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Selection of first batch to start next week

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Selection for the first 50 members of the Microsoft-New Straits Times Young Programmers Club (MyPC) will be conducted starting next week.

The selection criteria will be based on talent, intelligence and maturity of the applicants.

MyPC creator Derrik Khoo said the selection will test both the applicant's aptitude in computing and non-computing knowledge.

This includes logical and systematic thinking, which is critical in the understanding of computing terms and technical jargons.

"This is a programme to unearth programming talents," said Khoo.

"In this regard, the chosen candidates will be those who already have a PC or have regular access to one, have an e-mail account and are familiar with the internet, as well as programming basics," he added.

Questionnaires will soon be sent via the Internet to applicants who have access to e-mail.

From the pool of selected applicants, another interview will be conducted through telephone calls. The final phase of this selection process will consist of an aptitude test.

Successful applicants will then be enrolled into the MyPC programme.

Applicants who are not shortlisted will be kept in an active database as possible candidates for the next intake.

The first phase of MyPC activities will involve some 200 talented applicants who will be selected in batches of 50.

Selected applicants will be required to pay RM1,000 membership fee to participate in MyPC activities.

Applicants who are selected, but cannot afford the fee will be assisted by MyPC through a special sponsorship programme.

The organisers of MyPC said not every applicant selected will be sponsored.

"Only applicants who really deserve financial aid will be considered," said Khoo, who is also the president/CEO of MSC-company Brave and Bold Sdn Bhd, which is a subsidiary of Patimas Computers Bhd.

RHB Bank had on March 18 announced a RM50,000 contribution to MyPC.

Meanwhile, there has been overwhelming response to MyPC since the initiative was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Microsoft Corporation chairman and CEO Bill Gates on March 18.

As at 5pm today, total applications stood at 1,567.

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