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Six-year-old Jasmine from Ipoh applies for membership

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - A six-year-old girl has applied for membership to the Microsoft-New Straits Times Young Programmers Club (MyPC).

Jasmine Chin Wye Xin, who attends the Mariaville Nursery in Ipoh, has access to a personal computer at home and with the help of her father David Chin, surfs the Internet.

She has also started doing some Visual Basic programming exercises.

Jasmine's application has helped push MyPC membership applications beyond the 600 mark. Within a week, 639 applications have been received. A total of 122 applications came in today.

Applications from all corners of Malaysia have been received. Among them was one from 12-year-old Asrul Mukhazi Azizan, who has a personal electronic mail account and his own website on the Internet. He also claims to be into Visual Basic programming.

Sandeep Singh Sethi of Johor Baru also has an Internet account and programming knowledge in Visual Basic.

Meanwhile, 14-year-old Alvin Andrew Raj of Malacca is familiar with not one but three programming languages - Visual Basic, Basic and Turbo Pascal. And from Labuan, we have 12-year-old Choong Pui Chee who knows C/C++ programming and has developed his own website.

MyPC is a programme to discover and nurture young programming talent in Malaysia and was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Microsoft chairman and CEO Bill Gates last week when the latter was on a four-nation tour to Southeast Asia.

MyPC will complement the Multimedia Super Corridor with its mission to promote software development as one of the key careers of the future. This initiative will present a chance for the next generation of software developers to create advanced software applications.

MyPC's activities will largely be conducted over the Internet. However, there will also be field trips to selected information technology companies and meetings with professional software developers.

The programme is managed by MyPC creator Derrik Khoo, president and chief executive officer of Brave and Bold Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of Patimas Computers Berhad.

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