Sunway proud of on-line success

By R.V. Veera

veera@nstp.com.my

ALL 29 students — the pioneer batch of the Sunway College School of IT & Multimedia (SITM) on-line degree programme have passed the Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Computing from University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom.

This is a great achievement for SITM for this is the first on-line degree course being offered at Sunway College. The students have not only done themselves proud but the College too, said Elizabeth Lee, principal of Sunway College.

Three of the students obtained First Class honours degrees, 16 received Second Class Upper degrees, nine others received Second Class Lower degrees and the remaining student, a Third Class honours degree.

"As online-degree courses are not yet popular here in Malaysia, we are proud to be graduates of this new concept of study — we are proof that it works!" exclaims Second Class Upper Honours graduate, Lisa Chew.

"I must say I have acquired tons of knowledge online," said Kenny Kong, 22. Besides getting questions answered by course lecturers who are based in Singapore, there are also many international students out there who are willingly share notes and examination tips online.

Nisha K. Vijain, 21, of Subang who scored First Class Honours and is now a Systems Analyst at HeiTech Padu Bhd said a lot of self-study and discipline is required to complete the course as there is limited class contact.

"Being an on-line degree course is not easy, it requires a lot of self-study," said Rajesh Kumar, SITM Professional Development Co-ordinator. "However, the course requires students to sit for the final year examinations at Sunway College.

"In addition to online study, the students also undergo about eight to 10 hours of face-to-face tutorials a week at the College."

To date, Sunway College is the only college to provide tutorials for this course, he added.

Sunway College, a Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) status institution prides itself in being a major provider of knowledge workers for the MSC and the IT industry through industry-driven courses.

With a range of partners in the IT industry, the School of IT and Multimedia offers courses ranging from certificate right up to degree level courses.

On a basic level, Sunway College conducts short skill training courses lasting between one to six months, is one of the test centres for Microsoft Office User Specialist.

It also conducts other prominent IT courses such as Multimedia, Java Scripts & Programming, PC Engineering and many more.

Under its Skill Training programmes, the popular courses offered are Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE) and Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP). With industry partners which include Sun Microsystems, Microsoft Press, UBS Sdn Bhd, Donovan Sdn Bhd, FACT Sdn Bhd, Oracle, Intranesis Communication Sdn Bhd and RQ Net Sdn Bhd, the School is able to conduct specialised industry-driven IT courses, both full-time and part-time.

For degree level IT-related programmes, Sunway partners with NCC Education and London Guildhall University, UK. This special degree route programme leads to a BSc (Hons) in Computing and Information Systems awarded by the London Guildhall University, UK.

The programme is similar to a 3+0 but is more attractive in the sense that students obtain three additional world-recognised diplomas upon completion of the programme.

Sunway College's Computing and IT courses via NCC Education was created to meet the industry's requirements making the instruction of the courses towards a more user-driven rather than a technology-driven one.

Of late, the College has also collaborated with other reputable universities such as Victoria University, Australia; Greenwich University, UK; and Napier University, Edinburgh, Scotland.

For more information on the School of IT and Multimedia, please contact the Sunway College Information Centre on 03-56358622, Fax: 03-56358633; or visit www.sunway.edu.my.