Date: Monday (13 October 2014)

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Advertorial

MOE AWARDS HICOE STATUS TO UTP CISIR

Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP) Centre of Excellence (COE), Centre for Intelligent Signal and Imaging Research (CISIR) has been recognised by the Ministry of Education (MOE) as the National Higher Institution Centre of Excellence (HiCoE) status focusing on biomedical image analysis with neurochemical imaging as its research niche area. This was announced at a ceremony officiated by Education Minister II, Dato' Seri Idriis Jusoh on 9 October 2014.

"With this recognition as national COE and funding support, CISIR is geared to become a global research centre in biomedical imaging research. The centre through fundamental research, collaboration and networking as well as contribution to human capital development, will produce breakthrough research and innovation that will have an impact on society. This is in accordance with the National Higher Education Strategic Plan and also UTP's mission in becoming an internationally recognised research university," said Dato' Ir (Dr) Abdul Rahim Hashim, UTP Vice Chancellor.

As National HiCoE, CISIR will receive yearly funding from MOE for the next 3 years. The centre is also expected to produce high impact publications in Tier 1 and 2 ISI-indexed journals.

PhD graduates, intellectual property and generate its own revenue through short courses, consultancy and commercialisation. CISIR is one of the leading intelligent signal and imaging research groups in Malaysia. It undertakes research to advanced signal and imaging processing techniques and the implementation of real-time embedded systems. CISIR conducts translational research in real-world multi-disciplinary areas such as biomedical engineering, visual surveillance, remote sensing and neuroscience.

It began as a research lab in 2000, became a university research centre in 2008 and in 2012 recognised as a UTP COE. The centre is headed by its founding Director, Prof Ir Dr Ahmad Fadzil Mohd Hani, who is also UTP Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academic.

CISIR promotes R&D culture through collaborative and translational research with local and overseas research institutions, hospitals and industry such as Hospital Kuala Lumpur, Hospital USM, Hospital Selayang, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Medical Centre, Universiti Malaya Medical Centre, Cancer Research Initiatives Foundation (CARIF), VITrox Technologies, University of Burgundy France, Magnetic Resonance Bavaria Germany and Hitachi Japan.

Since 2008, CISIR has produced over 500 research articles, of which 180 are in journals having a cumulative impact factor of over 200, and filed 70 patents, of which six have been granted at the back of research grants amounting to RM11 million.

Apart from CISIR, UTP Centre of Innovative Nanostructures and Nanodevices, headed by Prof Norani Muti Mohamed, was recognised as a national COE in nanotechnology by Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation in 2011.

Dato' Seri Idriis (right) presenting a letter of appointment recognising UTP CISIR as HiCoE to Datuk Ir (Dr) Abdul Rahim at a special ceremony in Putrajaya. Also present were Prof. Dato' Seri Ir. Dr Zaini Ujang, Education Ministry Secretary-General II (left) and Prof Ir Dr Ahmad Fadzil (second from left).
EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

Milestone for UTP research centre

NSJ 12/10/14 p.7 (Learning Curve)

Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP) Centre of Excellence (CoE), Centre for Intelligent Signal and Imaging Research (CISIR), has been designated by the Education Ministry as a National Higher Institution Centre of Excellence (HiCoE), focusing on biomedical image analysis with neurochemical imaging as its niche area.

This was announced by Education Minister II Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh on Thursday.

"With this recognition as a national CoE and funding support, CISIR is geared to become a global research centre in biomedical imaging research. The centre, through fundamental research, collaboration and networking as well as contribution to human capital development, will produce breakthrough research and innovation that will have impact on society."

"This is in accordance with the National Higher Education Strategic Plan and also UTP's mission in becoming an internationally-recognised research university," said UTP vice-chancellor Datuk Ir (Dr) Abdul Rahim Hashim.

As a HiCoE, CISIR will receive funding annually for the next three years. The centre is also expected to produce high-impact publications in Tier 1 and Tier 2 ISI-indexed journals, capable PhD graduates and intellectual properties.

It will also generate its own revenue by conducting short courses, consultancy and commercialisation.

CISIR is one of the leading intelligent signal and imaging research groups in Malaysia. It undertakes research on advanced signal and imaging processing techniques, and the implementation of real-time embedded systems.

