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Collaboration to drive innovation

By Izwan Ismail

LACK of industry-university collaboration, which has hampered much of research and development (R&D) efforts and innovation in the country will soon be a thing of the past.

This follows an initiative spearheaded by Mimos Berhad to work with 13 universities to identify areas of applied research which have commercial value and potential future.

The areas include cyberspace security, grid computing, micro energy, advanced informatics, encryption systems, wireless broadband, MEMS/NEMS systems, and knowledge technology.

Mimos, as the main research partner, will be providing the related infrastructure to enable the universities to work together, as well as their expertise to the universities in the related applied areas.

The universities involved in the collaboration are Universiti Malaya, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Universiti Kebangsaan Ma-

laysia, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Universiti Teknologi Mara, International Islamic University of Malaysia, Universiti Utara Malaysia, Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, Multimedia Universiti, Universiti Tenaga Malaysia, Universiti Kuala Lumpur, and MUST Ehsan Foundation.

The joint collaboration research will be supported by Mimos Grid Computing infrastructure whereby all these universities will be put on the grid via a 2.5-gigabit-per-second connectivity. This will enable them to share best practices and resources in their research work. The collaboration on the grid is expected to be available in third quarter of this year.

The grid infrastructure will also soon link all the universities to their counterparts overseas and the industry.

The parties involved signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in Seri Kembangan recently which was witnessed by Science, Technology and Innovation (Mosti) Minister Datuk Seri Jamaludin Jarjis.

According to Jamaludin, the collaboration is one of the key strategies under the Ministry's technology and innovation roadmap. He added the Mosti is also looking into providing incentives to university researchers by giving them intellectual property (IP) ownership and encouraging the universities to set up technology parks.

He added that to streamline the funding processes, Mosti has put all the three venture capitals, the Malaysia Capital Management Bhd, Malaysia Debt Ventures Bhd, and Malaysian Technology Development Corporation under its supervision.

He said this will ensure that the funding processes will be seamless, from the pre-seed stage up to the commercialisation period.



Jamaludin (sixth from left) with vice chancellors, presidents, and representatives from the 13 universities after the MoU signing of research collaboration.