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SAP South Africa and the University of the Western Cape University Alliances Programme Training the Trainers Workshop: 14th – 18th January 2008

CAPE TOWN, January 2008 — Subsequent to an event in Woodmead attended and addressed by the South African Minister of Education, Ms Naledi Pandor, Dr Amelia Maurizio, the Global Director of the University Alliance Programme and Mr Heino Schrader the Regional Director; responsible for Europe, Middle East and Africa and SAP South Africa Managing Director, Claas Kuehnemann, SAP South Africa launched the University Alliances Programme (UAP) aimed at supporting the development of undergraduates and graduates curriculum that promote the teaching and understanding of integrated business processes. The successful Launch was held at the SAP Woodmead offices last year and leaders in higher education and further education and training colleges were given a though rougher exposition of the University Alliances Programme.

The only programme of its kind sponsored by a major information technology (IT) company, the University Alliances Programme enables schools of business, Information Technology (IT), and engineering to use SAP solutions in the academic environment.

The UAP is based on the mySAP Business Suite, with educational institutions able to access the Suite and the UAP-specific educational tools related to it via hosted services provided by SAP. Membership of UAP entitles universities and colleges to professional development courses, faculty training, curriculum workshops, pre-built curriculum content, and the ability to network about issues of business integration with hundreds of other academics worldwide.

The Universities Alliance (UAP) is a global programme that began in 1988 in Germany and now has a membership of over 800 universities and other tertiary education institutions around the world. The newest members of the alliance are India, Japan, China, Bulgaria and South Africa

Speaking at the Launch at the time, the Minister of Education welcomed the initiative and implored leaders in higher education and in further education and training to take advantage of this initiative and ensure that many young people are exposed to this technology. Mrs Naledi Pandor praised SAP for leading the way by contributing to the area of skills development in the country. The Minister said that though the programme is launched in South Africa it should be expanded to the entire African continent. “We must ensure South Africa becomes the springboard in the rolling out of this Programme to the entire continent”. “We need to make urgent interventions-if we are take advantage of the current favourable growth opportunities in the global economy. The skills shortage is not unique to South Africa. Many countries in the developing world are grappling with the 21st century challenges” said the Minister of Education.

“I believe that leaders and education administrators in higher education and further education sector will take advantage of the opportunities the Programme offers and collaborate and network with other institutions here, at home, and abroad” emphasised the Minister Of Education.

As part of SAP South Africa drive, supported by the Global University Alliances Programme leaders from Germany and the Americas to introduce and roll out the UAP Programme in Africa, the University of the Western Cape (UWC) Department of Information Systems in the Faculty of Economic Management Sciences will be hosting an SAP sponsored Academic Training Programme from January 14th to 18th January 2008. The Training is part of a series of Training Workshops to be held in the various institutions and regions targeted at current and future users of the University Alliances Programme curriculum.

Lecturers from current and prospective member universities and further education and training colleges will attend the five day training workshop. They will be joined by officials from who have a responsibility and direct interest in research, training and education enterprise. The Workshop will be offered by SAP South Africa and the Global University Alliance Programme.

The organisers of this Workshop Mr Max Fuzani, the University Alliance Manager in Africa and Dr Roderick Lim Banda were delighted that a partnership that started late last year when the global leaders visited the University of the Western Cape is already yielding such good results. Lim Banda said “the global leaders were impressed by UWC’s experiences with training graduates in SAP, the passion and commitment to growing capacity in the context of engaging our local community and the African continent in an environment where higher education institutions are being challenged to be globally competitive.

The Department of Information Services is committed to joining the Programme because of the existing value gained from incorporating SAP into the academic programme. Zimele Technologies, a company started by alumni members and associated academics of the Department, has created opportunities for students and graduates to consult in SAP and is sponsoring our annual subscription to the University Alliance Programme. Exposure to SAP systems has helped facilitate a better understanding of the enterprise, the business processes within various sectors, enterprise systems and applications amongst students and graduates of information system. Increasing the capacity to deliver quality education using SAP as part of the strategy of the Department of Information Systems at UWC to contribute towards ICT skills development and national transformation. The opportunity to collaborate with other universities in South Africa and Africa as well as our growing relationship with SAP will benefit not only academics but our students, graduates, and the broader ICT community”.

Max Fuzani said “it is our intention to introduce the University Alliances Programme curriculum to all the universities and further education and training colleges in South Africa and throughout the nook and cranny of the African continent in a systematic and collaborative manner. This is a

daunting task that we are prepared and ready to embrace in our quest to contribute meaningfully to skills development and economic growth as part of SAP's belief and commitment to contribute and invest in communities around the world where we do business. We encourage all Africans here at home and in the Diaspora to engage and take advantage of this exciting opportunity to use the SAP systems to create, innovate, invent and produce globally competent graduates. We will certainly be convening similar workshops in other regions, hosted by local institutions and we encourage sister and neighbouring institutions to be part of the workshops in order for all to achieve our national and individual goals, and most importantly to make learning, teaching, research and a employability a given to all those who come through the higher education and further education and training sectors.

I am looking forward to receiving our global leaders, lecturers, participants and colleagues and trust that we will have a successful academic training workshop”

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(*) SAP defines business software as comprising enterprise resource planning and related applications such as supply chain management, customer relationship management, product life-cycle management and supplier relationship management.