

USM builds R&D park

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RM450mil centre to be ready in 2014

GEORGE TOWN: Universiti Sains Malaysia will spend RM450mil on its science and arts park in Bukit Jambul here, which is expected to be ready in 2014.

Vice-chancellor Prof Tan Sri Dzulkipli Abdul Razak said the park would have apartments, a hotel, an international school, incubator laboratories, galleries, a mini theatre and research centres.

The centre, dubbed SAINS@USM which stands for Science and Arts Innovation Space, would serve as a research centre, tourist attraction and public park, he said.

"It will represent an innovative space that promotes integrated research with dedicated incubators and laboratories.

"SAINS@USM will not only represent the ideal space for academia and businesses to thrive, it will also reach out to communities near and far in a truly comprehensive and holistic manner," he said at the launch of SAINS@USM at Dewan Budaya, USM here yesterday.

It was launched by the university's chancellor Raja of Perlis Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail.

Also present were his consort Tuanku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid, Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Abdul Rahman Abbas and his wife



Royal launch: Dr Dzulkipli (left) explaining the model plan for SAINS@USM to Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin and Tuanku Fauziah at the university yesterday.

Toh Puan Majimor Shariff.

An MoU was also signed between the university, Khazanah Nasional Bhd and six corporations to collaborate on SAINS@USM.

At the function, a representative from the

Malaysian Technology Development Corporation (MTDC), Norhalim Yunus, presented a RM24.35mil mock cheque for the funding of eight research projects at SAINS@USM.