

There are other similar teleradiology systems being evaluated by the Ministry of Health and one being studied as a pilot study in Sarawak, based on the Windows NT operating system. This has been supported by a grant from the Dutch Government. The other project being considered is to connect some of the hospitals with HKL for the neurosurgical support.

It cannot however be argued that teleradiology allows the rapid transmission of digital images without loss of content or resolution¹⁴. Teleradiology will become cheaper, faster and the interface will become more intuitive. Malaysia must exploit the full potential of teleradiology. Though there is uncertainty we cannot stand on the sidelines otherwise we may be overwhelmed by the more advanced countries who are

out to export their medical technology. More and more hospitals are embracing this new technology with not just the university or government hospitals involved but being lead by the private medical centres. However caution needs to be exercised in acquiring this technology since there is a danger that some of the systems being offered may be inappropriate. Proper health technology assessment in the local context needs to be carried out. In addition we feel that Malaysia should also be actively involved in the development of teleradiology systems with local flavour in support of the MSC project. We believe that teleradiology would be able to provide a rapid, accurate and cost-effective system for clinical care as well as continuing medical education.

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