

Headline	Mimos opens Centre of Excellence at UMS to assist SDC	Language	ENGLISH
Date	25. Apr 2009	Page No	3
Media Title	Daily Express	Article Size	238 cm2
Section	Nation	Frequency	Daily (EM)
Circulation	29826	Color	Full Color
Readership	97836	AdValue	1226.52



Maximus (second right) signing a plaque of the centre while (left to right) Kamaruzaman, Hamid, Abdul Wahab and Suriah look on.

Mimos opens Centre of Excellence at UMS to assist SDC

Hayati Dzulkifli

KOTA KINABALU: A Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Semantic Agents was launched by Mimos at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Friday to assist in the development of the Sabah Development Corridor (SDC).

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Dr Maximus J. Ongkili, who opened the centre at the university's School of Engineering and Information Technology, said it will also support the growth and development of ICT in the State.

Apart from closing the gap in terms of accessing state-of-the-art technologies, he said the centre would also allow utilisation of applied research and technology for Mimos and UMS.

"For my Ministry and Sabah here, we gave great importance to making the establishment of the Mimos-UMS CoE into a reality within less than a year after a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) were sealed in August and November last year.

"After this, there will be a similar branch of Mimos with the same focus set up in Sarawak by next month.

"The research collaboration between UMS and Mimos is a win-win partnership in providing each other the opportunity to leverage in their expertise such as in the area of Semantics and Agent Technology.

"The setting up of this centre will also open up more research opportunities not only for ICT researchers but also for other UMS researchers in the other fields like biotechnology, agriculture and biodiversity," he said.

Ongkili said the establishment of the centre would also open investment opportunities in research with local entrepreneurs and expose utilisation of applied research to enhance the growth of ICT development using semantic agents.

As for complementing government efforts in the SDC, he said, specific technology created through the centre will provide sophisticated machinery and tools to three thrusts of the SDC, namely agriculture, manufacturing and tourism.

"Mimos' ultimate aim is to ensure the global competitiveness of the indigenous information and communications technology industry within the SDC as well as the other four economic corridors - Iskandar Malaysia in Johor, Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER), East Coast Economic Region (ECER) and Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (Score).

"The establishment of the CoE for Semantic Agents at UMS is a further demonstration of Mimos' efforts in empowering local universities as our virtual researchers towards growing global competitiveness," he said.

Also present were Resource Development and Information Technology Minister Datuk Dr Yee Moh Chai, Mimos Berhad President-cum-CEO Dato' Abdul Wahab Abdullah and UMS Board of Director Tan Sri Hamid Egoh, UMS Vice Chancellor Prof. Datuk Dr Kamaruzaman Haji Ampon and other officials.