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Most applications from Selangor and Federal Territory

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Applications for membership in the Microsoft-New Straits Times Young Programmers Club (MyPC) have been received from all States in the country, indicating an encouraging response from youths.

Selangor tops the list, chalking up 39.6 per cent of the 754 applications surveyed, followed by the Federal Territory with 24.4 per cent and Perak with eight per cent.

As at 5.30pm today, the total number of applications for MyPC membership stood at 1,213.

This finding on the whole supports the supposed geographic bias in the population's exposure to information technology.

The top five slots on the MyPC list of applications are occupied by States on the western side of the Peninsula with Johor coming in fourth with six per cent and Penang in fifth with 4.5 per cent.

Even so, Derrik Khoo, creator of MyPC, was unfazed by the seemingly overwhelming response from the leading States.

"Talent is about quality and not so much quantity. Some States may have the numbers, but no State has a monopoly on talent.

"MyPC has been specifically set up to unearth that rare talent," said Khoo who is also the president and chief executive officer of MSC-Status company Brave & Bold Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of Patimas Computers Bhd.

"From the applications received so far, we are very happy to note that there are some really talented children in Malaysia. This is a good indicator of how successful Malaysians will be in the Information Age.

"Of course, we need to further nurture these talented children to enable them to contribute meaningfully in the future," Khoo said.

MyPC is a programme to discover and nurture young programming talents.

It was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Microsoft chairman and chief executive officer, Bill Gates on Mar 18.

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

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