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A smart, green partnership

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Great collaboration: (from left, seated) Wei, REDtone IoT chief executive officer Dr Mazlan Abbas, Prof Kamal and Assoc Prof Siti Salbiah.



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FORBES described the Internet of Things (IoT) as a "concept that not only has the potential to impact how we live, but also how we work".

Realising its importance, Universiti Tenaga Nasional (Uniten) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with REDtone IoT.

Housing a total of five faculties or colleges as they are called, the collaboration will see the involvement of the varsity's College of Computer Science and Information Technology (CSIT).

"This MoU will pave an avenue for CSIT to collaborate with Redtone in the area of IoT, focusing on the creation of a smart and green campus.

"It is our hope that CSIT and Uniten will gain through this collaboration for its research on academic programmes," said Uniten vice-chancellor Prof Dr Kamal Nasharuddin Mustapha.

REDtone Group managing director Datuk Wei Chuan Beng said the tie-up is an effort to help transform Uniten into a sustainable campus.

"Through this collaboration, both parties will identify and work on projects aimed at creating an enhanced environment in campus.

"Among the smart and green applications that will be looked into is the smart building, where the usage of air conditioners will be monitored and controlled to save energy," he said.



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Other apps such as "smart parking" will help students and lecturers find parking easily, thus reducing pollution caused by driving round and round in search of a spot.

Smart transport initiatives include keeping students informed about the campus shuttle bus schedules.

Prof Kamal added that the agreement will also see joint research work and technology and expert transfer of programmes between the parties involved.

CSIT dean Assoc Prof Dr Siti Salbiah Mohamed Shariff said the primary aim behind the MoU is to allow students to gain industry exposure and to collaborate in terms of research and sharing of knowledge.

"This will enhance our students in terms of their marketability and employability and also benefit our academic staff because they will now collaborate with Redtone in order to develop various IoTs," she added.

Wei said if IoT is harnessed properly, it can enhance lives.

"Data that is collected and exchanged from this interaction between machines and facilities aside from human beings provides valuable information that we can all leverage on," he said.

"IoT is going to impact people's lives in ways that one would not have imagined."