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1,080 applications received for young programmers' club

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - The Microsoft-New Straits Times Young Programmers Club's (MyPC) e-mail mentoring programme received an overwhelming response with about 1,080 people - all youngsters - submitting their applications by 6pm today.

Selected applicants will have to pay a membership fee of RM1,000 each for the eight-month MyPC programme.

They will be sponsored through a unique corporate sponsorship programme.

MyPC creator Derrik Khoo said the programme under which youngsters would learn through the Internet, was expected to motivate them to excel in programming and improve communication and problem-solving skills.

The approach will create one-on-one relationships between professionals in the information technology industry and students.

"The concept of the mentoring the young is not new. Using e-mail and the Internet to transfer knowledge is a novel idea," he said.

The programme will create a virtual classroom for group discussions and on-line question and answer sessions.

Members can expect near-instant feedback through on-line messaging which will encourage team-based activities and promote distance learning.

The club's activities will be gender-neutral with an emphasis on the fact that programming is easy and fun.

MyPC is a programme to discover and nurture young talents and was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Microsoft chairman and chief executive officer Bill Gates on Mar 18.

It will complement the Multimedia Super Corridor with its mission to promote software development as one of the key careers of the future.

The programme is managed by Khoo, who is chief executive officer of Brave & Bold Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of Patimas Computers Bhd.

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