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SAP Global Training Program Reaches Milestone with 100th BPERP-trained Student

In June 2007, SAP launched the “Integrated SAP ERP Business Scenarios based on SAP Best Practices (BP for ERP)” course at seven institutes of higher learning in Singapore in collaboration with the Infocomm Development Authority (IDA). As the demand for SAP solution experts continues to grow in the international arena, at least 1,000 students from Singapore were expected to be trained in the world’s first Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) best practices course by 2010.

By the end of the year, the program had reached its first milestone: the 100th BPERP-trained student. Not bad for the first time that SAP offered the course on a global scale – an initiative made possible by the SAP University Alliances Program.

Reaching a milestone

To mark the occasion, SAP invited the lucky 100th BPERP-trained student – Yeo Hui-Li – to an informal presentation ceremony held at the SAP Asia Pacific Japan regional office. She was awarded the BPERP certificate together with a small token, an Apple iPod Nano, presented by Rob Behennah, Vice President for Education Services in Asia Pacific Japan.

Yeo Hui-Li had just graduated from the National University of Singapore (NUS) – School of Computing in December 2007 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Information Technology majoring in Business Focus. She attended the 10-day SAP BPERP workshop right after her final semester examinations, and is now a certified Solution Consultant in SAP ERP, specifically in the area of integrated business processes for small and midsize enterprises.

Recounts Hui-Li: “It was a very intensive 10-day course, especially since it was conducted right after our semester exams. Fortunately the trainers were all very helpful and easily reached, so we were able to get our questions promptly. I can now see how useful and efficient the SAP software is in helping businesses integrate their processes. With this thorough understanding, I am all ready and excited to start my job search!”



Rob Behennah, Vice President for Education Services in Asia Pacific Japan, awards the BPERP certificate together with a small token, an Apple iPod Nano, to Yeo Hui-Li, the 100th BPERP-trained student.

Laying the groundwork

In Singapore, Tertiary institutions where students have access to SAP ERP applications include top schools like the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, and Ngee Ann Polytechnic. The students undergo a 10-day course and learn how fundamental operation and analytical processes are supported by SAP ERP.

With the expected 1,000 students to be trained by 2010, the program represents a S\$200,000 investment

from the Singapore government. From SAP, it represents a S\$7 million contribution to the industry as fees for this course – whether conducted by SAP or its training partners – normally come up to about S\$7,300 each.

At the end of the course, students are given the opportunity to take an SAP certification exam; if they pass, they receive a globally recognized SAP certification. Alternatively, the students can also work as interns with SAP partners in project teams. In Singapore, several SAP Partners such as Deloitte Consulting, ISS Consulting, Singapore Computer Systems (SCS), Electra, have already committed to hiring student interns after the students complete the course and certification exams.

Nurturing future generations

Indeed, two graduates of the BPERP course from NUS have already been hired by SAP partners Singapore Computer Systems (SCS) and Accenture. Says Goh Kheng Kok, who went to SCS, “The SAP BPERP course provided me with a good insight into the integrated business processes available in SAP ERP for a typical SME business domain. The course taught the fundamental aspects of SAP functionalities, which equipped me with the ability to quickly grasp and understand the different business requirements easily.”

Agrees Eugene Yap, who is now with Accenture, “For students who are keen to specialize in SAP as a career, the program provides an excellent foundation that will help them accelerate their learning and contribute effectively in their jobs.”

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. Stresses Christina Gan, Senior Director for Infocomm Security and Manpower Development, IDA, “Graduates with a grasp of both infocomm skills and business domain knowledge will be in greater demand, as companies today constantly seek talent to develop innovative solutions.”

Through the program, SAP Asia Pacific Japan hopes to do its part to train future professionals for these positions by allowing them to proactively use SAP software and acquire hands-on participation in demonstrations, interactive exercises and case studies.

Towards becoming the IT hub of Asia

In Singapore, the rise in adoption of SAP solutions among small and midsize enterprises also signifies a big step towards the country’s goal of becoming the IT hub of Asia.

SAP ERP addresses the core business software requirements of the most demanding midsize and large organizations – in all industries and sectors. With these tools, companies can manage costs, reduce risks, and harness maximum benefits from SAP solutions.

SAP also sees the ERP course certification as an initial step towards attaining certification as a full-fledged SAP consultant. Once the pilot has gained momentum, SAP plans to roll the program out to universities or institutes of higher learning in all other APJ countries, with particular focus on Australia, China, India, Japan, Malaysia and Thailand.

Says Hui-Li, “It’s a good thing that SAP is doing this for the students, especially when a lot of us do not have the finances to pay for such courses. I am sure there are many more students like me who aspire to have a more in-depth grasp of SAP solutions and to be certified, in order to increase their employability. Now it’s possible!”

If you know of any university or institute of Higher Learning that is keen to participate in the SAP BP for ERP course, or any SAP Partner or Customer who is keen to offer internship or hiring opportunities to students who went through the SAP University Alliances Program and the BPERP certification course, please contact Crispian Tan, University Alliances Program Manager for Asia Pacific Japan, at uap_apj@sap.com