

# Six rural schools to be part of e-learning pilot project

KUALA LUMPUR: Six secondary schools in rural areas will receive RM115,000 worth of technological projects each in a joint e-learning for life project between the Education Ministry, Coca-Cola Malaysia and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

This project will benefit needy schools in rural areas as in the past, the population in these areas were unable to

take advantage of Internet opportunities due to infrastructure and implementation difficulties.

Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad said since this project involved active participation by the schools and community, the ministry has ensured that schools selected for this project had good leadership and supportive parent teacher associations.

The six schools are SMK Tunku Anum Tunku Abdul Rahman in Jitra, Kedah, SMK Sri Muda, Seberang Perai Utara, Penang, SMK Batu 4, Gerik, Perak, SMK Seri Pengkalan, Alor Gajah, Malacca, SMK Dato Menteri, Ayer Hitam, Johor and SMK Pulau Tawar in Jerantut, Pahang.

"This pilot project will be carried out over the next 18 months and will make avail-

able state-of-the-art Information and Communications Technology (ICT) hubs to the selected schools, facilitate teacher training as well as ICT training programmes and resources for students," he said in a speech read by ministry secretary-general Datuk Ambrin Buang.

Speaking after the launch of the project, Ambrin said Coca Cola Malaysia and UNDP had already started

having discussions with the ministry on the project, adding that the total amount invested by both its partners was about RM1.3mil.

"This is a pilot project and once we know its effectiveness, it may be extended to schools in other states," he said when asked whether the project would be launched in Kelantan and Terengganu.

Coca Cola Malaysia country manager Reiner Becker

said the project was not just simply putting computers in schools.

"It's about finding sustainable and innovative ways to empower young people and communities through ICT for development," he said.

UNDP resident representative for Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Darussalam Maxine Olson was also present at the ceremony.