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Limited 'free' places for Infotech meet

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Schools, higher learning institutions and non-profit or non-governmental organisations have a chance to get free places at the upcoming Infotech Malaysia conference.

The conference organisers have announced they will grant about 30 places to "worthy" participants to attract more diverse participation to Infotech Malaysia, an annual national-level dialogue on IT-related issues.

National Information Technology Council permanent secretary Tengku Datuk Dr Azzman Shariffadeen said organisers were also making it easier for companies and government departments to send participants to the conference.

"Every government department that sends two participants will be allowed to register a third for free.

"Companies which send participants to any of the five conference workshops will be allowed to claim a refund for the workshop from the Human Resource Development Fund," he said after a sponsorship presentation ceremony for the event at Mimos Bhd.

Tengku Azzman said the conference's "smart partnership" method of grouping people from diverse backgrounds in a round-table format for discussion would be fruitful if participants truly expressed their ideas and experiences.

"We want the young people and students there to represent themselves. Sitting opposite them at the same table may be Tan Sris, but they must speak against the so-called conventional wisdom and not just listen," he said.

State Governments which have confirmed participation in the conference through video conferencing technology are Perak, Terengganu, Perlis, Sabah, Negri Sembilan, Sarawak, Kedah and Kelantan.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also NITC chairman, will launch the conference and the concurrent ITX '98 exhibition on April 21.

The four-day event, to be held at the Putra World Trade Centre, is themed "Turning Ripples into Tidal Waves: Productising Ideas into Solutions and Services".

The Association of the Computer Industry Malaysia (Pikom), co-organising the event, will also arrange group tours for schools, colleges and higher learning institutions to ITX '98 on April 23 and 24.

Earlier, Tengku Azzman accepted mock cheques for more than RM160,000 in sponsorship from 13 companies for the Infotech Malaysia/ITX '98 event. The sponsors today included Southern Bank Bhd (RM50,000) and Epson Trading (M) Sdn Bhd (RM40,000 in kind).

Unisys (M) Sdn Bhd, Software International Corporation (M) Sdn Bhd, Lotus Sales & Services Sdn Bhd, Formis Holdings Bhd, Asia Bridge Information Technology Sdn Bhd and FADS Sdn Bhd presented RM10,000 each.

Other sponsors were GITN Sdn Bhd, Miller Freeman Sdn Bhd and Nationwide Express Courier Services Bhd (RM5,000 each), and MyNet Communications Sdn Bhd and Acer Sales & Service Sdn Bhd.

Official media for the event are New Straits Times, Berita Harian, Computimes, Berita Komputer, Business Times, Business IT and Sin Chew Jit Poh Cyberworld.

Those interested can call 03-9660255 or 03-2920297, or e-mail lkmun@pop18.jaring.my or molly@pikom.org.my for more information.

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