$5.5m high-tech surgery training centre opens

Surgeons undergoing training are about to get hands-on experience - even before they operate on live patients.

At the $5.5 million Khoo Teck Puat Advanced Surgery Training Centre, they will practise on virtual simulators using three-dimensional visualisation software and robotic arms.

The centre - built with funds from a $7 million donation by the Estate of Tan Sri Khoo Teck Puat, the late philanthropist - is based at the National University Hospital.

At its opening yesterday, National University of Singapore president-designate Tan Chorh Chuan said the training would enhance surgeons' capabilities, so they could better serve patients.

On the high-tech equipment, trainees can learn surgical procedures ranging from simple hernia repairs to highly complex brain tumour removals.

The centre has attracted 1,000 local and international surgeons since its soft opening earlier this year.

The official opening yesterday was attended by President S R Nathan.