MIMOS IN INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP WITH IBM

Towards enhancing Malaysia's ICT software competitiveness and grassroot competency development

What: MIMOS signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalise an innovation partnership with IBM.

Why: To enhance Malaysia's ICT software competitiveness and to develop grassroot competency.

How: Joint development of toolkit content for SEI CMMI, placement programmes, and the establishment of a Software Assessment and Development Centre (SADC).

Who: MIMOS and IBM Malaysia Sdn Bhd

KUALA LUMPUR, 20 March, 2007 – MIMOS & IBM Malaysia Sdn Bhd today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalise an innovation partnership aimed at enhancing Malaysia's information and communications technology (ICT) software competitiveness; and developing grassroot competency.

Towards this end, the collaboration will focus on the joint development of a toolkit to support local organisations geared towards world-class process maturity in line with SEI Capability Maturity Model Integration (CMMI) guidelines. It will, at a later stage, be extended to benefit organizations in the region and eventually worldwide.

The toolkit will include a step-by-step approach for CMMI Level 5 foundation, IBM tools with evaluation license integrated with Rational Unified Process (RUP) framework together with open source applications from IBM; and a joint portal on process framework based on CMMI and RUP hosted on the National Grid.

"IBM is a valued addition to the National Grid Computing Initiative, under the Ministry of Science, Technology & Innovation, which is being spearheaded by MIMOS," said Abdul Wahab Abdullah, MIMOS President and CEO.

"The strategic collaboration between MIMOS and IBM will significantly enhance Malaysia's software competitive advantage. As we work together to ensure Malaysia's high-value economic activity in software we look forward to IBM's proven technology acumen, and best practices and thought leadership, to be a valued asset for our organisation".

The collaboration will also result in the establishment of a joint Software Assessment and Development Centre (SADC), to be located at MIMOS, designed to provide software assessment services to local organizations. SADC will include a laboratory for practitioner level certifications.

Towards developing Malaysia's grassroot software competency, the collaboration will result in a trainee placement as well as process and tools syllabus awareness programmes jointly with local partner universities.

"The national agenda clearly stipulates in the recent Ninth Malaysia Plan that for the country to be successful within the increasingly competitive global marketplace, Malaysia must move out from its 'middle development' stage towards an innovation driven economy. In an increasingly competitive global economy, the IT leaders of tomorrow will be pursuing innovations which will come from a fusion of several different disciplines.

The best organizations collaborate externally. When we look outside our boundaries, it is our partners and customers who are the biggest sources of innovation. That is why this partnership with MIMOS is so significant," said Ou Shian Waei, Managing Director, IBM Malaysia.

MIMOS and IBM will position to collaborate with State governments to setup training centres to train graduates in tools and process framework.

MIMOS and IBM will also work towards creating awareness on process and tools syllabus among students at local partner universities via jointly held workshops and encourage the use of IBM tools and CMMI based processes in software development projects at these universities.

SITARA Technologies, which specializes in strategic management consulting, high maturity process and competency appraisals leading to process reengineering of software initiatives, commends the MIMOS and IBM collaboration.

"The collaboration between MIMOS and IBM will enhance the Malaysian ICT Software Competitiveness, with the use of IBM Rational Tools within the implementation of the CMMI and People CMM process programs, said Mr Raghav Nandyal, CEO of SITARA Technologies.

"In the process, we will grow a pool of world-class talent within MIMOS who are able to offer credible process evaluation and assessment capability within the software development and assessment centers," he added.

About IBM Malaysia
For more information about IBM, visit http://www.ibm.com

About MIMOS
MIMOS is Malaysia's leading applied research organisation in Information & Communication Technologies (ICTs) aimed at growing globally competitive indigenous industries.
MIMOS pursues exploratory and industry-driven applied research through multi-stakeholder smart partnerships with universities, research institutes, Government and industries with a focus on frontier technologies. MIMOS' applied research areas, based on real-world trends, are cyber space security, encryption systems, grid computing & multi-service networks, wireless broadband, MEMS/NEMS systems, advanced informatics, knowledge technology and micro energy systems.

About SITARA
SITARA Technologies is a transition partner with the Software Engineering Institute of Carnegie Mellon University. SITARA specializes in strategic management consulting, high maturity process and competency appraisals leading to process reengineering of software