Pioneer Novell course for 7 colleges, varsities

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KUALA LUMPUR: A new information and communications technology certification programme has been introduced in seven colleges and universities.

The first of its kind programme focuses on an academic training programme for lecturers who will pass on the knowledge to their students.

The universities include INTI International University College, International Islamic University Malaysia, Multimedia University, Tunku Abdul Rahman College and the German-Malaysia Institute.
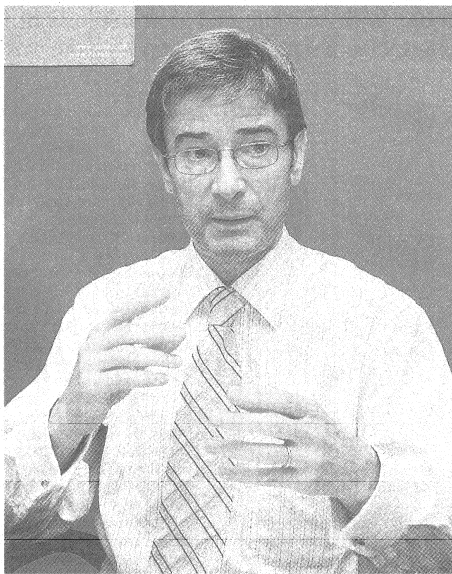
These universities signed a memorandum of understanding with US-based Novell Inc to have the software provider distribute authorised training materials and Suse Linux software licences at a subsidised rate.

Novell generally provides technical support, training, education and consultation for its software and the training is through a partnership between NCL Solutions Sdn Bhd and Novell Technical Institute at a subsidised rate of up to 80 per cent.

The training programme, which uses Suse Linux, a free open-source operating system, is considered a cheaper alternative compared with other operating systems.

According to Novell Asia Pacific president Maarten Koster, Suse Linux, distributed by Novell, helps universities cut cost tremendously and makes it affordable for students to learn.

"Universities can choose to in-clude Suse Linux as part of their IT curriculum or introduce it as a separate course."

"Linux and open source are utilised more and more in public and private sectors in Malaysia, as well as the region," said Koster.

He said introducing Suse Linux system to universities worked in favour of Novell which wanted to play a role in training engineers equipped to handle open source information technology environment.

The training programme, added Koster, ran throughout the academic year and students would receive a certificate from Novell upon completion.

He added that students could also choose to sit for the internationally recognised Novell Certified Linux Professional certification, which was highly respected by worldwide IT vendors, employers and IT professionals.

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