

Sunway's CAT programme trains top-notch professionals

By TINA MELAN

STUDENTS of the Certified Accounting Technician (CAT) programme at Sunway College are well on their way to becoming top-notch professionals in their fields – if their achievements are anything to go by.

Sunway's three top students, who recently sat for their CAT Level C exam and are now waiting for their results, are Ong Chin Yau, Hazel Hall and Goh Lee Ying.

Designed by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), the CAT is a vocational qualification that allows students to support the work of professional accountants.

The final level exams are equivalent to the first year of a university degree.

Upon completion of the CAT programme, students will be exempted from the Foundation level of the ACCA programme and enter it at certificate stage.

The CAT programme requires students to sit for nine exams which are split into three levels. Each level is designed to test the

knowledge, skills and understanding the students need to work in accounting support roles.

As well as completing their examinations, students will have to acquire at least one year's relevant financial training to achieve the technician qualification.

Ong, who studies a minimum of four hours a day said he chose the CAT programme as it provides a shorter route to a professional qualification.

Hall said the global recognition of the ACCA made her decide to enrol in the CAT programme.

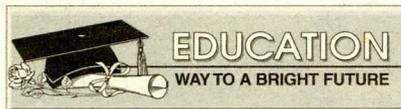
Meanwhile, Goh pointed out that the CAT programme has a proven record and has been conducted for many years.

"If someone wants to be an accountant, this is the way to go," she said.

Ong, Hall and Goh recently underwent a month-long training stint during their semester break to apply what they have learned in real-life situations.

Hall said the training forced her to expand theories learned in the classroom in a more practical manner.

Goh said she enjo-



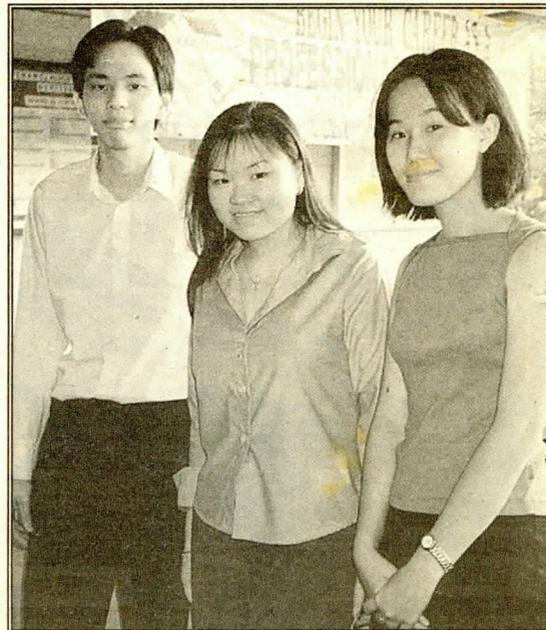
yed working with office machines and software, such as the computerised accounting system. "It was wonderful to be handling these systems when all we know of them is from our textbooks.

"The training was also about getting along with our co-workers and supervisors," she added.

CAT programme executive director Teo Eee Sing said the training period would enable the students to perform better in their ACCA as there would be more practical papers in the programme.

Teo added that this was the first time CAT students had been sent to undergo practical training. The next batch of is due to undergo training in June.

"We are very selective when choosing the right place for our students. We only select companies which we know are genuine about developing the knowledge of our stu-



THE WAY TO GO: (From left) Ong, Hall and Goh

dents," he explained.

Sunway's CAT programme attracts both local and foreign students. There are about 200 students currently enrolled in the various stages of the programme.

● The next intake will be on Tuesday. For more information about the programmes, call (03) 731-0845 or fax inquiries to (03) 735-8633.

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