

# 8,000 to attend IT gathering on Feb 17

By **HAMISAHAMID**

HUMAN Resources Ministry will organise a one-day mass information technology (IT) gathering in Kuala Lumpur next year to familiarise Malaysians with IT and Internet, Minister Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn said.

The event, which is expected to attract 8,000 people on February 17, will be officiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"We will gather 1,000 personal computers from private companies in the country to be used on that day.

"The event will also be participated by private IT training firms to provide on-the-spot free training for each participant," Fong told a news conference in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Fong said the gathering, which will be held at Bukit Jalil, is part of the ministry's objective to universalise IT among Malaysians as well as to upgrade IT literacy rate.

On that day, he said each of the participant will be given one hour computer

training, after which they will be awarded with attendance certificates.

The minister said the event is open to all Malaysians, including workers, students, unemployed and housewives.

"We hope through this gathering, we can inculcate confidence and interest among Malaysians to undergo indepth IT courses," he said.

Later, he said similar gatherings in smaller scale will be held in other states.

Plans have been made for the event to be held in Penang in March next year, he added.

He urged private computer companies to support the ministry's programme by lending personal computers to be used for the event.

On the type of courses offered, he said it will depend on the skills and ability of each participant as the one-hour courses will range from introductory to advanced ones.

On another development, Fong said the proposed Skill Development Fund will be operational on January 2 next year.

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