

Groups involved in donating old computers ^{10/2/99 MS7.}

AMONG the organisations actively involved in donating old computers to schools is the Lions Club of Kuala Lumpur.

According to Chris Kwang, chairman of the club's computer education project: "We don't take too old a computer as it will be of no use. So far we have collected 100 old computers and 40 of them have been given out."

Before the old computers are sent to the schools, Y2K compliance work is carried out.

"We do the necessary before sending them out to schools. We also follow-up on Y2K problems our 'adopted' schools may face," says Kwang.

While the club has addressed the issue of Y2K compliance, schools which have received donated computers from other organisations might have to tackle the problem on their own or refer to outside help at minimal fee.

Lions Club KL has roped in the Internet Society of Malaysia to help iron out technical problems.

"They help out in any hardware and software problems the schools might face," says Kwang, who is also chairman of the problem committee of the Internet Society of Malaysia.

Also taking on the role of matchmaker between corporate donors and recipients is the Computer Industry Association of Malaysia (Pikom).

According to Pikom webmaster Teng Chih Wei, the association has been doing this since last October.

"Donors tell us what they have and we match the needs of the recipients



KWANG
... Y2K compliance work

which are on our list," he says.

The MCA is also involved in the collection of old computers for schools. This is a spin-off activity complementing the Langkawi Smart School and Resource Centre Project. However unlike the latter which targets only Chinese schools, the old computers are donated to any rural school which need them.

"We accept only 386 or 486 models because anything older would not be practical," says chief executive of the Langkawi project Yu Chok Tow.

Informatics Malaysia, a provider of IT education, also donates old computers. According to Informatics executive director Yew How Kien, it has given away 150 computers of the 386 or 486 models to schools since early 1997.

"Those computers we donate are in excellent working condition," he says.