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## Enhancing IT awareness among rural folk

APEC Partnership for Equitable Growth (PEG) yesterday launched its Apec IT initiative with the aim of increasing awareness of the technology in rural areas.

Minister of Energy, Communication and Multimedia Datuk Amar Leo Moggie said the initiative would make sure the rural community was not left behind in technological development.

"If such an initiative is not undertaken, villages and rural communities would be left behind," he said.

He was speaking to reporters after launching the Apec IT initiative in Kuala Lumpur.

PEG also signed a memorandum of understanding with United Parcel Services, Ingenuity Microsystems Sdn Bhd and Oracle Systems Malaysia.

Under the agreement, the three companies have agreed to donate 20 computers including software for the Apec IT initiative.

The computers will be given to various schools in Sarawak.

PEG chief executive officer Dr Shafiq Sit Abdullah said PEG and the Energy, Communication and Multimedia Ministry had yet to indentify the schools.

He said that to date, Oracle had donated RM28 million worth of goods for the initiative.

PEG has also launched a similar initiative in Thailand and Indonesia.

PEG is a special public-private sector partnership that will help direct "Win-Win" regional initiatives in capacity-building in all 21 Apec nations.

It will identify capacity-building projects suitable for private-public sector collaboration in design, development, funding and expansion.

Each PEG initiative will feature a regional team to lead a project in Apec communities.

PEG's strategic mission of private sector stewardship was underlined by Tan Sri Francis Yeoh, who chairs Abac's PEG Task Force, while the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Apec's Chair for 1998, is the Founding Patron of PEG.

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