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Survey shows majority of applicants to be in 12-14 age group

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - A random survey on the applications received for the Microsoft-New Straits Times Young Programmers Club shows most applicants are between 12 and 14 years old. Of the 210 applications reviewed, 27 per cent were aged 12, 18.5 per cent, 13 and 22.8, per cent 14.

Interestingly, 39 claimed a knowledge of Visual Basic, another 30 indicated some competency in C/C++ programming and the remaining in hypertext mark-up language (HTML).

As at 6pm, an additional 112 applications had been received, bringing the total to 760 entries.

Among them was 12-year-old Loong Chow Yi from Kuching, Sarawak. He claims to know C/C++ programming.

Tee Chin Yaw from Johor Baru has his own website and knows Visual Basic.

Eddie Mohd Azman of Seremban is also familiar with Visual Basic as also Yoong Sze Lin, from Tawau.

Mohd Naim Inche Ibrahim from Terengganu has his own website and knows Visual Basic.

In Selangor, N. Uthayaganesh also has done programming using the same tool and in Perak, Hasraf Singh knows Visual Basic. He is using the WindowsNT operating system.

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 of 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.

It will give the next generation of software developers a chance 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 Derrick Khoo, president and chief executive officer of Brave and Bold Sdn Bhd, a subsidiary of Patimas Computers Berhad.

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