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## HEADLINE

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### **SAP Starts Its First Global Training Program for SAP ERP at APJ Universities**

The demand for SAP solution experts is growing internationally. According to a job-market analysis conducted by Computer Weekly/SSL, **the number of open positions for SAP experts last year grew by 16% to 23,400 - the highest level ever.** The SAP Asia Pacific Japan (APJ) region is doing its part to train future professionals for these positions by providing the course "Integrated SAP ERP Business Scenarios Based on SAP Best Practices" (BP for ERP) to Universities and other tertiary institutions. As a pilot overseen by the SAP University Alliances Program, SAP will offer the course at seven educational institutes in Singapore, where students have access to SAP ERP applications.

**SAP University Alliances held a ten-day course at the end of March in which two instructors from each of the seven participating institutes were trained in SAP BP for ERP applications.** Starting in May this year, these instructors will themselves conduct the courses at their institutes for their students. At the end of the course, students are given the opportunity to take an SAP certification exam; if they pass, they will receive a globally recognized SAP certification - marking the first step toward becoming a certified SAP consultant. Alternatively, the students can also work as interns with SAP partners in project teams. In Singapore, several SAP Partners have already committed to hiring student interns after the students complete the course and certification exams.

SAP has made a significant contribution to the initiative by making its applications and learning materials available to these institutes. **The program hopes to train at least 1,000 students in Singapore by 2010.** "SAP is pleased to launch this innovative program," says **Eric MacDonald**, president and CEO for SAP Southeast Asia. "It is part of our continuing collaboration with institutes of higher learning to enhance the value of our local graduates in the global knowledge economy. It also aims to provide enough trained SAP professionals to meet the growing demand for them."