

## **THAILAND'S ONE TABLET PER CHILD POLICY**

Since the announcement of the policy, the Education Ministry has to purchase 470,000 computers to be given to Prathom-1 students in phase one of the policy. The government has decided to take government-to-government contract to buy the tablets directly from China government.

Late last year, 17 companies met Woravat Auapinyakul, then Education Minister, to present their products and discuss the pricing. Lenovo (Thailand), the China-based computer maker, donated 600 tablets for free preliminary testing and for research on the impact of allowing the use of tablets on students at five selected big schools in different regions of the country. About 62 per cent of the total 850,000 Prathom-1 students will be given the tablets, requiring a budget allocation of Bt1.6 billion. Each tablet will cost about Bt3,400 (Bt3,100 for hardware and Bt300 for software installation), with a capacity of 16GB. Teachers will keep the tablets at schools and allow them for use only in the class.

**Intel Thailand has been working with MOE to also launch a pilot project with selected school, Anuban Samsen (Samsen Elementary School), aiming to educate teachers and students on the use of technology for classroom. Intel Thailand (CAG) is also incorporating Intel Teach courses into the training in order to ensure that teachers can maximize the benefit of using technology in their classroom.**

Related issues:

- Schools without electricity (more than 2,000 schools) and lack of adequate facilities to support tablet use in classrooms (e.g., electrical outlets and televisions)
- Teachers are unable to make use of such technological tools, will not be eligible to receive the tablets

Providing training to teachers to enable effective use of tablets in the class will be the next challenging task for the ministry before it undertakes distribution of the tablets to cover nationwide.