

IT – WORKSHOP FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS



Participants with their certificates.

It was a challenging and fun-filled event for these secondary students who attended a two-day IT Workshop organised by the School of Management & IT at the University College Sedaya International (UCSI) recently.

The workshop helped them realise the importance of having hands-on experience in developing sophisticated web pages. The secondary students were also taught how to use Java Technology to write programmes that run virtually anywhere.

It is indeed an excellent way for them to discover whether or not they like IT before they even venture into the programme in the next two years.

According to UCSI Head of Computing Department (School of Management & IT), Chloe Thong, the workshop was primarily

aimed at equipping the secondary students with advanced knowledge on information technology.

“Our secondary goal is to expose the students to campus life as well as to provide them the experience of being an IT student at UCSI,” she said, adding that the theme “What is it like to be an IT student at UCSI” was appropriate.

The secondary students were exposed to UCSI e-learning environment in the two-day event.

“We let them experience doing paperless examinations such as e-quizzes,” said Thong. “The students can sit for the e-quiz anywhere in the campus as long as they have access to the UCSI e-advantage.”

The secondary students found that it was fun and interesting to have paperless examinations using computers. The three top scorers walked away with prizes too!



UCSI e-advantage is used as a tool to enhance the course discussion and to do work inside and outside classrooms. The students can browse through the course syllabus, selected research materials and the British On-line Library system, e-mail lecturers, contact a classmate, or simply surf the Internet. This initiative achieves UCSI's goal of providing students access to the world of knowledge from the preferred location either from their room at home or from any of the hundreds of ports on campus.

Chloe Thong said the exposure was necessary for these students to test out their interest in Information Technology, before they decide to even pursue it. "The participants felt enlightened after the workshop," she added.

UCSI's School of Management and IT admits that the existing educational policy which rarely requires computing in secondary school, result in students having a narrow and inaccurate view of what Information technology study involves, the possible IT careers, and the impact of IT specialists on society as a whole.

At the workshop, the students were exposed for the first time to the broad and ubiquitous nature of the field. Topics included web designing, Java technology, multimedia technology among others.

"We will examine their potential applications in the high school environment, strategies to increase participation in IT by the secondary students and also how to equip students with the latest technological skills and knowledge," said Chloe Thong.

Thong commented that the students were fast-learners and they managed to follow through the workshop without much problem. "I strongly believe that the number of next year's participants will double," she added. "We want students to gain some insights before they enroll in their degree programme."

During the workshop, the young learners received individual attention and support, not only from the lecturers but also UCSI's IT undergraduates who volunteered themselves for the two-day workshop.



UCSI IT students giving explanation to the participants.

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