

# To better equip ICT grads

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**F**OR local information and communications technology (ICT) graduates, finding a job is tougher now as most employers prefer to hire those with experience.

Local graduates lack exposure to environments that require such skills and knowledge, according to Institute of Certified E-Commerce Consultants (ICEC)'s regional director Kenneth Tai.

To address this issue,



Tai: Building efficiency.

ICEC will introduce programmes that will help build industry-relevant skills and knowledge, and provide exposure to real-world environments.

The ICEC programmes, among others, will introduce students to knowledge management and electronic commerce so as to prepare them for k-economy when they graduate.

"By participating in these programmes, graduates will be more competitive when they are out in the working environment as they will know the basic skills in building efficiency," Tai says, adding that such programmes should be implemented in every area of study as this will affect every industry in the future.

To implement the programmes, ICEC hopes to be able to convince local universities and colleges to include these programmes in their existing diploma or degree programmes.

The institute has already implemented a few other training programmes with several institutions of higher

education such as Open Universiti Malaysia and Universiti Utara Malaysia, and is presently in talks with Universiti Teknologi Malaysia.

ICEC, according to Tai, is also planning to make available the programmes for working adults via intensive workshops.

The institute recently entered into a collaboration with Inti Management Services Sdn Bhd under which gradu-

ates of the latter's Coventry University MSc in E-Commerce programme will be awarded professional memberships as Certified E-Commerce Consultants from ICEC.

To motivate students pursuing the MSc in E-Commerce programme, Inti Management Services has organised an *E-Commerce Business Plan Competition* with a sponsorship of RM20,000 from RHB Bank.

## Next-generation research and education network

THE Australian government is embarking on a three-year project to establish the country's next-generation high-capacity research and education computer network. Called Australian Research and Education Network, it will enable students, researchers and administrators worldwide to gain access to Australia's existing education and research network.

The first component of the project is the installation of a 2.5-gigabit-per-second backbone in Queensland. Following completion of all eight planned domestic backbones, upgrades to the capacity and number of Australia's international links will be considered.