



Joe Wilson, Director of Academic Initiatives for Developer and Platform Evangelism, Microsoft Corp (fourth from left) during a tour around the TARC Imagine Day event area.

Imagine Day a key event

TUNKU Abdul Rahman College (TARC) and Microsoft Malaysia launched the TARC Imagine Day 2007 recently to develop ICT expertise and drive innovation excellence among college students.

TARC vice-principal Yeow Sing Hing said the college was delighted to host the event again owing to the overwhelming response from students and faculty members during the first event two years ago.

The Imagine Day 2007 was a big success, attracting over 2,000 participants.

"In line with our emphasis on technology as a key area of growth at TARC, Imagine Day has become one of our key events for the year.

"We have created a programme based on Microsoft's Imagine Cup competition model, establishing a platform where our students and faculty members can participate and share ideas and knowledge on technology solutions.

"We are encouraging our students to realise the importance of technology both as a skill and a tool that can create a better world," he said.

Yeow said the Imagine Day also acts as a stepping stone for students interested to participate in the Imagine Cup to prepare and equip themselves with the knowledge for the competition.

TARC's ICT students have performed well in Microsoft's Malaysian chapter of the Imagine Cup Software Design competition for two years in a row.

Their two teams, Team PointVector emerged first runner-up in last year's

competition and Team Creative Brains finished as second runner-up in 2006.

He said the event will include tracts highlighting the latest in Microsoft technology and student experience workshops that feature mindshare from previous participants of the Imagine Cup.

"In 2006, the focus for Imagine Day was the software design category and we have expanded it to the six categories from the nine included in the Imagine Cup 2007.

"This is how much we believe our students will benefit from Imagine Day. There are 183 entries this time compared with 20 last year.

"Apart from the educational tracts, the challenges and experience faced in competition will build greater teamwork, soft skills, awareness of global issues and the potential of technology," he said.

Speaking on behalf of Microsoft Corp, Joe Wilson, director of Academic Initiatives for Developer and Platform Evangelism, said that Microsoft is committed to helping students realise their potential.

"The students are the future of innovation in our country and it is from programmes like these that they discover the potential of applying their imagination to technology and its impact.

"By engaging these young technologists, we are inadvertently developing future leaders who understand and can capitalise on the currency of the future — technology — to build intellectual property assets that can create new economic opportunities," Wilson said.