S’pore team to learn from Israel’s research edge

THE man shaping Singapore’s research thrust is looking to Israel.

Dr Tony Tan, chairman of the National Research Foundation (NRF), is visiting Israel, famed for its cutting-edge research and entrepreneurial spirit, to see how Singapore can tap into these attributes.

He is leading a high-level delegation to Israel from tomorrow to Jan 11.

The team will meet representatives from Technion, Israel’s famed Institute of Technology.

It will visit the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, the corporate research labs of IBM and Hewlett-Packard, technology incubators, venture capitalists and entrepreneurs.

“Through these visits and interactions, the delegation hopes to understand how an academic entrepreneurship mindset and the technological environment are promoted in Israel and draw important lessons for Singapore,” the NRF said in a statement yesterday.

Dr Tan’s team will include permanent secretaries Teo Ming Kian (National Research and Development) and Tan Ching Yee (Education), and Singapore Management University’s president Howard Hunter.

Part of the NRF’s efforts include working with top research universities around the world to develop a campus housing world-class research centres here. Among the institutes keen to establish a presence here is Israel’s Technion.

In April last year, Dr Tan led a delegation to the Netherlands, Germany and Switzerland to visit top European research organisations in water and clean energy.

“Through these visits, the NRF was able to gain insight and build on Singapore’s efforts in environmental sustainability to develop knowledge and technologies for addressing global concerns,” said a spokesman for the foundation.

His visits to the Netherlands in 2005 and Technion in 2006 both resulted in research tie-ups.

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