



Forum members (from left) Mohd Radzi, Schwede, Dr Khuram, Wimble and SAP Malaysia country manager Anne Abraham

SAP adds new dimension to summIT 07

By SHARMILA GANAPATHY

DEBUNKING the perception that conferences and summits are purely vendor-driven events, this year's SAP summIT 07 was the platform for interesting panel discussions on burning issues of the enterprise solution provider's customers.

One such panel discussion was "Enabling Better Government Service Delivery", a panel session comprising SAP customers from the Malaysian, UK, Australian and Pakistani public sectors.

The session saw the four panellists sharing their problems and successes with IT implementations in delivering government services.

Mohd Radzi Hussein, deputy IT director of Jabatan Akauntan Negara Malaysia, for instance, pointed out that Malaysia has invested a lot of money in IT systems and educating the public on technology.

"But when it comes to acceptability, my personal experience is that people are reluctant to use the [online] systems.

"So in this case, should we simplify the system?" he said of some of the constraints faced by the public sector.

While productivity gains was a concern of the Malaysian side, the Pakistani government, meanwhile, was more focused on improving efficiency, something that they achieved from its SAP enterprise resource planning (ERP) implementations.

Dr Khuram Farooq, director FABS, Project for Improvement of Financial Reporting & Auditing,

Auditor General of Pakistan shared that one of the benefits derived from the implementation was an automated payroll for civil servants.

"More than 1.5 million government employees are getting their salaries on time now, compared to before. Income tax rules have also been automated.

"We used to have too many legacy systems where it took as long as six months to get the new tax rules," he explained, adding that they now have a centralised system that update them on new income tax rules soon after their release.

Dave Wimble, Head of Assets (Corporate) IMS Corporate & Knowledge Services Portfolio at the UK's HM Revenue & Customs UK, who was also a panellist at the session, advised a proactive and flexible approach in carrying out IT implementations.

"You need to resist the temptation to say 'we're not going to do it that way'. You need to bit the bullet and take the opportunity, look at your business processes and do engineering where necessary," he emphasised.

Martin Schwede, deputy commissioner, Taxes and Client Management, Office of State Revenue, Queensland, Australia, pointed out that since most government departments have to focus on their core business, namely government services, they need to look at buying packages that do what they need.

MSC award a boon for positioning and branding

Past winners say the award gives them extra mileage for potential marketing efforts

By RAJ KUMAR

THE MSC Malaysia APICTA Awards can help companies in their positioning and branding, says some of the past winners of the awards organised annually by the Multimedia Development Corporation (MDeC).

Ambersoft Sdn Bhd, a major local player on the front of document imaging and management, is one of them after winning the MSC-APICTA 2004 for best of general applications.

"It certainly gives you recognition. During our presentation, we emphasise to our listeners about the award. It gives us that extra mile," said Ambersoft managing director Sukhdev Singh.

AmberSoft's winning product was its FingerTips Document Management System, an easy-to-use and affordable electronic document management system for enterprise business application and high-end information management, which it launched in 2001.

Camtech Asia, winner of the MSC APICTA Prime Minister "Best of the Best" Award 2005 and MSC APICTA Financial Application Award 2005, said the awards had as-



The award certainly gives you recognition, says Ambersoft managing director Sukhdev Singh

sisted them in positioning the company in terms of marketing and business opportunities.

"The recognition for the award gave us additional mileage for potential opportunities and marketing efforts. It gave us an additional boost as a home-grown Malaysian product already endorsed by the relevant parties in the local business and financial industry," said its general manager for development, Azman Abdul Rahman.

In 2003, Camtech Asia was chosen to participate in the Bank Negara Malaysia-en-

dorsed Financial Process Exchange (FPX) project with Malaysian Electronic Payment Systems (MEPS) for provision of direct debit payment for the business-to-business (B2B) and business-to-consumer (B2C) markets via the Internet on a national level.

"Our product, Universal Commerce Engine branded as 'CAZH' software, was the base solution for the FPX initiative. It was officially launched by the Governor of Bank Negara and went 'live' in October 2004," said Azman.

On its part, MDeC said it

will continue to give Malaysian ICT companies a platform to exhibit their products and also highlight Malaysian creativity and their achievements on an international stage.

On how MDeC assists the winners, MDeC's head of Enterprise Global Development/APICTA, Nancy Choy said there are programmes in place to assist winners to promote their achievements and products not only domestically but on the international stage as well.

"We have programmes under the technopreneur development programme which we encourage winners to join. Here, we get a consultant to advise them on business plan," she said.

On top of that, MDeC also has programmes on SEI-CMM certification where MSC status companies are already subsidised by MDeC, however over and above this subsidy, winners get a further subsidy. Launched in 2002, the awards is now in its sixth year and is welcoming entries for 18 categories, among them Best of Education and Training, Best of Security, Best of Communications Applications, Best of Research and Development and Best of Start-up Companies.

Winners of this year's MSC APICTA will be announced later this year and then go on to represent Malaysia at the Asia Pacific ICT Awards (APICTA) in December.

Versatile Nokia E90 Communicator is here

PHONE maker Nokia released the latest of its Nokia Communicator devices, Nokia E90 Communicator, with a retail tag price of RM3,888.

The Nokia E90 Communicator supports most popular email and business voice and other productivity and leisure time solutions, operates across different continents using the quadband GSM and 3G network frequencies, provides fast broadband data connectivity with 3G WCDMA and WLAN, the company said in a statement yesterday.

In addition, it said, the Nokia E90 Communicator is now High Speed Download Packet Access (HSDPA) enabled and can reach data



Nokia E90 Communicator sets the standard for an uncompromised 'mobile office' experience

transfer speeds comparable to those traditionally achieved only in the office.

The mobile device sets the standard for an uncompromised "mobile office" experience. Fast connections over WLAN and HSDPA-en-

hanced 3G accelerate the mobile use of data and transmission-rich applications.

The interface to business and leisure applications and the Internet, the stunning Nokia S60 browser, with 16 million colours, is capable of

displaying the full width of a web page at once.

It said the Nokia E90 Communicator is now based on the S60 platform, making a wealth of additional mobile applications available for its users.

The Nokia E90 Communicator also has an integrated GPS and Nokia Maps application to provide help in finding routes and locating services.

For increased personal convenience, the Nokia E90 Communicator is equipped with an FM radio, a music player, a video player and two cameras — a 3.2Mpix auto focus camera with flash and a second camera for video conferencing.