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Survey shows 66.7pc of applicants from Klang valley

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - The Microsoft-News Straits Times Young Programmers Club received an overwhelming response especially from youths in the Klang Valley which comprised 66.7 per cent of its membership application so far.

Youths from Johor were second at 6.7 per cent and they were followed by those from Penang and Perak who chalked up five per cent each.

Among the interesting facts about the first 300 applicants were that 77.5 per cent stated that they had electronic mail accounts while 22.5 per cent indicated that they accessed the Internet either in school or in cybercafes.

Equally interesting was that 36.3 per cent of them have United States based Internet electronic mail service accounts, such as Hotmail, Mailtex and Rocketmail.

As at 5.30pm today, an additional 126 applications were received, bringing the total to 886 since MyPC forms were first published in the New Straits Times nine days ago.

MyPC creator Derrik Khoo said it was not only the youths who had been enthusiastic about the club but their parents were also similarly excited as in many cases they were the ones who faxed the entry forms.

"We are expecting more applications in the coming weeks," said Khoo who is also the president and chief executive officer of Brave and Bold Sdn Bhd, a Multimedia Super Corridor Status company and a subsidiary of Patimas Computers Bhd.

Khoo said MyPC activities will be conducted largely over the Internet via e-mail and information technology would act as an electronic channel of delivery for discussions and on-line brainstorming sessions.

He added the role of clubs such as MyPC could not be under emphasised as the programme, launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Microsoft chairman and chief executive officer Bill Gates, could assist Malaysia in its efforts to leapfrog into the Information Age.

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