Workshop develops skills in integrating ICT into teaching

By Yusrin Junaidi

The second Regional Workshop on ICT-Integration for the Next Generation of Teachers was yesterday launched at UBD.

The workshop brings together educators from across the Asia-Pacific region to develop their skills in integrating ICT into teaching, and will also provide an opportunity for educators to discuss issues relating to the integration of ICT into education.

"This workshop will be convened as part of UNESCO's Next Generation of Teacher (Next Gen) Project, which was initiated in cooperation with project partner Microsoft, in recognition of the need for effective programmes for preparing the next generation of secondary teachers in the Asia-Pacific region to exploit the benefits of ICT for enhancing teaching and learning," said Puget Sound Center Director Less Foltos during a press conference.

"The Nex Gen Project aims to build the leadership and management capacity of TEIs, facilitate integration of ICT into the curricula in TEIs, and build the capacity of instructors to utilise ICT in teaching," said Dr Molly Lee, the Coordinator of the Asia-Pacific Programme of Educational Innovation for Development (APEID) in UNESCO Bangkok.

"This project does not focus on training teachers/educators in computer literacy but focuses on enabling teachers to master the use of ICT as effective tools to improve the quality of education," she added.

The Next Gen Project engages with 30 teacher education institutions in 10 countries - Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, China, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam.

Microsoft Asia Pacific Public Sector Programmes Director Vincent Quah explained, "The Microsoft peer-coaching programme is a component of the partners in learning initiative, which aims to transform classroom practices with ICT."

The second regional workshop on ICT-integration will also particularly offer an opportunity for teachers to participate in the peer-coaching programme, which is sponsored by Microsoft.

"The workshop would therefore not only provide rich content to teachers but will also spark a multiplier effect and foster the sharing of knowledge among educators at TEI's," he added.

"The training in peer coaching provided in the first workshop was a success. We are seeing a transformation in teachers who have been coached as they are reaping the benefits of learning from more senior teachers."