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Abdullah checking out the Mobile Internet Unit coach which houses 20 computer units after its launch at SM Seafield Subang Jaya yesterday. —SUNPIX BY AZHAR MAHFUF

## Mobile Internet unit can be model for other developing nations, says DPM

**PETALING JAYA, Fri:** The Malaysian Mobile Internet Unit (MIU), which brings the Internet to schoolchildren outside the Smart Schools, can be a model for other developing countries.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said Malaysia is prepared to share its experience in this area in the spirit of South-South cooperation, if the pilot project proves successful.

Speaking at the launch of the MIU in SM Seafield in CSJ 2, Subang Jaya, today, Abdullah said it is important that developments in IT be shared among countries for maximum benefits.

"If many countries use the same system, the benefits are better in the long run.

"If only one person has the facility and others don't, to whom are you going to communicate?"

Abdullah said the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) which contributed RM300,000 for the MIU, can facilitate

the transfer of expertise to the other countries.

The MIU is a collaboration between the Education Ministry, Mimos Bhd, UNDP, the Selangor Education Department and Hicom subsidiary Automotive Corporation (M) Sdn Bhd which donated a luxury coach which has 20 computer units.

For the pilot project, 20 schools in Selangor which are not part of the Smart School implementation will be involved.

On the MIU, Abdullah said it is relevant for schools in the rural areas and pledged to consider providing allocations under the 8th Malaysia Plan to encourage other states to follow suit.

Asked about schools which do not have proper electricity supply, he said: "We cannot wait for all schools to be equal in terms of infrastructure and facilities as this will take time.

"Some will get facilities first and others later, but we will ensure that schools in the rural areas be given the basic facilities first."