

# Press Release

## Pernec to accelerate ICT learning with heloNET Community

Pernec Corporation Bhd hopes to accelerate the learning capabilities on ICT among students with the setting up of its heloNET Community (hNC), one of its corporate social responsibility initiatives for deserving school children.

The hNC was showcased at the on-going Minggu Amanah Saham 2011 which was officially launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Najib Razak in Ipoh yesterday. The annual event is organised by Permodalan Nasional Bhd.

The main objective of the hNC, said Pernec Group Managing Director Abdul Karim Sallam, is to provide a creative and safe out-of-school learning environment “where young people, inclusive of those from under-served communities, will get to explore their own ideas, develop skills, and nurture self-confidence through the use of technology”.

The rationale for the setting up of the hNC for netbook owners stems from the fact that it takes a long time for a student to really master all the technologies installed in the netbooks and there is no better way of doing this than offering a proper training and coaching for the students.

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“The hNC will provide a vibrant platform for students to engage in ICT. Members will be given exposures, challenges and the opportunities to obtain as much learning experience as possible. It is hoped that with structured learning programmes, they will be able to broaden their ICT knowledge and skills throughout their primary and secondary years,” said Abdul Karim.

The hNC which includes the development of a learning portal, will also become an effective platform for Pernec to offer its heloEnglish programme, an online English learning programme designed to develop language skills for students ranging from the primary up to the university levels.

The programme delivers an engaging learning experience that combine the most innovative technology with the latest learning theory. The solution for the programme enables students to improve English via interactive tools where proper assessments will be carried out periodically to track their progress.

In conjunction with the launch, Pernec is offering FREE helo English learning programme to the first 500 students who register to become hNC members at MSAM 2011.

In addition, hNC will also offer helotutor.com, an online subscription tuition package for students sitting for national examinations. The programme is open for students who are preparing for the UPSR, PMR and SPM examinations.

Pernec also envisages giving opportunities to heloNET members to participate in numerous ICT-related competitions. By becoming a member, students will also get the opportunities to take classes in various computer related subjects.

Within the Community, Pernec can also establish CIG (Common Interest Groups) which would become the platform for all related stakeholders, students and teachers to co develop and create contents and applications.

This platform would also provide local content independent software vendors to be part of the ecosystem in productisation and commercialisation. Continuous innovation is necessary to ensure continuous and sustainable business model.

The hNC is dedicated to all heloNET users, MCMC netbook recipients, students aged between 7 and 17 years old, teachers and parents.

As such, Abdul Karim said the hNC will bring about enormous benefits to the members and at the same time, complement the Government's initiatives to bridge the digital divide between the urban and rural areas.

## **About Pernec Corporation Bhd**

Pernec Corporation Bhd was established in 1973 and is a joint venture between Amanah Raya Bhd (Skim Amanah Saham Bumiputera), Permodalan Nasional Bhd and NEC Corporation (Japan). Under its wings, there are seven subsidiaries focusing on different areas of information and communications technology such as telecommunications infrastructure, manufacturing and services, IT infrastructure and solutions, e-Business, Islamic financial solutions and payphones operations.

Since its inception, Pernec has charted a steady growth in its operations and today is recognized as one of the key players in the ICT field, providing various solutions and products to a wide range of customers locally and abroad, particularly in the telecommunications sector.

In line with its renewed business strategy, the group has identified a number of new initiatives such as the Payphone business, eRas system, green energy and the Halalsquare and eBekal business portals as potential income streams to remain in the forefront in the competitive ICT business.

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