

Chance to earn and learn IT in US through TiE

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysians will have the opportunity to secure internships with companies in the Silicon Valley to develop their entrepreneurial skills in high technology.

The offer was made by The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE), a non-profit organisation. Its chairman, Kanwal Rekhi, said the internship with TiE, whose founder members comprise IT experts in Silicon Valley, would give Malaysians a taste of leading-edge technology.

"There is no substitute for the real thing and Malaysians need to learn for the country to move into that area (high technology)," said Kanwal, who led a delegation to meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at his office here yesterday.

He also expressed the offer to Dr Mahathir, who welcomed it.

"We spoke of the economic development of the people through entrepreneurship. We said that we wanted to inspire entrepreneurship in Malaysia on a massive scale," Kanwal said.

He said that a large number of Indus (those of Indian origin) and Pakistanis had been in the United States for several years and they had adapted to the American way to become successful entrepreneurs.

"But I have not seen a large number of Malaysians in the United States. This issue of imbibing the American values, system and way of thinking . . . Malaysians would learn if they go there," he said.

Kanwal said there were thousands of companies in the Silicon Valley and one-third of them were founded by Indus from Asia.

"TiE is not a chamber of commerce but a non-profit organisation to inspire others to become entrepreneurs by providing a forum for them to work with successful entrepreneurs."

TiE was formed in 1992 and has 30 chapters worldwide comprising 10,000 members.