

New inventors in technology class

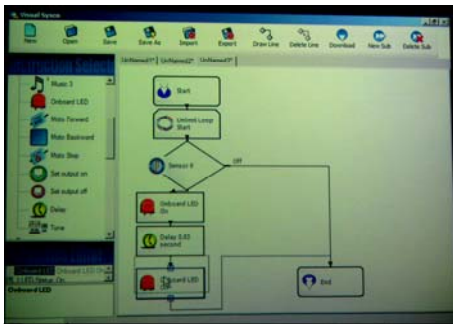
By Amandio Pereira

On Wednesday, March 18, Ahmad and Naser Sabri from SYSCO LAB came to our school for a demonstration to the 9 to 15 year-olds of their educational MCU kit. Micro-Controller Units are hidden inside a surprising number of products these days. All modern vehicles, TVs, computers, digital cameras, cell phones and any other user-devices have a microcontroller inside.

The main idea of the lab, besides making students more aware of what an MCU is and all the wondrous things it enables, is to have them use their creativity and ingenuity to develop their own limitless solutions and inventions.



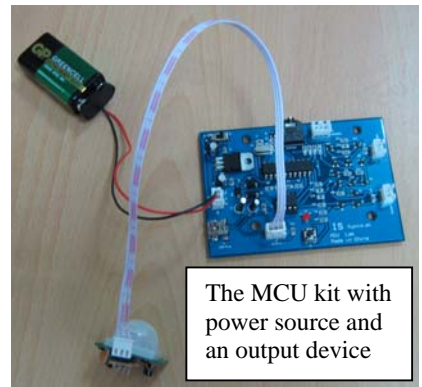
Ahmad and Naser Sabri



The software offers limitless possibilities

The 90-minute demonstration in the Computer Lab went very well, where the Sabri brothers explained the educational kit invented by their father: it contains an easy to use software which in turn programs the MCU via an USB cable; there's also a PCB (Printed Circuit Board, similar to a computer motherboard) where the MCU is installed and containing many output slots; finally, a varied number of output devices where the students can plug-in and try many different combinations for their experiences.

Several examples were given on how an MCU can be programmed and used: from a motor that pumps water in desert areas, to a proximity detector when parking a car, a remote control that turns on devices, hand driers, trash cans that open automatically and many other stimulating examples.



The MCU kit with power source and an output device



All in all the students were very enthusiastic and eager to try the kit for themselves, though there wasn't enough time for everyone.

Fortunately Ahmad and Naser which are originally from Palestine and have their own factory in Shenzhen, gracefully offered an MCU kit to the school and more kits are probably in the process of being ordered so that every student from

the technology class (8 year-olds and up) may perform their own experiences.

