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MIMOS Working On Proof-of-Concept Device

MAK-CIK PC aimed at penetrating the digital divide



MIMOS CyberPrime high-end Tablet PC presented to the PM. ... (From left) Dato' Abdul Wahab Abdullah, President & CEO, MIMOS; Dato' Abdul Hanan Aliang Endut, Secretary General, MOSTI; and the Prime Minister.

An Economic Planning Unit (EPU) / United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 2005/2006 study of ICT penetration rates

has found that the digital divide is highly pronounced in Malaysia in terms of the technologies that are normally associated with the information age; computers and the Internet.

The areas of low ICT penetration largely coincide with the areas of low-education, non-professional occupations, higher proportions of young and old, low incomes and the rural

populations. This digital divide is creating a new form of poverty called Digital Poverty.

At the last National Information Technology Council (NITC) meeting in August 2007, the Prime Minister mandated MIMOS to look into a solution that will reduce this digital divide by developing an ICT Literacy Tool.

MIMOS is now currently working on a Proof-of-Concept device, codenamed MAK-CIK PC, which is a low cost digital device that acts as a mediator to the Internet, thereby bringing Internet content to the TV. The Proof-of-Concept device currently being developed

by MIMOS is designed to be lightweight and mobile and to work with any TV. The device is also equipped with WiFi (and soon WiMAX) capabilities to enable remote connectivity. It also has built-in flash memory instead of a large hard disk capacity to achieve the desired form factor and lightness.

The content/applications currently built into the MAK-CIK PC device is divided into 4 categories - Communication, Information, Community and Learning. Studies are also being conducted to gauge the response to the MAK-CIK PC by the group most affected by the digital divide - the rural elders.