SIT to promote 'close symbiotic relationship' with industry partners


It will achieve this by integrating its new Punggol campus with the creative industry cluster which will be built by JTC across the road, says president Tan Thiam Soon.

SINGAPORE: Following Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's announcement in his National Day Rally speech on Sunday (Aug 23) that the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) will get a new centralised campus in Punggol, the institute's president said it wants to have a "close symbiotic relationship" with industry partners.

According to Professor Tan Thiam Soon, the institute will be achieving this by integrating the new campus with the creative industry cluster which will be built by JTC across the road: "We are in discussion with JTC to build a campus boulevard that will be pedestrianised to make it very easy for our students, for our professors to meet up with people from the industry ... There will be commercial facilities there (so) they can have a cup of coffee (and) a meal."

Prof Tan added: "I think by building this kind of environment where we are close with the industry (and) talking to them all the time, we will continue to stay current (and) relevant."

SIT currently offers 36 programmes and caters to 2,100 students. It plans to grow the student population to 3,500 and offer another 14 new programmes in areas like food technology and info-communication technology. The new campus will also be integrated with Punggol Downtown and the upcoming Northshore District.

Prof Tan said the community will be able to enjoy the facilities. One way to facilitate this is to keep the old Punggol Road which runs through the campus, preserved as a nature trail.

"We want our campus to be open so that people who walk around that trail can access our (facilities such as) our lecture theatre, auditorium and seminar rooms," he said. In time to come, we create opportunities for them to take classes there, leveraging on our professors as well as professors from our partner universities."

The Education Ministry is expected to provide more details on the campus soon.