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By Sarah Payne Tri-City News

Apr 06 2007

A technology expert living in Port Moody has been handpicked from 3,800 Microsoft Most Valuable Professionals (MVPs) for his contributions to the industry and volunteer efforts in the community.

Microsoft chooses the MVPs from over 100 million information, communication and technology (ICT) workers around the world. Stephen Ibaraki was one of the 3,800 chosen from over 90 countries to form the global body of top-ranking experts in more than 90 technologies.

Ibaraki was also honoured as an MVP in 2006, but this was the first year that Microsoft went the extra step of highlighting five outstanding ICT professionals at the week-long MVP Global Summit held in Seattle earlier this month.

Like the MVP award, Ibaraki said that being profiled as one of the five leaders around the world came as a surprise — especially since he was the only Canadian, and only non-U.S. resident to receive the honour.

"It's quite an honour and a privilege to be counted among those MVPs," he said. "I'm quite proud because it showcases what we do here in Canada. It's an opportunity to say, 'Hey, as Canadians, we're leading the world — let us share some of the things we're doing with 90 other countries around the world.'"

Ibaraki has garnered numerous awards and accolades throughout his 30 years in the business — he's the only recipient of the ICT industry's Computing Canada IT Leadership Lifetime Achievement Award, and the first recipient of the IT Hero Award from Industry Canada.

His "day job" includes work as a college educator, writer and



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speaker. He is the president-elect for the Canadian Information Processing Society (CIPS) and vice-chair for the international Network Professional Association (NPA); he is also a CIPS founding fellow, and an NPA founding distinguished fellow.

But in addition to his professional achievements, Ibaraki has been a committed volunteer. He co-founded an IT managers blog that connects industry professionals to share knowledge, ideas and best practices, as well as ITVolunteering.org, which connects IT workers to charities with Microsoft technologies. One of those charities is the Neil Squire Foundation, an organization that uses technology to support people with physical disabilities.

"We have such a great resources of IT professionals," Ibaraki said of the service he hopes to expand to more cities and non-profit organizations. "ITVolunteering.org taps into that volunteer time and passion for technology, and marries it with charities that typically can't afford that expertise."

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