

New Student-centric Centre at TAR UC



Coming soon: An artist's impression of the new Student Centre, which will feature a football field, a running track, futsal courts and a grandstand on the rooftop.

A SEVEN-STOREY student centre is set to open at the Tunku Abdul Rahman University College (TAR UC) Kuala Lumpur main campus. And, it will house facilities chosen by the students themselves.

MCA president and TARC Education Foundation board of trustees chairman Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong said the RM176mil state-of-the-art infrastructure is dedicated towards enriching students' on-campus learning.

"It will be equipped with many modern facilities and amenities, aimed at enhancing the multi-dimensional learning of students," Dr Wee, who is also the Transport Minister, said during the groundbreaking ceremony on Oct 30.

TAR UC president Prof Dr Lee Sze Wei said from the get-go, the institute sought the input of student leaders in its student representative council when discussing the facilities and design for the building. "For example, we have space for students to do their dancing, rock climbing and eSports. "These are all things that young people want and we have incorporated all of these together with the spaces needed to conduct teaching and learning," he said.

The new building, which is expected to be completed in 2024, has a total built-up area of 13.7 ha. Among the facilities available are a training kitchen and restaurant, a camera and dark room, tutorial rooms, multi-purpose function rooms, jamming rooms, dance studios, a choir room, a fencing room and an eSports room. There will also be a rooftop football field, a running track, futsal courts and a grandstand for the sports fanatics.

Prof Lee said the new building will house an SME Centre to encourage students to be more involved in the industry, especially small and medium enterprises. “This will also cultivate an entrepreneurship-type of culture in TAR UC by increasing interaction between SMEs and our students,” he said.

The SME Centre will consist of the Centre for Business Incubation and Entrepreneurial Ventures office, a gallery, a networking lounge, a pitching hall, co-working space, meeting and seminar rooms, I-Spark Incubator Rooms, the Centre for Continuing and Professional Education office, computer labs, a Faculties Showcase, a server room, research rooms, industrial partners rooms, an auditorium and an exhibition hall.

Dr Wee said the SME Centre is a one-stop centre that aims to bring together SMEs and the supporting ecosystem for the betterment of the industry and the wider community. “The setting up of the SME Centre is certainly a critical step in the right direction for TAR UC to support and develop SMEs to be the driver of growth in Malaysia,” said Dr Wee.

At the centre, he added, aspiring entrepreneurs at TAR UC will be able to gain access to network connections, professional development and training or services, as well as research knowledge transfer. Dr Wee said TAR UC is poised to support the government’s plans to become a high income and high-tech nation by 2025 as outlined in the 12th Malaysia Plan (RMK-12), particularly in developing future talent.

TAR UC board of governors chairman Datuk Seri Liow Tiong Lai said: “The Student Centre is specifically designed with the students’ learning outcome and well-being in mind.” He added that the building of the Student Centre would not have been possible without the support and contribution of TAR UC’s stakeholders and alumni, particularly in fundraising initiatives for its construction.

“We’re a proud institution that always gets support from the community. “Following this groundbreaking ceremony, we will be one step closer to fulfilling our goal to becoming a regional hub for the development of future-proof talents as outlined in the TAR UC 10-year roadmap,” he said.

Also present at the groundbreaking ceremony were TARC Education Foundation board of trustees member Datuk Seri Yew Teong Look, Deputy Education Minister Datuk Dr Mah Hang Soon and Deputy International Trade and Industry Minister Lim Ban Hong.

The upcoming facilities have certainly captured the imagination of the youths. Student representative council member Lim Boon Chong, 19, said the multi-storey car park with over 1,400 parking spaces in the new centre is very much welcomed.

“There are not a lot of car parks on campus and this has been a problem for a long time,” he said. He is also looking forward to utilising the rooftop football field and running track.

Rose Farhana Shafiera Noornikmandadamieh, 19, said she found it interesting” that the sports facilities will be housed on the rooftop, complete with a grandstand. Though she does not see herself using those facilities, she said she is still looking forward to using the new gymnasium in the building. “Although there are already three gyms on campus, I’m waiting for this one as it is supposed to be the biggest,” she added.



Let the construction begin: (From left) Yew, Liow, Dr Wee, Prof Lee, Dr Mah and Lim at the groundbreaking ceremony. – YAP CHEE HONG/The Star



Lim Boon Chong



Rose Farhana Shafiera Noornikmandadamieh

