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Boy who created soccer website bags top IT prizes

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - A 16-year-old boy who created a website on soccer because he was concerned over the decline in the standard of the sport in the country won two top prizes at an information technology award ceremony tonight.

Ahmad Fariz Hanapiah shared with another contestant the top spot in the Best of Student Projects' category and was the only recipient for merit for the Best Prime Minister Trophy for his creation titled "Malaysian Soccer Online".

The Fourth Former of Kg Jawa Secondary School in Klang, Selangor, created the site when he was 13 years old despite not having formal training in IT.

It provides comprehensive information on Malaysian soccer, including up-to-date information and statistics on the various teams. It employs state-of-the-art graphics and technology to provide highlights in a user-friendly and entertaining manner.

Ahmad Fariz received his prizes from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Asia Pacific Multimedia Super Corridor Information Technology and Telecommunications Awards at the Palace of Golden Horses, Seri Kembangan.

Besides his love for the game, Ahmad Fariz said he created the site as he wanted to provide an avenue where fans could exchange information and ideas on how to improve the standard of soccer in the country.

Dr Mahathir also presented the awards to winners in eight other categories.

The Prime Minister's Trophy was jointly won by e-business eXchange (e-Bx), a software marketed by IBM and the TeleCARE Voice Mail System created by VMS Technology Sdn Bhd.

e-Bx also won in Software Applications while VMS Technology emerged top in the Industrial Commercial Products.

The other winners were Fortus Sdn Bhd for the Integrated Learning System (Smart Learning Applications); E-Magazine Online Sdn Bhd for Metalogix 1 (Content Development); Informix Sdn Bhd for EDI Malaysia (Electronic Government Applications); AsiaTravel Network Sdn Bhd (Start-up Companies); IRIS Corporation Bhd for M-Satu Multipurpose Card (Multipurpose Card Solutions); and Computer Protocol (M) Sdn Bhd (Value Added Communications Technologies).

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