

01/02/1997

Recsam to market innovative teaching aids

PENANG, Fri. - The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (Seameo) Regional Centre for Education in Science and Mathematics (Recsam) is commercialising science and mathematics teaching aids in a move to realise the country's vision as an innovation centre for Information Technology.

The Penang-based centre has 10 teaching aid prototypes that have been approved by its Business Development Committee and is ready to sign a contract with a Kuala Lumpur-based manufacturer to market the products.

Its director Dr Abdul Rahim Selamat said the products had been tested at both primary and secondary schools and had proven to be "very successful".

"We hope the products can be marketed in the country by the end of the year.

"In fact, the manufacturing company was amazed with the innovations and is quite ready to help us market the products," he said.

However, he did not name the company but added that it was a well-known producer of educational tools.

Although the centre first came up with innovative science, mathematics and technical education teaching aids in the late 80s, Abdul Rahim said this was its first move at marketing the products.

"This is in keeping with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call to Malaysians to get ready as the country enters the Information Technology era."

Abdul Rahim was speaking to reporters after witnessing 61 teachers and key educators from nine Southeast Asian countries and Nepal receive their certificates at the centre's 96th certificate presentation ceremony today.

The certificates were presented to the recipients by Thailand's Deputy Consul-General Yupadi Wattanalai.

Abdul Rahim also said that the centre had designed multi-media software learning aids developed by its participants and professional staff.

He said at present, there were not many softwares in the market which were suitable for the region's needs.

"We had to develop such teaching aids to cater to our curriculum. We tested them at several schools and they were very successful," he said.

Although the centre intended to sell the software, it would not be doing it on a large commercial scale.

"Although we want to market our products, we want to maintain the quality of instruction and materials used. So we have to be very careful about who we allow to handle our products," he said, adding that once the products were available locally, the next move would be market them in the region.

Abdul Rahim also said that the Seameo Recsam had assumed a new role as a consultant in science, mathematics and technical education for schools.

He said the centre would, from now on, not only provide training but also consultancy services and act as a guide and motivator for schools.

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