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Singapore: Thailand Center of Excellence for lifesciences has signed a pact with Mahidol University's Faculty of Engineering, Japan's Economy, Trade and Industry Ministry, Mitsubishi Research Institute, and Panasonic Cooperation to develop medical robots that help in advancing healthcare.

Under this collaboration, the Japanese partners will transfer knowledge and technology to Thai developers to develop the robots. Dr Nares Damrongchai, CEO, TCEL's said, "Developing a medical robot that has advanced technology is a part of the Ministry's plan to enhance the scientific and technological infrastructure and a product that could advance healthcare in the world market."

He further added that the Japanese collaboration will help in developing the robot with high technology and acceptance from the international market. Mr Jackrit Suthakorn, assistant professor, biomedical engineering department, said, "The Center for Biomedical and Robotics Technology, operated under the department, had conducted research and developed a medical robot for over 10 years. Most robotic research and development has been focused on a prototype robot and produced manpower for this medical field."

The department has teamed up with TCELS to set up the high technology medical robotic operation unit to develop products, and test, and certify the quality of medical robots and devices. The center believes that this unit will help in developing and commercializing new products for the market.