CISIR conducts research in multi-disciplinary areas, such as biomedical engineering, visual surveillance, remote-sensing and neuroscience.

It was established as a research lab in 2000 and upgraded to a university research centre in 2008. In 2012, it was recognised as the university's CoE.

The centre is headed by its founding director, Professor Ir Dr Ahmad Fadzil Mohd Hani, who is also the deputy vice-chancellor (academic) at UTP.

Since 2008, CISIR has produced more than 500 articles, of which 180 are published in journals having a cumulative impact factor of more than 200. It has filed 70 patents, of which six have been granted at the back of research grants amounting to RM11 million.

Besides CISIR, the UTP Centre of Innovative Nanostructures and Nanodevices, headed by Professor Norani Muti Mohamed, was also recognised as a national CoE by the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry in 2011.

For more information visit www.utp.edu.my
R&D important for nation's growth

The advancement of research and development (R&D) is important in countries that aim to progress economically.

Recognising this, the Government has made R&D an area of focus in the economic and social development of the country.

The Higher Education Department in the Education Ministry has begun programmes and provided funding for these in order to drive R&D in the country.

Higher Education Department deputy director-general (IPTS sector) Prof Datuk Dr Roziah Omar said higher education institutions play a role in creating new talent through their research programmes.

In order to further spur the research excellence in local higher education institutions, the Malaysia Laboratories for Academia-Business Collaboration (MyLab) and Higher Institution Centre of Excellence (HICOE) programmes were conducted.

The MyLab programme has a focus on four research areas — nanotechnology, biotechnology, aerospace and automotive technology — and they have received an RM17mil grant from the Education Ministry.

Second Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh said the ministry had so far invested RM43mil in the first phase of the HICOE programme and has received a return of RM59mil in the form of new talent, publication and research innovation.

"Through emphasis on R&D, there have been more papers published (written by local researchers), which will lead to more citations. "There will also be development of new products," said Idris after the ceremony.

He added that in a time period of five years (2007-2012), there has been a 510% increase of papers published in international peer-reviewed journals. "This is the highest increase in the world," he said.

He recognised the achievement of four Malaysian scientists who were in the top 1% of researchers whose papers were cited. As a result of the frequency with which they were referenced, they were also listed in the Thomson Reuters' The World's Most Influential Minds 2014 report.

They are Prof Dr Abdul Latif Ahmad and Prof Dr Bassim H. Hamied from Universiti Sains Malaysia, Prof Dr Ishak Hashim from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Prof Dr Saidur Rahman from Universiti Malaya.

Also present at the ceremony were MyLAB board of governors chairman Prof Tan Sri Zakri Abdul Hamid and Education Ministry secretary-general II Prof Datuk Seri Dr Zaini Ujang.

Recognition: Idris with the recipients. (From left) Prof Bassim, Prof Abdul Latif, Prof Zakri, Prof Ishak, Prof Zaini and Prof Roziah. - Bernama
Ali is UTHM pro-chancellor

NST 12/01/14 P.27

BATU PAHAT: Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa was appointed the pro-chancellor of the Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM) at the university's 14th convocation ceremony here yesterday.

Ali's appointment was consented by UTHM's Chancellor Sultan Ibrahim Sultan Iskandar. He received the appointment letter from Johor Tunku Mahkota Tunku Ismail Sultan Ibrahim.

UTHM now has two pro-chancellors — Tunku Ismail, appointed in 2010, and Ali.

Hailing from Kluang, Johor, Ali has a doctorate degree in Environment Science and Economics from the Oklahoma State University, United States.

Besides being appointed to his current post in 2012, he is also co-author of two books, Main Policies of the Government (1997) and Malaysia Kita (1998), which are the main reference books for civil servants.

The convocation also conferred an Honorary Doctor of Philosophy award to the Nagaoaka University of Technology President Prof Emeritus Dr Koichi Niihara (Mechanical Engineering), Prof Dr Georg Spottl from the University Of Bremen, Germany (Technical and Vocational Education) and former national badminton player, Datuk Mohmed Misbun Sidek (Human Development). The three-day ceremony, which began yesterday, saw the graduation of 3,477 students. Bernama