Sunway taps into future growth

The hospitality industry has been projected to be one of the largest businesses worldwide in the future and Malaysia is expected to follow this trend with higher tourist arrivals projected over the next few years.

Therefore, demand for personnel trained in hospitality management is expected to increase.

This has prompted many educational institutions in the country to offer hospitality courses. One of them is Sunway College in Bandar Sunway.

But more than just to tap an available market, the decision to offer the course is also due to the fact that the Sunway Group currently manages 12 hotels throughout the country.

"Although the School of Hospitality is one of the newest faculties, it has received an excellent response and there are about 150 students enrolled in the courses offered," says Mae Tan, head of the school.

"The main focus is to provide training for those interested in building a career in the hospitality industry - providing them with the skills needed to fill supervisory and management positions."

"The syllabus, which was designed with help from British and Australian universities, as well as experienced local professionals, will cover topics ranging from kitchen management and oenology (the study of wine) to French language, management information systems and hospitality law."

Sunway College offers students the best of both worlds, says Tan.

"They study at a purpose built campus which has all the necessary facilities and train at first class hotels."

"There are three training restaurants and three training kitchens, in addition to other facilities for training. Students will also be able to gain practical experience at the adjacent five-star hotel."

"So the experience that the college can offer students is not limited to cooking or training in mock hotel rooms and at mock reception counters."

"The students have the benefit of working and learning in a real-life, demanding environment that will require them to use what they are taught at college and gain new skills that they cannot get at college."

"The college will also tap into the expertise available within the Sunway group - experienced professionals will be invited to give talks at the college."

"In addition to having a fully equipped faculty to study in and real-life practical training, the students will also benefit from the experience of practising professionals employed in the field."

Tan says the programme is also flexible in that the students can exit at any level and apply for mid-level positions in the industry.

"Students with the diploma can get positions at supervisory level because they receive a very good foundation here at the college."

"But the career prospects for those with a hospitality management qualification are not limited to the hotel industry."

"Such people are needed everywhere services are provided, such as in condominiums, leisure clubs, conference centres, airlines and cruiselines as well as health and educational institutions."

"Those who want to further their education can proceed to universities in Australia, The US, Britain and Switzerland."

For more information, call 03-7358622 or fax 03-7358633. Or visit the college's website at www.sunway.edu.my