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Fertile ground for young to develop ideas

THE provision of fertile ground for young minds to develop new ideas is crucial if emerging economies want to be in sync with the New Economy.

Stressing the need to invest in innovation and creativity found in the minds of children, Sun Microsystems Inc Science Office director Dr John Gage said: "The merger of information technology and biotechnology will be the area for new industries in the next 10 years... Children should be allowed to play with them today," he told the New Straits Times before presenting a special address on "New Economy Beyond Dot Coms" during a smart partnership dinner.

Gage, who is a member of the Multimedia Super Corridor's International Advisory Panel, said young minds had been fundamental in developing innovations created by the Internet over the past three decades, such as networking protocols, web-indexing and computer-aided design.

Malaysia, he added, had proven itself a "good training ground" for G-77 nations to observe how global projects like the MSC could succeed. "Malaysia is a test case country which knows what it wants, has a vision and is able to get things done at reasonable cost."

Earlier, Gage accompanied Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in giving a tour of the MSC exhibition at the Berjaya Langkawi Beach and Spa Resort to over 10 heads of government.

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