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# Telemedicine Conference 2016 showcases Malaysian innovators

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**BANDAR SUNWAY, Aug 16:** Embracing the future of health care, the Telemedicine Conference 2016 kicked off today to discuss innovations in the health industry, as well as discover latest innovations and innovators.

The conference, which is being hosted for its second year, was officiated by Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah, alongside Chairman of Telemedicine Conference Associate Professor Dr Wong Chee-Piau, whom initiated and fostered the idea of the Telemedicine conference.

 speech, Hisham announced that he will chair the Telemedicine Development Group. He will surprise members from MoH, private sector and the academia to look at telemedicine in our country.



The Telemedicine Conference started today at the Swan Convention Centre in Sunway Medical Centre and its set to continue till Aug 18.

The conference is hosted by Monash University Malaysia, Ministry of Health, Malaysian Communication and Multimedia Commission (MCMC), CREST, in collaboration with Sunway Medical Centre. The theme of the inaugural conference is "Shaping Tomorrow's Healthcare, Today".

"The purpose of the conference is to bring together on a platform, the researches, medical providers, with the health professionals and industry, to really look at the state of the art, of what's happening in telemedicine and develop collaborations and partnerships, so that we can innovate to improve health care practise," Pro Vice-Chancellor of Monash University Malaysia Professor Helen Bartlett told The Malaysian Times (TMT) when met at the conference today.

The telemedicine conference has also organized a Telemedicine Innovation Challenge, where the challenge was open to students, healthcare service providers, industry players and anyone creative.

The challenge was categorized to two categories which was the open category and mobile health, where eight groups had taken part for each category.

This year's conference will discuss Malaysia's progressive stand in research and innovation, as well as offer a platform for partnerships among stakeholders and to generate new ideas and approaches in using IT and communication technology to improve and expand medical care and delivery.

"The themes that have been selected for the conference, and what they demonstrate is a vehicle of bring together the discipline, so we have a focus on big data, Internet of Things (IoT) and mobile," said Helen.

She said that in the past, aspects of telemedicine have been quiet fragmented and with the current ministry of health policy agenda it is visible that telemedicine has been given greater priority.

"As a university, what we are keen to do is ensure that the investment that we are putting into the research university is matching the government priority.

"So that why we have established what we call a research cluster in telemedicine, so we invest in development of capacity and capability in telemedicine.

"This conference is one of the ways in which we demonstrate the seriousness in what we are doing in our endeavours to innovate and collaborate," said Helen.

Helen said that Dr. Wong is the leader of the telemedicine cluster and he has been organizing and leading the conference and that Monash University has been supporting it.

She said that as a university it is very important for us to have an occasion like this to present their ideas, to report on the latest research findings, to be bringing their own researches to display, adding that it is important opportunity for the researchers and innovators to showcase what they're doing and to collaborate with the others.

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