



Chiang Rai varsity plans innovation park to encourage entrepreneurship

JIRAPAN BOONNOON

THE NATION

MAE FAH LUANG University in Chiang Rai province will set up an IT incubation centre to support students who want to develop applications and information-technology platforms.

The university is also setting up an SME Cosmetics Promotion Centre.

Vice president Panom Winyayong said the university would set aside about 1,000 square metres for an "innovation park" to support students who want to have their own business after they graduate.

The university will provide infrastructure and training to support new start-ups. It will also invite the private sector to participate at the innovation park to help develop prototype businesses, followed by business matching.

The project will start in the near future and go into full service next year.

Panom said the university planned to support the tourism and agricultural sectors in Chiang Rai province by utilising innovative technology.

The university's SME Cosmetics

Promotion Centre, meanwhile, will facilitate research and development of cosmetics by students and small and medium-sized enterprises. The centre will also provide analytics and consultation, preparing prototypes for OEM (original equipment manufacturer) products.

The university now has 100 items undergoing R&D to support cosmetics business. Participating SMEs will be charged a licence fee to support the project.

"The university tries to provide knowledge from shelf to commercial to support students and SMEs so that the private sector and students can apply the knowledge base from the university commercially," Panom said.

"Cosmetics have high potential because of market demand. The R&D will help to leverage quality cosmetic products in the market. The university will act as a facilitator to help SMEs utilise innovative technology and R&D to support their cosmetic products. As a result, the university will transfer knowledge and know-how to the private sector and drive a knowledge-based society."

The centre expects to help around 30 SMEs provide innovative cosmetics to the market by the end of this year.



Panom Winyayong