

Learning hub open 24/7 for exchange of ideas

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THE Education Resource Centre of the University Town (UTown) is poised to become a souped-up learning hub of the National University of Singapore (NUS).

The \$50 million, four-level building, to be open 24/7, bristles with technology that will promote the active exchange of ideas among students, including collaborations across disciplines.

Its walls do double duty as white boards; it also has retractable plasma screens, recording studios and a multi-media hub.

This facility will be at the disposal of students living and studying in the two residential colleges making up UTown, as well as all other NUS students.

During a media tour yesterday, the director of NUS' Centre for Instructional Technology Ravi Chandran explained that the Education Resource Centre will be a test bed for collaborative technologies.

He said: 'We are working with companies to test the latest software and hardware, and if it works well here, we plan to extend these technologies to the Kent Ridge campus.'

NUS president Tan Chorh Chuan added that the centre will be improved constantly and will not be 'static'.

The first two levels of the centre houses technology-infused common rooms to encourage presentations and discussions.

Mr Chandran said: 'We have power points all over the centre so students will not have problems plugging in.'

'Our rooms, even the furniture, are multi-purpose so students can use them as classrooms, for projects and for discussions.'

The top two levels have study rooms.