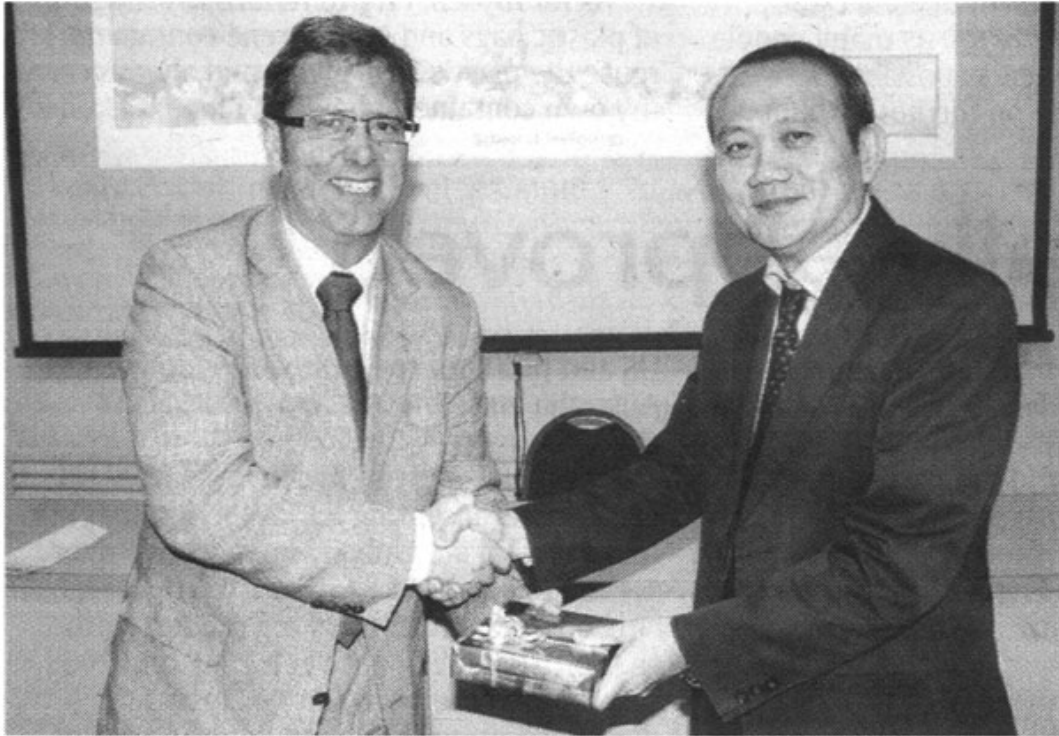


Research partnership



Prof Allan (left) and Dr Tan shake hands at a ceremony to mark the collaboration deal.

TO build technical support and expertise for its research centre, Tunku Abdul Rahman College (TAR College) recently sealed a collaboration deal with its United Kingdom academic partner, Sheffield Hallam University (SHU).

The first research centre established within TAR College's School of Technology, the Advanced Engineering Research Centre (AREC) aims to become a centre of excellence in Malaysia for innovation, teaching, research and application of advanced engineering concepts in the industry.

"Given SHU's track record in industrial research, its experiences and research tools will help our faculty staff in resolving problems faced by industry partners," said TAR College principal Dr Tan Chik Heok in his speech at the launch event marking the collaboration.

SHU's Systems Modeling and Integration Research Group (SMIRG) of Material and

Engineering Research Institute is a well established research group that is internationally known for its consultancy work in computer stimulation and automation.

Also present at the launch was SHU deputy vice-chancellor Prof Cliff Allan, who said that this new development would take the TAR College-SHU partnership to a higher level and be a catalyst for developing further research links between the two higher education institutions.

At the initial stage, the centre will establish the Advanced Manufacturing System facility, acquire relevant software systems as well as work with local companies on joint research projects.

In addition to exploring possible funding for research projects, the collaboration between the two institutions also involves initiation of split PhD programmes, staff exchanges and the development of joint training programmes.