First Smart Hospital in Borneo taking shape

By DK RYNI QAREENA

KOTA KINABALU: The development progress of Universiti Malaysia Sabah Hospital (UMHS) - the first Smart Hospital in Borneo - is on track, said UMS Vice Chancellor Prof. Datuk Dr. D Kamaruddin D. Mufrid.

The hospital which will adopt smart concept in its management, services, teaching and research activities is expected to be completed in 2021.

It would not only be equipped with advanced medical equipment but also utilise information and communications technology (ICT) application in its administration.

"When we talk about Smart, we cannot run away from using ICT as our platform to provide the best service for our patients. Everything will be based on technology in the future but we have to remember that technology by itself will not be smart; we have to include smart workforce and governance," he said.

The hospital is to be constructed on a 60 acre land in the university with floor area of 113,842 square metre which will house 400 beds, 25 operation theatres, and 12 labour units apart from other latest infrastructures.

The building, he said, was designed to enable expansion and accommodate a maximum of 1,000 beds.

"The hospital will be open for public services while also being used as a teaching hospital for clinical trainings of Medical Doctor and Nursing programme apart from other health sciences programmes that will be introduced in the future.

"We are happy that the government is very supportive of our intention towards providing the best and maybe transforming the medical and health services," said Dr. D Kamaruddin.

He was speaking after signing a Memorandum of Agreement (MoU) between UMS Faculty of Medicine and Health Services and Sabah Health Department, and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with HealthKU Solutions Sdn. Bhd.

Also present were Minister of Health and People's Wellbeing Datuk Stephen Wong, Health Director Dr. Christina Rundi, chairman of UMS Board of Directors Datuk KY Mustafa, and CEO of HealthKU Solution Sdn. Bhd. Datuk Chewy Beh.

The MoU, he explained, was a seven-year extension for Medical Doctor and postgraduate programmes, and five years for clinical training of Diploma in Nursing students as well as research activities for Masters in Public Health programmes.

The hospitals involved were Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Queen Elizabeth Hospital II, Likas Hospital, Bukit Padang Hospital, and Kota Belud, Papar and Tuaran Hospitals.

Meanwhile, health clinics involved will be Luyang, Talek, Menggatal, Inanam, Likas, and Kota Kinabalu health clinics.

"The university consistently seeks the opinions and comments of industry players for student output and as such, UMS has appointed 13 Adjunct Professors who are specialist doctors in Sabah including Datuk Dr. Christina Rundi to provide input to the Medical and Nursing programmes to ensure they could cater to current needs.

"The faculty also welcomes the Health Department to conduct activities in its premises including the auditorium, lecture halls and laboratories facilities among others."

"We also hope to see one day come up with a model that could be replicated in other hospitals," he said.

Since 2003, the UMS Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences have produced 10 cohorts of medical doctors graduating totaling 821 students, and 271 students under the Diploma in Nursing.

The MoU with HealthKU Solutions Sdn. Bhd. on the other hand, marked its collaboration on the application of BookDoc - a smartphone application to connect patients with doctors and healthcare providers.

It will enable patients from all across Sabah to book appointments with doctors via online.

Ministry working hard to improve health, information system

Dr. D Kamaruddin (left) exchanging the MoU document with Chewy Beh (2nd right) witnessed by Wong (2nd left) and Christina (right).

KOTA KINABALU: The application of high tech appliances in the Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) Smart Hospital (UMHS) will enhance future medical and health services in Sabah.

Minister of Health and People’s Wellbeing Datuk Stephen Wong said the ministry is working hard to improve its current health and information system and with UMSH serving as a smart hospital, Sabahans are bound to receive better healthcare services.

"With the system to be on in UMSH, it will be started small and once it is successful, the technology will be expanded to all hospitals so that we will not only have high tech system but also save patients’ time as we are still receiving complaints of long waiting time and such," he said.

UMSH which is also a teaching hospital apart from its smart hospital status will also boost medical tourism in Sabah, he said.

Thus, Wong added that there is a need to improve existing facilities and having the hospital to contribute to the tourism economy would be a far-sighted vision for Sabah.

HIGH-TECH SYSTEM... Wong (seated, centre), Christina (left), KY Mustafa (second left), Dr. D Kamaruddin (2nd right), Chewy (right) with the participants yesterday.

"We also hope that once this hospital is completed, we will be able to produce more experts and specialists that Sabah is very in need of; we are hunting for more specialists to close the gap and doctor-patient ratio.

"We are, as compared to our counterparts in the peninsula, very far behind so with the hospital being developed, it will definitely help us go further on this medical trailer," he said.

He was speaking after witnessing the signing of Memorandum of Agreement (MoU) between UMS and Sabah Health Department and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UMS and HealthKU Solution Sdn Bhd here on Tuesday.

Also present were Sabah Health Director Datuk Dr. Christina Rundi, chairman of UMS Board of Directors Datuk KY Mustafa, UMS Vice-Chancellor Prof. Datuk Dr. D Kamaruddin M. Mudin, CEO of HealthKU Solution Sdn Bhd, Datuk Chewy Beh.

According to Wong, the MoU which was an extension after 15 years of collaborating with the health department would help the government’s health sector in terms of workforce, subsequently enhancing the people’s health status.

The collaboration, he added, would also fulfill educational needs of students of UMS Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences by providing them with training, conducive and hands-on research necessities.

"It will help students prepare themselves for real world environment and conduct researches that will allow us to explore and battle new diseases while elevating Sabah’s healthcare," he said.

The ceremony was also held in conjunction with the two-day Conference on Sustainability, Nicha Area and Governance of UMS Hospital.

It was attended by 80 participants who are hospital administrators, academicians and industry players who were invited to attend the conference as well as governance issues. - By DK Ryni Qareena