

Information key to better quality of life for the disabled

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KUALA LUMPUR: The quality of life of people with disabilities could be improved through job and education opportunities, training and the right information for them to take care of themselves, said Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

Dr Siti Hasmah, who is the patron of the Malaysian Information Network on Disabilities (Mind), said information was important for such people, as it would allow them to understand better how to live life like a normal person with their special conditions.

"Like the Mind website, it widens the mind of its visitors and gives them the chance to compete with other service providers at the international level," she said when launching the website here yesterday.

Mind, a project by Bakti (Association of Wives of Ministers and Deputy Ministers), aims at enabling these people and their families to enhance their quality of life via access to information communications technology, health-care, rehabilitation, education, employment, adaptive technologies and equipment, transportation, barrier-free environment, and government and non-governmental assistance.



WARM RECEPTION: Dr Siti Hasmah (left) greeting Mind volunteer Mohd Sobrie Mohd Nor at the launch of the Mind website in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With them are head of Bakti Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor (centre) and wife of Perlis Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim, Datin Seri Shamsiah Mohamed Yassin.

Its objective is to make people aware of the existence of the disabled and to change people's perceptions and attitudes about them and accept them as potentially useful members of society.

Dr Siti Hasmah said the project also promoted voluntarism, especially among the younger generation.

"It inculcates the caring spirit and sensitivity among the youngsters," she added.