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LATEST NEWS

'ONE PER CHILD'

Laptop @\$100!

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Posted online: Thursday, November 17, 2005 at 1600 hours IST

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TUNIS, NOVEMBER 17: UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and leading US IT expert Nicholas Negroponte have unveiled the bright green and yellow working prototype of a 100 dollar laptop aimed at millions of school children in poor countries.

The robust wind-up laptop with low power consumption is meant to be the backbone of an educational project to distribute the Internet-connected computers at no cost to their future owners.

"It holds the promise of major advances in economic and social development, but perhaps most important is the true meaning of one laptop per child," Annan told reporters at the World Summit on the Information Society yesterday.

"Studies and experience have shown repeatedly that kids take to computers much more readily, not just in the comfort of warm, well-lit rich country living rooms, but also in the slums and remote rural areas of the developing world," he added.

Nicholas Negroponte, of the Massachusetts Institute Of Technology Media Laboratory in the United States said he was aiming to launch the laptop in about two years.

He said he hoped small quantities, several thousands, would be produced this year and more than 100 million by the end of 2006 or 2007.

The non-profit 'One Laptop Per Child' project is aiming to eventually open up the way for supplementary parallel sales by a commercial partner in wealthy countries.

However, distribution in the primary developing markets will be financed by donors or national governments and channeled through the same networks used to bring textbooks to schools, Negroponte said.

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