

Taiwan's new medical image visualization tech

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Singapore: Advanced imaging technology developed by an Republic of China academic is expected to foster greater global collaboration in the field of biomedical research, according to Taipei City-based National Taiwan University of Science and Technology (NTUST).

The internet-based Real Time Super High Resolution Image Visualization System, developed by, NTUST assistant professor Dr Wang Ching-wei, can compress medical images with a file size of 20 gigabytes to 50 megabytes.

"Smaller file sizes allow images to be displayed on and transmitted over mobile devices including handsets, PCs and tablets," Dr Wang said. "This facilitates improved telemedicine and borderless research, saving time, money and lives," he added.

At present, most hospitals and research organizations use high magnification optical microscopes for viewing images of pathological slides, protein analysis for targeted cancer therapies and stem cell research. Such advanced instruments cost millions of New Taiwan dollars, Dr Wang said, adding that medical institutions have to transport such items for cross-agency collaboration and set aside dedicated storage facilities.

"The new imaging technology will also help promote digital pathology in Taiwan and ensure a more even distribution of the country's medical resources," Dr Wang said. "A Taiwan patent for this technology has already been obtained, with applications in the US and mainland China under review," he added.