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SAP forecasts: 15,000 by 2010

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Singapore – SAP is looking to grow 15,000 skilled IT workers by 2010 to power its projected software growth in the Asia Pacific and Japan region.

With the projected software growth expected to triple in size, SAP has set in place a Global University Alliance program with schools in Asia such as Nanyang Technological University and Singapore Polytechnic to train sufficient talent.

To ensure SAP can keep pace with the rapid growth, Geraldine McBride, president and CEO of SAP Asia Pacific, says the company will train 15,000 people to become SAP-experienced people for their customers, their partners and inside SAP.

However not everyone will be recruited to warm the company's seats as the company looks for people who are equally good with the business aspects.

McBride says, “We are looking for people who, not only are they technologically good, they are also smart and business-minded.”

Although SAP projects it will recruit 1,000 from Singapore, McBride feels this number is sufficient for its needs.

“If you multiply the numbers from different universities such as from China and India, they are generating a lot of talent, at least half of our 15, 000,” she says.

“The figure for Singapore is actually good enough because there are only 4 million people here.”

To attract more people, especially the Generation Y, into the IT industry, McBride feels IT has a need to offer more attractive jobs. “Youths now seek high paying jobs.

“Show me the money, so to speak. Young people today are coming out with debts and loans to pay back and they are ambitious,” she says. “They want to move faster. They want to move quickly.”

However she adds that youths need to have the right skills before they can make a difference quickly.

The SAP university alliances programme was launched in Singapore on Tuesday.