

# Microsoft to help bring ICT to schools

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**PUTRAJAYA:** The Education Ministry has embarked on a partnership with software giant Microsoft to increase access to information and communication technology (ICT) in Malaysian schools.

Under the "Partners in Education" programme, Microsoft will invest RM10mil over a five-year period to provide technology skills training to pre-service and in-service teachers, assist in curriculum development and bring ICT to all schools.

The joint initiative was sealed yesterday at a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing between Microsoft chairman and chief software architect Bill Gates and Education Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein at Sekolah Alam Shah here.

Microsoft's investment consists of grants for kindergarten, primary and secondary school teachers for technology skills training, curriculum development and the localising of existing curricula it has developed.

Gates said Microsoft was delighted to work with the ministry to change the way education was delivered in Malaysia.

Speaking to reporters later, he said his company was developing the Windows XP Starter Edition for governments that wanted cheaper operating systems for their low-cost PC projects, such as Malaysia's PC Gemilang.

Gates also met with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, along with several Ministers and government officials, for discussions.



SHARING TECHNOLOGY: Abdullah welcoming Gates at his office in Putrajaya yesterday. — Bernamapic