MDEC to increase number of certified network experts

By KHAIROL SHAFIZAN

MULTIMEDIA Development Corp Sdn Bhd (MDeC) is expecting to recruit 60 candidates yearly to be certified under the Cisco Certified Internetwork Expert (CCIE).

This follows its partnership with IMS Asia Sdn Bhd and Cisco Systems (M) Sdn Bhd.

MDeC CEO Datuk Badlisham Ghazali said the agency and IMS Asia, together with Cisco, have developed a specially designed programme that enables local ICT professionals to be CCIE-certified in Malaysia at a lower cost.

"For over 10 years, CCIE certification has equipped networking professionals worth the highest level of expertise — those capable of tackling the most challenging assignments in their fields," he told a press conference after the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) agreement between MDeC and IMS Asia in Kuala Lumpur, yesterday.

At present, there are only 71 CCIE-qualified network engineers in Malaysia out of 15,657 worldwide.

Under the MOU, IMS Asia will be responsible for managing the entire MSC Malaysia Capability Development Cisco Certified Internetwork Expert (CDP-CCIE) programme while MDeC will offer the financial support to participants.

"Under the 'MSC Malaysian Get IT Certified!' campaign, part of the training and tutorial fees will be borne by the companies that enrolled their engineers into the MSC Malaysia CDP-CCIE Lab Preparation Programme." Badlisham said.

MDeC will reimburse in full the fees for the CDP-CCIE examinations after the candidates have successfully earned the certification. The examination cost is RM11,000 per candidate.

MDeC and Cisco will also work together to set up a CCIE Testing Centre in Cyberjaya that will allow CCIE candidates to sit for their lab examinations in Malaysia.

Meanwhile, the MSC Malaysia CDP-CCIE Lab Preparation Programme will provide candidates with access to fully-equipped laboratory facilities at MIMOS-Cisco's Asian Centre of Excellence in Networking Technologies in Technology Park Malaysia.

Through weekly lab sessions, the candidates will receive 350 hours of hands-on lab experience and a further 100 hours of training through guided tutorials. The successful candidates can earn up to RM15,000 to RM20,000 after receiving the certification.