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Abacus, mental arithmetic on show

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Primary school pupils will have a chance to watch young math geniuses from China display their skills during the "Learning the Abacus and Mental Arithmetic" campaign at the end of the month.

The three students from Jiangsu province, aged 8 to 10, will be demonstrating their skills on the abacus.

"Give these children any mathematical problem and they can solve it as fast as a computer," said Tan Kai Hee, secretary of the Malaysia-China Friendship Association, organisers for the event. "These children have performed all over China and many other countries."

The campaign, to start with a roadshow on March 22, will be launched by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Selected schools in Kuala Lumpur, Johor Baru, Penang, Ipoh, Seremban and Malacca will be venues for the shows.

Tan said the event would benefit students and professional alike as mental arithmetic is crucial in any job or situation.

"Learning the abacus and mental arithmetic can help train the brain in a short span of time."

(END) Source : New Straits Times