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## **Kolej Universiti Sains dan Teknologi Malaysia Partners IBM and Mesiniaga to Develop Student Skills and Research in IT, Marine Science and Technology**

Developing Excellence in IT Education through IBM's Premier University Program

Kolej Universiti Sains dan Teknologi Malaysia (KUSTEM), Terengganu, today linked-up with IBM and Mesiniaga to develop specialist IT skills to meet current and future market demands in the field of Information technology (IT), Marine Science and Technology.

"Today's partnership is a strategic academic-industry alliance between KUSTEM, IBM and Mesiniaga, and it is also a significant step in propelling KUSTEM as the leading academic institution in search of technology solutions to achieve academic and R&D excellence in becoming a knowledge-based organization," said Y Bhg Professor Dato' Dr Mohamed Mahyuddin bin Mohd Dahan, Rector of KUSTEM.

This collaboration under the IBM's Premier University Program was formalized in a Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremony between KUSTEM's Rector, Y Bhg Professor Dato' Dr Mohamed Mahyuddin, IBM Malaysia's Managing Director, Voon Seng Chuan, and Mesiniaga Berhad's Chief Financial Officer, Mohd Puzi Ahmad.



*Exchanging of documents: Y.Bhg. Dato' Dr. Mohamed Mahyuddin, Rektor KUSTEM and Encik Mohd Puzi, CFO, Mesiniaga.*

This partnership reflects IBM's commitment to equip and empower the next generation of Malaysia's workforce with the depth of knowledge and skills set to leverage technology in a new economy dominated by e-business. Voon said it was with this objective to invest in Malaysia's future that IBM launched its Premier University Program.

The IBM Premier University Program enables KUSTEM to incorporate educational programs on IBM software technologies to support the main course curriculum, electives or projects, within the framework of the university's syllabus. Under this program, IBM invests in providing licensed versions of software like DB2 Universal Database and WebSphere Application Server, in addition to faculty and facilitation of courseware development.

There will also be the transfer of advanced software skills. In the process, IBM will help to nurture a pool of undergraduates with specialist skills that will prepare them to be very 'marketable' as they enter the job market.

"The program helps train and teach our students on solutions that will be of immediate value to the local industry, and provides our researchers and academicians with advanced tools in IT. This will go a long way in developing KUSTEM as an IT center of the region, in line with the government's MSC initiatives," said Dato' Dr. Mohamed Mahyuddin.

"Through this Premier University partnership, IBM, along with our business partner Mesiniaga, hopes to work closely with KUSTEM to build IT infrastructure such as R&D laboratories to develop cutting edge software applications for marine science and technology research. Together we can work toward placing Malaysia at the forefront of worldwide IT, marine science and technology training and research," said Voon.

At present, KUSTEM's Computer Science Department is developing a high performance computing research laboratory that will be used for postgraduate courses and research activities. The focus for this lab will be on database technology, modeling, artificial intelligence and data visualization.

Source: Corporate Communication Unit, Mesiniaga Berhad