International conference on artificial intelligence

ELMER YEO

KUCHING: The artificial intelligence (AI) and semantic technology research communities from around the world will meet at the 18th International Conference on Conceptual Structures (ICCS 2010) which will be held at the Damai Beach Resort near here from 26 to 30 July 2010.

'The ICCS annual conference was first held back in 1993 and the upcoming gathering of the world's intellectuals-will be the first ever organised in an Asian country. Previous ICCS were conducted in Europe, Australia and North America but never in Asia' said the president and chief executive officer of MIMOS, Dato' Abdul Wahab Abdullah during a press conference here on Tuesday.

Two other conferences, namely the 2nd Malaysian Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (MJCAI 2010) and the 2nd Semantic Technology and Knowledge Engineering Conference (STAKE 2010) will be held simultaneously with the ICCS 2010 for the Knowledge Technology Week 2010 in conjunction with the National Information and Communications Technology month.

All three conferences will be held at the Damai Beach Resort.

Semantic technology and artificial intelligence are words alien to most people and often found only in science fiction movies.

However, these technologies are already being applied in our everyday life, albeit only on a small scale, with little known about them by most people.

Semantic technology in simplified terminology is the software or technology that enables a machine to understand the human user's question or search for information, rather than just providing data to the user.

In short, the technology allows the machine or computer program to become smart or intelligent thus providing the human end user more accurate specific information rather than giving data or information that depend on probabilities (because most systems are incapable of differentiating what is not relevant to the human user).

'Universiti Malaysia Sarawak or (Unimas) is one of the country's research facilities and centre of excellence besides acting as our national reference centre in semantic technology development' said Dr Dickson Lukose the director of MIMOS, adding that 'We are encouraging the industrial and business sectors to take advantage of the semantic technology-based system in order to allow them to compete at the international level'.

Dickson went on to say that the most important feature of investing in such technology is the fact that the design of the basic software or platform and ultimately the final product (produced by local companies) will be patented in Malaysia. Hence Malaysian companies that produce their customised software or application systems for export will have less concern with issues such as rights infringement or prospect limitations in the global market.

MIMOS Berhad is a government agency and Malaysia's premier research centre in frontier technologies that focus on developing technology platforms, upon which local industries can manufacture products for the local and world markets with the objective of stimulating Malaysian economic growth.

MIMOS Berhad is recognised by the international technology community and is a member of The World Wide Web (W3C) advisory committee as well as a full member of the Semantic Technology Institute International.

Those who are interested to participate in the conference can contact Tina Suryani at 03-89955000 (Ext 5246) or 03-89955246, or fax at 03-89962755. She can also be contacted via her e-mail at *tina.suryani@mimos.my*

The registration fee is RM1,000 for students and RM1,500 for non-students. Those who wish to register as a group can apply for a special discount.

DATO' Abdul Wahab Abdullah President and CEO of MIMOS speaking to reporters at the press conference. On the right is Dr Dickson Lukose Head of Knowledge Technology Cluster MIMOS Berhad. PHOTO: RAMIDI SUBARI