The University of Malaya, together with Microsoft Malaysia and Prestariang, have taken up the government’s call to invest in human capital development by empowering all its 25,000 students with genuine versions of the Microsoft Office productivity suite. Known as the ‘Hedstart Program’, it was launched on the UM campus, and was hailed as an excellent example of private-public partnership to transform Malaysia for enhanced creativity, innovation and competitiveness.

"We are proud to empower our students with genuine 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. "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.”

“I am confident that this is good progress towards transforming the educational landscape of Malaysia and further cultivate potential leaders of tomorrow for the betterment of the country,” added Mr. Ananth Lazarus, Managing Director, Microsoft Malaysia during the launch of the Hedstart Program at the University of Malaya.

With the Hedstart Program, students will not only own a Microsoft Office 2010 productivity suite, which they are able to retain after graduating, but will also be able to access more than 200 software under the MSDN Academic Alliance program. Microsoft ultimately seeks to equip students in public universities with its software under a campus agreement program with the Ministry of Higher Education.