

KUTKM to work with industries

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THE only words suitable to describe the research and development (R&D) in Kolej Universiti Teknikal dan Kebangsaan Malaysia (KUTKM) would be innovative and creative.

Its research projects will fulfill its mission to become a creative and innovative technical university.

The recent success of being recognised by the Malaysia Book of Records as the First Public University to Invent Virtual Interactive Robot, or AINI, an acronym for Artificial Intelligence Neural-Network Identity, has lent some credence to this claim.

AINI, an invention by several researchers from the Information Technology and Communication (ICT) Faculty, is a virtual robot that can interact with the user on the platform of several mediums such as the Internet, PDA and mobile phone.

It has won several awards and recognition locally and regionally and plans are being made to commercialise it with the help of the industry, KRU Production being one of them.

The success proves that with commitment and dedication, coupled with some of the brightest brain in the country, nothing is impossible.

Last year, using an initial budget of RM500,000 under the Ministry of Education's short-term research grant, 16 research projects were undertaken.

It covered several areas of expertise available in the university, namely in electrical engineering, electronic and computer engineering, mechanical engineering, manufacturing engineering and ICT. This year, the ministry has allocated RM750,000 for KUTKM's projects. While the short-term grant is seen as the catalyst for inculcating a research culture in KUTKM academics, the priority and commitment are still focused on getting the Intensified Research for Priority Area (IRPA) grant.

As a commitment to this cause, University-Industry Centre or UNIC has been established to co-ordinate all research in KUTKM.

According to KUTKM rector Professor Datuk Dr Mohd Ruddin: "We want UNIC to be the engine that helps to move research and development activities in KUTKM to greater heights.

"Instead of focusing on a more conventional areas of research that are usually not viable for commercialisation, it is best to work with the industry hand in hand, knowing their needs and problems, and help them to solve it through collaborative R&D activities."

As such, every faculty has been asked to focus on a more specialised field to create a niche area to be researched and developed.

At the same time, he also hopes that the start of the postgraduate programme will intensify R&D, as it will provide KUTKM with support in personnel and expertise. Based on what has happened in the past couple of years, all of the above works well for KUTKM's efforts to establish itself as a leading technical university in the world and to contribute to the development of the country, specifically in industrialisation.

For details, log on to: www.kutkm.edu.my

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