Giving Students A Head Start

Students profit as Microsoft and University Malaya collaborate for affordable software

At a time when technology is so integral to everyday life, students in university still find it difficult to grasp the use of productivity suites such as Microsoft Office or Visual C++. More often than not it’s usually due to the fact that these students can’t afford to fork out the cash required to purchase these software, and it gets worse whenever a new version comes out and students are left behind with old tech.

The University of Malaya, in collaboration with Microsoft Malaysia and Prestariang, joined forces to ensure that the university’s students are up to date with the latest Microsoft Office suite, and have access to the company’s over 200 software under the MSDN Academic Alliance program, through a collaborative effort known as the “Hedstart Program”.

“The Hedstart Program will empower 25,000 of our students with genuine Microsoft Office 2010 software which we believe will impart world-class knowledge and resources to develop students to become highly skilled and confident to face the globally benchmarked accreditation.” said Datuk Prof. Dr. Rohana Yusof, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs), University of Malaya.

The program requires students to pay an annual fee of RM60, and also includes free upgrades for existing original copies of Microsoft’s Windows operating system.

“Microsoft Malaysia’s continuous support to provide quality education and eagerness to invest in the country’s education strategy is not only vital to create an excellent education platform for the future generation but also essential for Malaysia to achieve a developed status by the year 2020,” she added.

According to Ananth Lazarus, Managing Director of Microsoft Malaysia, the company is ultimately aiming to equip public universities with similar programs with the Ministry of Higher Education.