AeU's evolving computer technology

COMPUTER technology as one of the most competitive industry in the country is generating for nearly two-thirds of the 1.3 million jobs demanded by Science &Technology (S&T) or ICT-dependent industries.

Even with high salary associated with ICT's professions,the local industry can only cover around 50 per cent of professionals and skilled workers supply.

Capturing the industrial needs, Asia e University (AeU) offers a unique Work-based Learning (WBL) programme; Bachelor of Technology (Information Technology) with Honours or BTech (IT) (Hons) that substantiate marks for doing jobs as its course assessment.

The AeUBTech (IT) is suitable for working students or professionals who are interested in studying less theory and more practical about IT technical skills and knowledge.

The School of Information and Communication Technology (SICT) formulates an integrated curriculum for the programme to enhance learner's knowledge and skills to understand and manage technology and technological changes particularly in IT.

The programme aims to produce well-rounded graduates with a balance of technical expertise, critical awareness as well as the ability and desire to continue learning while progress through their professional career.

This programme opens new opportunity for potential students to further study by utilising their current job and working experiences through WBL pedagogy.

As such, BTech (IT) is most ideal for working students as it is designed to recognise and match the learning outcome of the course to the work experience and the activities or output resulted from the workplace.

There are many graduates from diploma certificates who are already in the industry involving in various areas of IT.

The BTech (IT) specialisations have been designed in consultation with industry representatives and are supported by active research at the University.

Students in this programme will benefit from the collaboration that has been established between AeU and major ICT players in various technologies ranging from computer system, e-learning, software development and telecommunications.

Students will have the opportunity to develop skills in analysis, design, implementation and evaluation of many aspects of IT technology using new and established techniques and software tools.

Based on their field of interest, student is free to choose one out of four specialisations offered by the programme; Computer Network Security, Web and Mobile Computing, Service-Oriented Architecture (SOA) and Software Development.

These emerging fields in ICT are the essentials elements to produce graduates who are capable of managing large scale communication network and security, build mobile applications for iPAD and Android-based devices, cloud computing and other areas.

Students are required to produce three IT prototypes in the projects that would ensure the ability in the technical knowledge and its application for business uses.

BTech (IT) course is conducted using a project-based learning method where students were assigned projects that are relevant to the course with strong emphasis on the practical components for students to practice and experience.

Conducted classes will be captured in videos which will later be uploaded in the Personalised Learning Space (myPLS) system for students to refer to at any time.

These projects and trainings will give them an exposure to the real working environment in the creative industry in selected organisations in Malaysia.

BTech(IT) programme can be done in full-time or part-time basis. For part time study, the tutorials are supported through online mode whereby face-to-face tutorials with the Academic Facilitator.

This online mode called as Online Distance Learning (ODL) is formulated to suit the busy work life of professionals.

Meanwhile, full time study mode applies conventional face to face meeting with students and will take the form of attending classes led by academic facilitators, either in AeUMain Campus in Kuala Lumpur or any of our learning centres available nationwide.

Accordingly, the period of study for both full time and part time is around three years and four-five years, respectively.

"Through various studies, Work-based Learning may affect the graduate's work efficiencies, experiential and learning curves that seen a significant contribution to higher employee loyalties, staff retention, salary scale and productivity.

"BTech (IT) uses WBL pedagogy that is most suitable for college or school leavers who are already on the job with working experience related to Information and Communication Technology," said Prof Dr Syed MalekFakarDuani, the Dean of SICT.

WBL sets an understanding between the supervisor at the industries and the university on what is the required skill sets, experiential learning, assessment tools and knowledge content that supposed to be covered in the university curriculum.

The engagement of the industries is at the entire phases of the student development including the work assignment and assessment, teaching and learning.

In this manner, the university is able to close gaps between the skill sets needed by the industries against what is taught and offered to the students in the university which students are able to apply the theories immediately at the workplace.

Adult students attending weekend class find Work-based Learning (WBL) pedagogy in BTech(IT) interesting and relevant to their career.

Developing graduates with technical skills, computing knowledge and solving ability

The assignments given to the students are rather flexible in such way that it is designed towards the nature of the work.

BTech seeks to develop graduates who are proficient with technical skills and knowledge related to computing technology, ability to demonstrate mastery of skills in solving the IT technological problems and issues, as well as exhibiting the ability to identify and communicate the technological requirements and problem solving methods to the stakeholders.

During final year, students will undertake a project working either through the University or a local industry or company.

All of this ensures that as a graduate you are well prepared for employment and research in your selected specialisation. Often students have work lined up for them when they finish their degree, enabled by the networking opportunities and work experience that the project provides.

Graduates will have good employment prospects or the opportunity to complete their Master within one year of the BTech, and from there move into a PhD. Admissions for BTech (IT)programme can be applied through the conventional normal entry path or open entry paths. For normal entry path, candidates should have an 'A' Level/ STPM/ Diploma or equivalent.

Through open entry path, AeU provides a flexible admission system for part time study mode only that is based on Recognition for Prior Learning (RPL) concept, where previous industry experiences and professional certifications are all given their due credit value and carried some weightage in their application.

The Open Entry requirement for BICT programmespecifies that candidate must be at least 21 years old and possess a minimum PMR/SRP/LCE or equivalent, with recognisedworking experience.

A plethora of high demand career opportunities awaits graduates in this broad and sophisticated field where you can choose your dream job from system analyst to SAP Consultant.

They include roles such as Business System Analyst, Computer Software or Hardware Engineer, Computer and Information Systems Manager, Computer Programmer, Computer Support Specialists, Network Systems Analyst, Computer Network Engineer, Solution Architect, Software or Web Developer to Web Master.

September 2014 intake is now open. AeU will assist students to apply for their loans and deduction of EPF.

For further inquiries, please call Tel: 1 300 300 238, or apply online at www.aeu.edu.my.