

Headline
Date
Media Title
Section
Circulation
Readership

Local Innovation to the Fore
27. Jun 2008
Business Today
NEWS
22000
44000

Language
Page No
Article Size
Frequency
Color

ENGLISH
55
264 cm2
Yearly
Full Color



Local Innovation to the Fore

Caption: Yasmin (left) and Abdul (right) exchanging the MoUs. Witnessing this are (from back left): Dato' Badlisham Ghazali, CEO, Multimedia Development Corp, Dato' Haji Abdul Ghani Othman, Chief Minister of Johor, Datuk Dr. Maximus Ongkili, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation Minister and Dan E. Khoo, CEO, WCIT 2008.



MIMOS Berhad, Malaysia's premier applied research centre in frontier technologies, has drawn up plans to establish a Microsoft Innovation Centre (MIC) at its campus in Technology Park Malaysia.

Through a recent Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signing with Microsoft Malaysia, MIMOS has agreed to provide the MIC with physical infrastructure and human capital to develop technologies.

Microsoft, meanwhile, will provide the software, tools and access to know-how, locally and abroad, to further accelerate and catalyse the innovation process of the MIMOS R&D (Research and Development) personnel that are based at the MIC.

"We believe innovation is the key to leadership in the ICT (Information and Communication Technology) industry. Even so, we also know that innovation does not stand on its own. In order for innovation to happen, many contributing factors need to be in place. These can come in the form of infrastructure, human resource, tools and access to information, to name a few. Without these factors, the industry will not be empowered and enabled to innovate," says Yasmin Mahmood, Managing Director of Microsoft Malaysia.

According to her, this is why the establishment of the MIC came about. "Opening up the MIC is in-line with Microsoft's aspirations to play an active role in creating an ICT ecosystem that will enhance and spur further growth in Malaysia's knowledge-based economy and society," she adds.

Expected outcomes of the MIC include technologies in the form of Intellectual Property (IP), software and tools that will be fed into the academic community, local R&D as well as software development companies. It is hoped that such a move will help boost the local software ecosystem to a higher level, contributing to Malaysia's aspiration in moving up the value chain in the software industry.

As for Dato' Abdul Wahab Abdullah, President and CEO, MIMOS Berhad, he feels this collaboration is the key driver for pushing forward MIMOS' agenda to grow indigenous yet globally competitive industries.

"The collaboration with Microsoft is a huge boost to MIMOS' research infrastructure. Such collaborations are important for it brings ideas to life. The MIC will be the key driver in making ideas happen as it will be the gateway to accelerating towards an innovation ecosystem," he adds. >bt