

11/04/1998

On-line discussion forum for applicants

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - From today, potential applicants of the Microsoft-New Straits Times Young Programmers Club (MyPC) will be able to participate in an on-line discussion forum available on MyPC microsite hosted on the New Straits Times Press Interactive (NSTPi) Web site www.nstpi.com.my.

Derrick Khoo, MyPC creator and President/CEO of MSC-status company Brave & Bold Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of Patimas Computers Bhd, said many people were still not very clear of what MyPC was all about.

"At this forum we will have plenty to talk about and share. We would like to encourage forum participants to not just ask questions but also share with us their ideas and what they are currently working on, programming-wise that is."

He said earlier inquiries about MyPC have centred on questions relating to the components of the programme.

MyPC, he said, was not a typical software application course. The programme requires its members to learn under the watchful eyes of a mentor.

"For want of a better way to describe it, MyPC is an apprenticeship in programming. It is more than learning theories from textbooks. It will be a hands-on learning experience for successful applicants," he said.

In addition, he said MyPC's mentors would consist of qualified developers in the various Information Technology fields such as networking, database, and application development.

Members, he said, would be given special assignments on their intellectual, analytical and programming skills. The curriculum would include both programming and non-programming activities to ensure the members are well-balanced both in the technical and non-technical areas.

"Part of MyPC's goal is to cultivate an all-rounder. The aim for MyPC remains steadfast, that is to harness the best programming talents in this country," added Khoo.

He said MyPC was dedicated to young children with an interest and talent in programming.

However, he said, the willingness to work hard, not just at programming, was just as important.

The programme, he added, was to test not only the members' skills but also their commitment.

MyPC was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Microsoft chairman and CEO Bill Gates on March 18. As at 4pm today, total applications stood at 1,746.

(END)