UNIMAS to launch MyKLiKs at two schools in Bario

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

The launching ceremony is expected to be officiated by UNIMAS Vice-Chancellor, Professor Datuk Dr Khairuddin Abdul Hamid.

Representatives of four organisations from Japan will also be in attendance.

MyKLiKs is a web-based e-Learning system which 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 remote schools in Sarawak and Sabah.

With MyKLiKs, UNIMAS hopes to give students in remote schools the exposure to acquaint them 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 the two schools in Bario have 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”.

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 (Sabah) and Ba’Kelalan (Sarawak) later this year, and it is projected that at least 100 school children from the three sites will be able to interact with each other on-line 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 Tele-community (APT), an organisation which supports projects involve in 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 research and financial assistance to the UNIMAS team.

The APT J3 project was awarded to UNIMAS in April last year and it includes the installation of an Optical Network Systems (GPON), 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 communities in Sarawak and Sabah.