Inti invests in RM5m smartcard system

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Tan: *More services.*

INTI Universal Holdings Bhd (IUHB), the holding company of the Inti group of colleges, is investing RM5 million in a smartcard system to improve operations within its campuses as well as services offered to students.

With the system, the company will replace manually recorded recurring functions involving its staff and 14,000 students and offer more services, said IUHB's managing director Dr Tan Yew Sing. This, he added, this will in turn encourage transparency, accountability and provide a means for the staff and students to learn to self-regulate.

The system, developed and implemented by ForseLab BNS (M) Sdn Bhd, will be implemented at all Inti-owned or affiliated campuses and learning centres in four phases.

Tan said the project, which will begin with staff and students of Inti College Malaysia in Nilai and Inti College Subang Jaya, is expected to be completed by 2005. "The first phase will involve the creation of the SmartCard Control Management System, a module which will manage functionalities of all the smartcard's applications," said Tan at the signing with ForseLab in Subang Jaya on Monday.

It will include an application to be integrated into Inti's smart library system to allow authentication of users and track circulation details and status of users, he added.

In the second phase, starting in April this year, applications for booking and monitoring of entry access for car parks, rooms, laboratories, academics, sports and recreational facilities will be added.

With the completion of the first and second phases by year-end, the third phase will begin with the roll-out of the smartcard system to Inti's campuses nationwide, said Tan. In the fourth phase, IUHB will roll out the system to its campuses overseas in countries like Thailand and Indonesia.

The Inti Smartcard is a contactless card with a memory capacity of 16K to accommodate multiple applications. It also has enhanced security features and doubles up as an identification card for the college's staff and students.

The smartcard will also have an e-purse facility which is a cash card for students to make purchases at vending machines and retail outlets within the campuses. Tan said another application is the merit and demerit point programme whereby staff and students will be given merit points for positive attributes. The smartcard system is part of IUHB's five-year masterplan to transform Inti into an e-campus by 2010.