Sachidananda Govinda
University of Mauritius

with:
K.M.S. Soyjaudah,U.o. Mauritius
M.K.Oolun, U.o. Mauritius

contact:
mgovinda@uom.ac.mu

A Post-Graduate Diploma in Computer Applications to Meet Immediate Industry Needs

The Republic of Mauritius has known a steady economic growth since 1985 due to the implementation of an Export Processing Zone especially for the textile sector. However, with increased quality of life in Mauritius, the textile industry is becoming less and less competitive and the country is now experience a near-recession situation.

The vision of the Government of Mauritius is to turn the Island into a full-fledged regional Technology Centre and to make the Information and Communications Technology industry the fifth pillar of the economy. With the creation of a Cyber City, around 40000 well-trained people, of which 3000 ICT professionals will be required in the coming years.

In this context, the University of Mauritius is designing a post-graduate professional programme in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) to provide additional qualified ICT professionals to meet the new demands of the labour market.

This conversion course will target graduates in non-ICT fields and will be focused on the industry needs with four streams:
I)   Software Development
II)   Multimedia Development
III)   Network Development
IV)   Embedded Systems & Robotics

The course will span over one year and will lead to the award of Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Applications. On successful completion, graduates of the course will be able to take up meaningful professional employment in the ICT field.

The programme has been designed to have an appropriate mix of academic modules in order to give students the right concepts of computer applications and of professional modules in order to allow them to be properly trained in various tools, software, operating systems, databases and packages. Most of the professionals modules have been chosen from well known certified training programmes namely from Microsoft, Cisco, Red Hat Linux, Oracle and Java. Some of the professional modules being offered namely those in web and multimedia design are going to be developed in-house.

The programme has a common trunk of 4 modules in computer applications that is offered in the first semester (15 weeks) and that must be followed by all students.

In the second semester (15 weeks), the student has to opt for one of the 4 professional streams, each stream containing four compulsory professional modules.

This innovative strategy of hybrid academic and professional training is being done in national interest in order to train University graduates to be fit for employment straight-away as they leave University.