

16/06/2000

`Convert unused space into reading rooms'

PENANG, Thurs. - Social organisations have been urged to convert any unused space in their buildings into reading-cum-information technology rooms.

Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said such reading rooms would greatly benefit the residents living in nearby areas.

He said such facilities would also provide them the opportunity to learn to use the Internet.

"The reading culture among Malaysians is still very low and can only be increased with support from youth leaders, teachers and parents."

He was speaking to newsmen after opening the Penang Chinese Town Hall library's new wing.

The library now has a collection of over 30,000 volumes of popular Chinese books and magazines, as well as four computers with Internet access.

The computers were donated by the State Government to the library in its efforts to promote IT literacy among the people.

"It is our aim that in three years, every household in Penang would have access to the Internet, in line with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call for an e-society," Dr Koh said.

Meanwhile, Penang Library Corporation chairman Datuk Dr Toh Kin Woon said over the next three years, there would be a brand new library in every district in the State.

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