



MOHD JASMI BIN HASSAN

## Digital Literacy Key to Progress in Developing Country

*Use of and involvement in technology are part of Malaysia's strategy to become an economic force on the world stage by 2020*

### July 2007

In a working paper entitled "The Way Forward," His Excellency YAB Dato' Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, former prime minister of Malaysia, said, "The ultimate objective that we should aim for is a Malaysia that is a fully developed country by the year 2020."

As he defined this goal, Tun Dr. Mahathir, said Malaysia must establish a society that is "not only a consumer of technology but also a contributor to the scientific and technological civilization of the future." Further, he encouraged the establishment of a technologically intensive economy.

MSD Technology, a solutions, services and management provider, has responded to this target by partnering with government, information and communications technology (ICT) service providers and communities to bridge the Digital Divide in Malaysia. Mohd Jasmi bin Hassan, chief executive officer of MSD Technology, actively champions the Vision 2020 goals.

"We believe it is important that our people are equipped with the knowledge and skills of knowledge workers and thinkers," Mr. Jasmi said. "ICT is one area of concentration."

Focusing on nearly 200,000 people in rural communities in Malaysia, MSD Technology has dedicated its resources, solutions and experience to implement critical ICT training projects:

- Through the **Rural Internet Center** program, MSD Technology established Internet centers in 42 rural communities and devised ICT training and participation programs.
- In support of the Malaysian Ministry of Energy, Water and Communications' **Universal Service Provision (USP)**, which supplies equitable and affordable network services, MSD Technology established 17 pilot USP centers and continues to provide centralized monitoring and reporting systems for 870 USP centers nationwide.
- Mr. Jasmi also worked with the ministry to pioneer **Community Service and Knowledge Centers** in nine states. At these centers, rural communities have access to ICT, create local content and communicate. With ICT training, these communities are engaged and motivated to improve their economies using online delivery systems.

"These ICT training programs have reached a wide area of coverage within the rural and underserved communities in Malaysia," Mr. Jasmi said. "With these programs, many senior citizens, women and youth groups have benefited tremendously, and some of these individuals have become successful technopreneurs."

A localized version of Certiport® Internet and Computing Core Certification (IC<sup>3</sup>®), IC<sup>3</sup> Bahasa Malaysia, was introduced in May 2007. When a pilot project launches in August 2007, individuals in rural communities will be have IC<sup>3</sup> training and certification. MSD Technology expects to administer 5,000 exams by the end of 2007 through 250 testing centers nationwide.

Mr. Jasmi advocates IC<sup>3</sup> as the standard for certifying computing skills in rural Malaysia. "We believe it is important to have universal standards that are easily adopted and implemented," he said. "It is important to have a universal



standard that is accepted and adopted globally. Training alone does not create value to an individual as opposed to training and certification."

As MSD Technology continues to support the government's digital literacy initiatives, Mr. Jasmi actively promotes certification programs throughout Malaysia. "We hope Malaysians will utilize all of the opportunities provided by the government of Malaysia to increase their skills and knowledge in ICT," he said.

## ABOUT CERTIPOINT

Certiport prepares individuals with current and relevant digital skills and credentials for the competitive global workforce. These solutions are delivered by more than 12,000 Certiport Centers worldwide and include Certiport Internet and Computing Core Certification (IC<sup>3</sup>®), the official Microsoft® Office certification programs and the Adobe® Certified Associate certification program. For more information, visit [www.certiport.com](http://www.certiport.com).

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