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ICT to be included under RM12.3m Rakan Muda programme next year

PETALING JAYA, Sun. - Sixty per cent or RM7.38 million of the allocation for the Rakan Muda programme next year will be utilised to finance activities for today's youths.

Youth and Sports Ministry deputy secretary-general Nawawi Arshad said exposing the youngsters to Information Communication Technology would be one of the activities.

He was speaking after the prize-giving ceremony of the World Cyber Games Malaysian Championship 2002 at Bandar Sunway here today.

Deputy Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Ong Tee Keat gave away the prizes.

In the 2003 Budget presented by Prime Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Friday, RM227.5 million is allocated to the Youth and Sports Ministry next year.

Of this, RM12.3 million is for the Rakan Muda programme.

In his speech, Ong said the World Cyber Games was one of the ways to develop a positive digital entertainment culture among the youths.

Ong said it was important that today's youths be equipped to face the rapid challenges of a evolving digital world.

The World Cyber Games Malaysia Championship 2002, organised by In2 Marketing and Consulting Sdn Bhd with Samsung Electronics as the official sponsor, started on Aug 3 and ended today.

Attracting 1,500 participants, it made its entry in the Malaysia Book of Records yesterday as the largest cyber game championship.

The certificate was signed by the Malaysia Book of Records managing director Datuk Danny Ooi today.

Nine grand champions of the championship in all four individual and one team categories will represent Malaysia at the World Cyber Games 2002 in Daejon, Korea, from Oct 28 to Nov 3, competing against cyber game players from more than 45 countries.

Last year, the Malaysian team became the only team from South East Asia to have entered the quarterfinals.