

## **Ericsson mobile village model empowers rural communities**

**on 11 January 2012.**

THE Ericsson Malaysia's Mobile Innovative Village model could empower rural communities with its remote health monitoring, mobile IP communications and cloud computing components, according to feasibility studies conducted by Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas).

In a statement, Ericsson said the study was conducted in Kampung Serasot of the Bau district in Sarawak, comprising 90 households of mainly Bidayuh agricultural community.

It said the model was created with the goal to enrich people's lives through the use of mobile and communications technologies.

The study found that only 11% of the participants had used the internet before with 50% having had a family member who has used the internet before. The remaining 39% had only heard of the internet prior to the study.

However, the students and teachers participating in the study were receptive and positive that internet access would be beneficial with all students interested to continue with the eLearning system and teachers who felt that the system would help bridge the rural-urban gap.

The educational content was made accessible via Ericsson's PC as a Service (PCaaS) cloud-computing solution, using a tablet PC linked to a mobile broadband network. The tablet PC was designed by MIMOS and manufactured by i-Solutions and Computing Sdn Bhd.

Ericsson is working closely with various local agencies and companies to augment their solutions.

"Thanks to the impact study conducted by Unimas as part of this project. We are able to assess ICT applications that can benefit rural communities," said Ericsson Malaysia and Sri Lanka president Janne Laitala.

Under remote health monitoring, the model enabled people to have their health monitored remotely by doctors using Ericsson's mobile health solution.

It said patients were able to send off their weight and blood-pressure readings as well as electrocardiograms (ECGs) for analysis and management, thus saving them from having to travel for hours to the nearest city to get to a doctor in the past five years.

In the study, 55% of the participating respondents had sought medical attention for malaria and another 27% for dengue, with 42% making their way to a public clinic and 40% seeking attention at a government hospital.

"This way, we can improve services for replication in other remote areas and replicate similar projects with corporate partners and Malaysian government agencies to make broadband, computing, communications and healthcare services available, accessible and affordable to all," said Laitala.

Extracted from [thesundaily](#).

