

Country all set to become regional hub for ICT and computer science education

KUCHING: Chairman of national technical committee for Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) - Infosys Campus Connect Programme, Professor Datuk Khairuddin Ab Hamid recently said Malaysia is set to become the regional hub for ICT and computer science education.

"We have the capability to become the regional hub because our country has the right expertise and facilities to do it ... we in Sarawak can even become the starting point for it," said Professor Khairuddin.

According to him, Malaysia is able to replicate the success of world-renown Global Education Centre run by Infosys of Bangalore, India, which is widely recognised for its ICT and computer science training as well as enhancement.

Professor Khairuddin, who is also vice chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas), said annually, Malaysia including developed countries like the

US, Europe and even China had been sending their top ICT and computer science graduates to the centre at Mysore, India.

Malaysia through the technical committee headed by Professor Khairuddin had established an agreement and working relationship with Infosys in 2006 for the benefit of local ICT and computer science graduates.

After years of working hand in hand with Infosys, Malaysia had been given the nod to promote and conduct similar training and programmes on its own.

"Infosys was impressed with our determination and achievements. They had given us the recognition to run and conduct their programmes in our own country," he told The Borneo Post after the opening of the third leg of Faculty Enablement Programme (FEP) held at Pantai Damai, Santubong yesterday.

Professor Khairuddin expressed optimism for Unimas to become the hosting venue

for proposed hub based on the fact that it had the necessary facilities and infrastructure as well as the expertise to run the show.

The national technical committee for the MOHE - Infosys Campus Connect programme itself had been based at Unimas and the committee reports directly to the Minister of Higher Education and gives updates on its development to the Prime Minister who had personally visited Infosys headquarters to see for himself the extent of the programme.

Professor Khairuddin said in recent years Sarawak Chief Minister Pehin Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud had also visited Infosys training centre and was impressed with Unimas' role in the transfer of the world class training programme to local shores.

Meanwhile, a total of 46 lecturers from 17 universities, five polytechnics and one

community college from throughout the country are taking part in the 10-day FEP programme, which will end on Feb 7.

Jointly organised by MOHE and Infosys with the support from Malaysia's Multimedia Development Corporation (MDEC), the Sarawak-leg of FEP is the third of its kind held this year.

Professor Khairuddin called on the participants to prepare themselves to become champions for the development of ICT and computer science education in the country which is seeing a growing demand for well-trained graduates in both fields.

According to him, the proposed setting up of the Board of Professional Computing Malaysia (BPCM) is expected to materialise later this year and it will give worldwide recognition to the quality of local graduates produced in the country.



WELCOME: Participants of the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) - Infosys Faculty Enablement Programme (FEP) pose for a group photo together with Khairuddin (front row, fifth from left,) before the start of the 10-day programme.