

22/02/2001

## Ministry recognised for organising largest computer tutorial

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THE Human Resources Ministry has been recognised by the Malaysia Book of Records for successfully organising the largest computer tutorial last Saturday.

The mass gathering of information and communication technology (ICT), officially launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, attracted more than 1,000 participants.

The event, aimed at increasing literacy in ICT, involved the installation of 1,000 personal computers in Stadium Putra Bukit Jalil to allow 500 facilitators to provide free training to students, the handicapped, orphans, housewives and workers.

The founder and pioneer of the Malaysia Book of Records, Danny Ooi H. E., presented the National Record Certificate to Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn at a ceremony in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

According to a Malaysia Book of Records statement, the record is the first of its kind endorsed by the organisation.

The attempt will be categorised in the Human Achievement category where the main criteria are the total number of participants in a computer tutorial and personal computers used during the event.

Fong said following its success, the ministry will later organise similar events at state level.

The nationwide series of computer training for Malaysians will start on March 1 at the ministry's Industrial Training Institute (ITI) in Pasir Gudang (Johor), Kuantan (Pahang), Kuala Terengganu (Terengganu) and Kota Baru (Kelantan).

Later, it will be organised at ITI in Kuala Lumpur, the Centre For Instructor and Advanced Skill Training in Shah Alam and Japan-Malaysia Technical Institute in Seberang Perai on March 31.

Similar events will be held at ITIs in Kota Kinabalu (Sabah), Labuan and Kota Samarahan (Sarawak) on April 15.

On another development, Fong said efforts to attract Malaysian experts working abroad to return and work in the country had received good response since the Application of the Malaysian Professional Working Abroad scheme was launched on the ministry's website two weeks ago.

"We receive about 100 enquiries through e-mail and phone calls every day," he said, adding that the applicants are very keen to return here.

Last week the special committee set up under the scheme approved 12 applications granting benefits to homebound professionals. Eight more are pending approval.

"Now, we are considering 29 applications. We will process their applications within one month," he said.

Fong said the ministry has also advertised the guidelines on the scheme in foreign magazines like The Fortune and The Economist.

The minister said the special committee will also consider applications from Malaysian professionals who have returned before the scheme was launched.

Among the incentives under the scheme are tax exemptions for all personal effects brought into Malaysia, including cars and income remitted to Malaysia, income tax exemption for two years and a permanent resident status granted within six months for their foreign spouses and children.

The scheme is aimed at luring back Malaysian professionals working abroad in the fields of medical, engineering, banking, ICT, science and

technology, and manufacturing with at least two years of working experience.

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