

interactive course materials to the simplest courseware with online learning support system.

The highly interactive mode is a revolutionary design.

The simple courseware mode, on the other hand, concentrates on e-learning support such as access to lecture notes and past exam questions via the Web.

When its e-learning project began early last year, Inti had decided on incorporating both the highly interactive mode with the simple courseware system.

Inti was pleased to discover that its decision was reaffirmed by the experiences of other countries, as articulated by international participants at the conference.

The idea to implement the e-campus concept was announced last year and stemmed from a desire to continuously ameliorate itself.

"We are always looking for ways to improve our services and standards to better serve our stakeholders," says Chia.

In the college's view, there is no better approach to modern education than through infor-

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Inti aspires to be an institution of higher learning which is as paperless as possible. With a hefty budget of RM20 million over a five-year period, the team began its mission, starting with the main campus in Nilai and the branch campus in Subang Jaya.

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The e-campus project comprises four phases, namely connectivity, delivery, development of content, and research commercialisation.

Judging from the current progress of the project, Inti has to date undertaken all the phases.

As far as development of content is concerned, Inti has made

software applications, among them the Electronic Project Resource Information Dissertation Exchange (E-PRIDE).

This archive-like system compiles students' dissertation projects.

Another application is the WEB Document Online Management and Administration Services (WEBDOMAS).

WEBDOMAS allows the college to share, distribute and control access of relevant documents, forms, news and procedures such as course structure, timetable and International Standardisation Organisation documents.

Administration and Services.

This web application contains previous final examination papers for all academic programmes as well as we are also currently developing a broadcasting radio audio-video online services software application which allows students to have access to Inti's archive of audio and video presentations of training and lecture materials," says Chia.

He adds that the examination online database administration and services as well as the broadcasting radio audio-video online services applications will be staged soon, "some time in the first quarter of next year."

All applications are expected to be completed by the end of 2002.

Although not fully completed, all software applications can be utilised by students and both administrative and academic staff.

"The only flaw is they are only accessible from the college's library for the time being," Chia adds.

Apart from that, Inti has also conducted two training sessions to fulfil the delivery phase.

Recently, the college enlisted the help of an Australian and a local solution provider company to train some 60 academic staff to convert their revised learning materials into the online version or "digitisation".

The first training by the Australian company was extensively conducted. Among others, the lecturers were taught ways of organising their presentation in a more captivating manner.

The first draft of the courseware content is currently 60 to 70 per cent developed.

Once completed, Inti can proceed to full digitisation process.

Inti has one more item to tickle on its "to-do" list.

It plans to produce "pre-recorded lectures in CD-ROM format". The CD-ROMs should contain sample lectures of a chosen course and appear in a series.

However, this plan is still under consideration.

"We need to consider many things. Obviously our aim is to implement the total online delivery method but that demands a lot of resources," Chia says, alluding to online lectures which require a wide bandwidth for high quality and uninterrupted viewing.

The best solution, says Chia, is to combine different delivery methods.

"But Inti will decide on the pre-recorded CD-ROM very soon," he says.

Producing the CD-ROMs is a bold move for Inti. With the risk of syllabus of courses changing every year, the CD-ROMs may become obsolete.

But Chia is positive that Inti College's established programmes will ensure that changes, if any, will be kept to a minimum.



CHIA ... Information and communication technology is the best to education. Pictures courtesy of Inti College Malaysia.

With the completion of the e-campus project at the main campus and the Subang Jaya branch in 2003, the focus will shift to the branch campuses in Penang and Kuching.

Meanwhile, Chia says "these two campuses must now take a back seat due to low student numbers."

"Therefore, it makes little sense to equip these campuses with all the facilities," he adds.

The pace of development may be slower in Penang and Kuching but

way or another from it says Chia.

The college encourages academic staff to develop websites as a way of interacting with what they have learned in training sessions.

"Now students and the have another channel to communicate with each other from the e-mail service,"

The students at Inti are seeing tremendous improvement, in the college.

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that does not suggest that these campuses are neglected.

"When the pace of software and infrastructure development picks up at these campuses, they will certainly be equipped with the latest facilities," Chia says.

But that is just the short-term plan. Inti has plenty in store after 2005. "We would like to offer a full e-learning support for existing students as well as offer attractive online courses in the future," he says.

Inti is taking it a step at a time.

"It is a slow process but lecturers and students have benefited in one

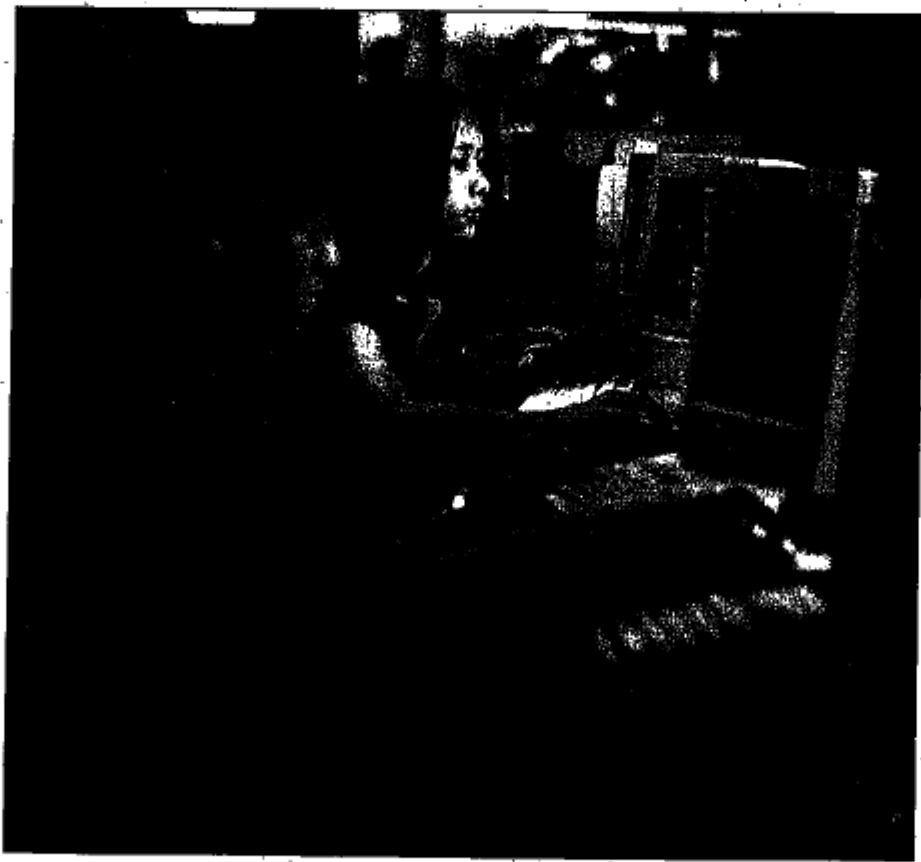
Thus far, the e-campus smooth-flowing. Even the economic situation is enough to shake it.

According to Chia, the project will precede projects.

"Even if the need to relocate arises, we will not budget project," he adds.

Inti is certain that the project will meet its dead "There may be some hiccup the way but we will do our best to overcome them," he adds

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HIGH-TECH ... Students will benefit from full e-learning support