on brain disease.

The mandate was given to University Teknologi Petronas (UTP) by the Higher Education Ministry to pursue trans-disciplinary research, including traumatic brain injuries, dementia and epilepsy, which is the 4th highest cause of death in Malaysia.

As one of the countries with aging population, Deputy Higher Education Minister Datuk Mary Yap Kain Ching said, it was a historic event for the country and an important area the country was looking into.

"This is not only representing the university per se but also representing Malaysia to be the 18th country in the world to be involved and to be collaborating with INCF.

"And I find that this is something really good and beneficial to our country because it talks about data collection and data reconciliation based on neuroinformatics and brain studies," she told reporters here, today.

Earlier Mary Yap launched the INCF Malaysia Node (Nod Malaysia) as one of the research network point of INCF and witnessed the memorandum of understanding signing ceremony between UTP with its partners, Hitachi Data Systems Sdn Bhd (HDS) and Prince Court Medical Centre (PCMC).

Being recognised as the first and only Malaysian node of INCF, UTP through its Centre for Intelligent Signal and Imaging Research (CISIR) conducted the research project since 2012, to improve the outcomes of brain disease patients.

The study by CISIR is also supported by other local universities including Universiti Sains Malaysia, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Malaya and the Malaysian Society of Neurosciences.

UTP Vice Chancellor Datuk Abdul Rahim Hashim said it was a remarkable opportunity for UTP to be part of the INCF.

"Being given the opportunity to host the Malaysia Node of INCF through its CISIR, is a celebrated achievement for UTP.

"As a rather young university, expanding the frontiers of knowledge and championing the development of technology to address society's imperative challenges continue to be our aspiration," he said.

Meanwhile, INCF Malaysia Node head Professor Dr Ahmad Fadzil Mohd Hani said to understand the brain was one of the greatest scientific challenge for UTP.

"Neuroinformatics is a new approach to handling the complexity in brain studies, which integrates information across all scales of the brain, from genes, cells to functional networks and behaviour to develop a complete picture of the brain system.

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