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ASIASPACE KICKS OFF AMAX CITY AT TPM

KUALA LUMPUR: Visitors, workers and university students in the central area of the Technology Park Malaysia (TPM) can enjoy three months of free wireless Internet surfing, starting next month.

"After that, wireless broadband subscription charges, ranging from RM68 to RM288 a month, will apply," said Ahmad Shah, Asiaspace Sdn Bhd vice-president of marketing and operations.

The company, a WiMAX licensee, is providing its Amax broadband service at TPM, which is mostly an incubation centre for technopreneurs in Bukit Jalil here.

From March 1 to May 31, the TPM's Enterprise 4 area — which includes the Asia Pacific Institute of Information Technology (Apiit) university and Mimos Bhd headquarters — will have wireless Internet connectivity of up to 2Mbps (megabits per second).

The entire 7,000ha TPM area will eventually become one huge wireless hotspot in a year's time, thanks to the technology collaboration project involving TPM, Mimos and Asiaspace, called Amax City.

Datuk Abdul Wahab Abdullah, president and chief executive officer

of Mimos, said the goal of the technology tie-up is for workers and students in the TPM to enjoy seamless Internet access, even when moving around the park.

Ahmad Shah said content is as important as online connectivity, so Asiaspace has developed special educational content aimed at promoting e-learning among university students at TPM, through its Amax portal.

"There is also a discounted student rate for broadband access, to further encourage the students to participate in e-learning. It is 20% off our standard rates," he said.

Also, Asiaspace plans to add a mobile IPTV (Internet Protocol Television) service within the next two months.

WiWi, tell me why

Wireless broadband access at Amax City utilises a technology developed by Mimos, called WiWi. It is a hybrid of WiMAX (Worldwide

Interoperability for Microwave Access) and WiFi (Wireless Fidelity) technologies.

WiWi combines the wider coverage and speedier access of a WiMAX

system and the cheaper-to-deploy benefits of the WiFi system, which Mimos claims makes it a more viable alternative for "last-mile" connections.

Last-mile refers to the final segment between an Internet or communications service provider's infrastructure and a subscriber's premises.

This gap is traditionally bridged by a wired connection, such as copper phone lines or fibre-optic cables, which are now either too expensive or not feasible (as in remote areas).

Mimos also pointed out that most computers and other Internet-enabled gadgets are now WiFi-enabled, rather than WiMAX-capable because the specifications for the latter system is still being standardised.

Its WiWi technology has already been deployed in Tasik Chini, Pahang, and in the suburb of Sembulen in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah.

The TPM is home to 160 companies, which include media agencies, content providers, online game developers and software developers. Aside from the Apiit University, there is the TPM University there. — **STEVEN PATRICK**



THUMBS UP: Information, Communications, Culture and Arts Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim (right) launching Amax City at Technology Park Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur. With him is Asiaspace chairman Datuk Abdul Ghani Abdullah. — Bernama