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AFX News Limited

## China to decide by March on 100-USD laptop program

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BEIJING (AFX) - China will decide by March whether it will take part in the 'one laptop per child' program run by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Media Laboratory, according to the founding chairman of the program, Nicholas Negroponte.

Speaking at a conference in Beijing he said, 'the enthusiasm is real' among China's relevant policy makers for the program but that issues related to the scale of the roll out remain.

Negroponte said it is the Media Lab's goal to launch the program with no less than one mln laptops in each participating country.

The laptops will cost around 100 USD each and will feature open source software and operating systems, he said.

'The amount of goodwill in the world today for this project is so high.'

Negroponte said that prototypes for the 100 USD laptops already exist and that Taiwan's Quanta Computer Inc will begin rolling out the laptops by the end of next year.

China, India, Thailand, Egypt, Nigeria, Brazil and Argentina and the US state of Massachusetts are considering committing to the program.

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