

Factsheet on NEU PC Plus

Ensure Needy Students Have Equal Access to Infocomm

The *NEU PC* Programme is an initiative by IDA with the aim to build an all-inclusive digital society where needy students can have equal access to infocomm. To date, the *NEU PC* programme has benefited more than 24,000 needy households whose gross monthly household is less than \$2,000 or per capita monthly income does not exceed \$500.

The programme started as a pilot scheme in 1999 which offered refurbished PCs to financially-challenged households. In 2003, the programme provided both refurbished and brand new PCs bundled with 1 year free dial-up internet subscription to the needy. Two years later, the programme was further enhanced to offer only brand new PC bundles.

To address today's dynamic school curriculum and to support the iN2015 masterplan's goals, IDA enhanced the programme further in 2006. The *NEU PC Plus* programme offers students from low-income household and disabled people a brand new computer bundled with 3 years of free broadband access and software at an affordable price of \$285. The "Plus" features include:

- a. Better Connectivity – Less than 30¢ a day for a new computer bundled with 3 years of broadband access.
- b. Wider Reach – The programme was extended Voluntary Welfare Organisations (VWOs) that are serving youth to apply for PCs under the programme.
- c. Targeted Approach – IDA and MOE proactively reach out to students from needy families.
- d. Easier Access – With industries' co-donation, IDA has set up an *iNSPIRE Fund* to help those who cannot afford to co-pay, to earn their computer, by doing some form of community service in the spirit of "paying it forward"

Needy students can apply for *NEU PC Plus* through the Association of Muslim Professionals, Chinese Development Assistance Council, The Eurasian Association, Institute of Technical Education, Sikh Centre, Singapore Indian Development Association, Society for the Physically Disabled and Yayasan MENDAKI.

The corporate sponsors for *NEU PC Plus* include Microsoft, SingNet and TrendMicro.

The *NEU PC Plus* is one of the key programmes under the iN2015 Masterplan's digital inclusion initiative that aims to develop a digitally-inclusive society.

***iNSPIRE Fund* – Extra Mile Financial Support to *NEU PC Plus* Applicants**

To address the needs of some low-income families who are unable to co-pay for the subsidised computer bundle under the *NEU PC Plus* programme, the *iNSPIRE Fund* will be available from November 2007 to offer this group an extra helping hand. The fund complements the *NEU PC Plus* programme to ensure that no school-going child is denied a computer due to financial difficulties at home. The needy students can render 6

to 12 of hours of community service, such as helping out at old folks and children's homes, in order to receive a fully-paid desktop PC through IDA's subsidy and the *iNSPIRE Fund*.

The *iNSPIRE Fund* applicants who are aged below 15 (Sec 2 and below) will need to perform six hours of community work, while those aged 15 years old and above (Sec 3 and above) will need to do 12 hours. The community service records must be endorsed by their teachers or the staff of the voluntary welfare organisations which they service and sent to the Singapore Children's Society for processing.

IDA will contribute \$2 for every \$1 that is drawn down from the *iNSPIRE Fund*. The *iNSPIRE Fund* is expected to assist approximately 4,000 students from needy households over the next four years whose total monthly income is below \$1,500 or per capita monthly income less than \$300.

The corporate donor for the *iNSPIRE Fund* is Singapore infocomm Technology Federation (SiTF), who have collaborated with the National Volunteer & Philanthropy Centre to promote volunteerism using SiTF's V-Fund (a fund set up to promote volunteerism initiatives). Maybank has also pledged its support.

Overview of *NEU PC Plus* and *iNSPIRE FUND* application criteria

	<i>NEU PC Plus</i>	<i>iNSPIRE FUND</i>
Total monthly household income	Less than \$2,000	Less than \$1,500
Per capita monthly income	Less than \$500	Less than \$300