Unimas to launch E-Education programme in two schools

KUCHING: Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) is planning to launch a unique E-Education programme for children called MyKLiKs (Komuniti Online Kanak-kanak Luar Bandar Malaysia untuk Membina Literasi, Kommunikasi, dan Innovasi) for two schools in Bario, namely SK Bario and SMK Bario on April 27 at SMK Bario, the Kelabit Highlands.

Unimas vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Khairuddin Abdul Hamid will officiate at the launching ceremony.

Representatives from four organisations in Japan will also be attending.

According to a press statement yesterday, MyKLiKs is a web-based e-Learning system that runs on both Windows and Android devices, developed by Institute of Social Informatics and Technological Innovations (ISITI), Unimas.

MyKLiKs aims to serve as a digital learning repository to complement formal teaching and learning experiences of the remote rural schools in Sarawak and Sabah.

With MyKLiKs, Unimas said it hoped to give students of remote rural schools the exposure to acquaint themselves with technological applications that can facilitate documentation of creative and innovative local contents and consequently, production of indigenous knowledge creations.

To date, 38 school children from both Bario schools had enrolled into the programme.

Using tablet PCs as a tool to record, document, annotate and capture local events, languages and dialects, music, food and significant elders in their communities, the school children become “mini ambassadors of a digital Bario community,” said the press statement.

Teachers facilitate the data capturing and cataloguing process, and they can choose whichever recordings that they could assimilate and adapt into the school syllabus.

MyKLiKs is also planned to be launched at schools in Pulau Larapan in Sabah and Ba’Kelalan in the state later this year, and it is projected that at least 100 school children from all three sites will be able to interact with each other online through the E-Education programme platform by the end of the year.

MyKLiKs is a product from a research programme of the ‘APT J3 Malaysia Project’ funded by the Asia Pacific Telecommunity, an organisation that supports projects that involve the use of technology for rural sites across the Asia Pacific region.

The government of Japan is a strong player of APT, and they have provided many research and financial assistance to the Unimas team.

The APT J3 project was awarded to Unimas in April last year, and it included the installation of an ‘Optical Network Systems (GE-PON)’, an ‘Open-source based e-Health Check System’ for the Bario community and the development of an ‘E-Education solution’, MyKLiKs.

Unimas collaborated with research personnel from Tokyo Telecommunication Committee (TTC) Japan, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation (NTT) Japan, Japan Advance Institute of Science Technology (Jaist) and Mitsubishi Electric Corporation Japan.

The general aim of the APT J3 Malaysia project is to implement a multi-faceted approach to provide efficient technology-enhanced solutions for remote rural communities in Sarawak and Sabah.