

# UNDP's tech programme extends to primary schools

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THE recent success of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) initiated E-learning for Life (ELFL) pilot has led the Education Ministry to extend the project to five primary schools.

The selected schools are Sekolah Kebangsaan Meru, Klang, Selangor; SK Parit Bakar Tengah, Muar, Johor; SK Kerteh Kemamam, Terengganu; SK Dr Sulaiman Tampin, Negeri Sembilan; and SK Bukit Keteri, Perlis.

Under the programme, 30 selected teachers were trained by Apple Malaysia to develop multimedia materials for teaching and learning for non-information and

communications technology (ICT)-related subjects such as Arts, History and English.

The teachers were provided with materials to be shared with other teachers in their schools. Besides developing and sharing the multimedia materials, they were encouraged to offer ICT training to the community.

Datuk Abdul Rafie Mahat, Education Ministry's director of education, says the positive feedback from the pilot project last year had prompted the Ministry to carry out a similar programme this year. "Not only students and teachers benefit from the ELFL, but also the communities surrounding the schools," he says, adding that the programme will

help rural community to become familiar with technology.

The key objective of this initiative is to transform the school into a community hub for life-long learning as a way of extending ICT access to communities.

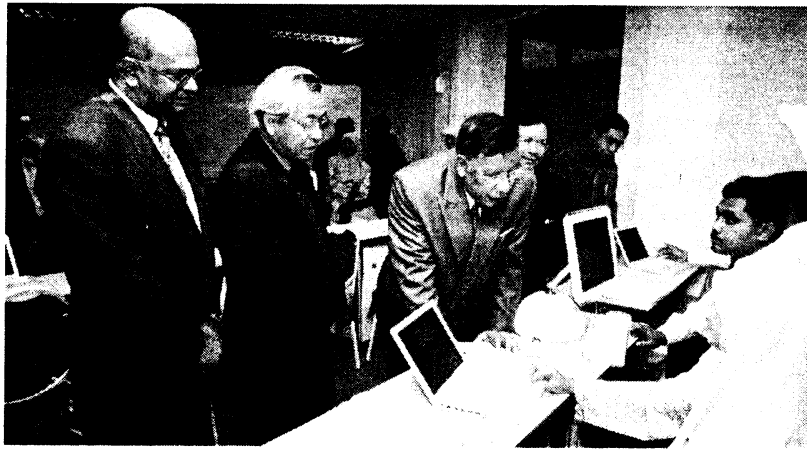
Students, teachers, and community members all share the ICT facilities and infrastructure of the school. This will help bridge the digital divide, in terms of knowledge and opportunities.

Apple Malaysia, Global Technological Support Sdn Bhd (GTSB) and Prestariang Technology Sdn Bhd jointly sponsored 25 iBooks and five iMacs while Panasonic Malaysia Sdn Bhd contributed five DV cameras.

UNDP's national ELFL project co-ordinator Zait Isa says the effectiveness of the pilot project was studied by a team from Universiti Sains Malaysia. The findings showed that teachers were appreciative of the methods and techniques in teaching.

Zait says teachers have found that project-based learning methodology introduced in the ELFL is suited for 40 minutes of classroom teaching. Also, he adds, there is greater interaction between students and teachers, and the students are keen to participate in the learning process.

As a result, the interest to learn among students increases and the quality of learning on the whole improves in these schools.



**E-learning drive:** From left are Apple Malaysia's general manager V.S. Lingam, Zait, and Abdul Rafie visiting teachers at the ELFL workshop.