

# Exploratory and enriching learning experience for AeU graduates

Today, AeU has spread its wings far and wide to ACD countries such as China, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Cambodia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Indonesia, Thailand, Dubai, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Maldives, and also beyond to non-ACD countries like Denmark, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Namibia, Kenya, Nigeria, Somalia, Yemen, Mauritius and the UK.

Out of 1,200 graduates who received their scrolls at AeU's 4th convocation, about 25% or 300 were international graduates. Among them was a new batch of Indonesian students who graduated from the Bachelor of Information & Communications Technology (Hons) or BICT programme. This programme is a joint collaboration between AeU and the State Polytechnics of Jakarta (PNJ), Indonesia.

The international students from PNJ had an exploratory and enriching learning experience from AeU when they did their final year at AeU, Kuala Lumpur campus, after completing AeU's Online Distance Learning (ODL) for the first 3 years with classes supported by the polytechnics in Indonesia. Their studies are supported by AeU's myPLS, (my personal learning system) where they can access to all the learning materials and video content for their courses, communicate with their Academic facilitators via forum, as well as submitting their assignment online.

PNJ students are given the options to either remain in Indonesia as AeU's ODL students during their 4th year of studies, or to continue their final year degree in AeU Malaysia as full time students. AeU full-time students will benefit from face-to-face classes conducted weekly and have the opportunity to engage in a series of discussions with their lecturers.

For AeU-PNJ students, their industrial training and examinations are arranged either in PNJ, Indonesia, or in AeU, Kuala Lumpur, depending on the location where they are based.

BICT, a programme administered by AeU's School of Information and Communication Technology encapsulates a wide range of transferable skills including creativity, research and analysis techniques, problem-solving, communication and negotiation. Students will develop skills in analysis, design, implementation and evaluation of many aspects of network computing using new and established techniques and software tools. They can choose one out of the many specialisations offered; Enterprise Networking, Information System, Multimedia Computing and Software Engineering.

## Switching Mode of Study

Both International and local students can enrol in BICT (Hons) programme either in full-time or part-time basis, spanning three years or around 14 semesters. In terms of flexibility, students can switch their mode of study from part-time ODL to full-time and or vice versa during their study period. For Indonesian students, this flexibility allows them to continue learning via the online programme from Indonesia, while they work.

## Career Prospects

Leveraging on its industrial collaborations, AeU arranges on-the-job training placements for students at selected IT companies for a stipulated period. Only good students are retained by the companies, who will arrange for their work visa in Malaysia.

BICT graduates are well equipped with knowledge and skills in information and communications technology, covering areas in wireless, mobile communications and Internet. They are taught on competencies and skills in critical thinking, conflict resolutions, creativity, resourcefulness, team working, effective communications, and leadership qualities which help to exemplify their speaking and presentation abilities. They also partake in activities such as leadership and youth conferences also become an avenue for the students to hone their personal traits and attributes to excel in the workplace.

ICT jobs are varied and in demand from sectors in education, banking, corporate, telecommunication, printing, film/animation, broadcasting and advertising. **SEE PAGE 15**

## FROM PAGE 14

BICT programme provides ICT skills for technical professionals or managers who work in telecommunication or IT firms. Jobstreet indicates that the top 10 most popular IT profession in Malaysia includes software programmer/engineer, network/system engineer, IT executive/MIS, functional consultant/business analyst, IT/department manager, technical support, system administrator, supervisor/team lead in software, project management in software and system analyst.

## What A Graduate Says About BICT (Hons) Programme

A recent graduate in BICT, Nana Puspita Sari, says "I have learnt a great deal during my study with AeU, particularly the theories and practical knowledge where I can apply in my career. It was a fun enriching study experience because we get to tour the country and learned about the multicultural aspects of Malaysians that differs from Indonesia. It was great experience for me to be taught by lecturers of

different races in their specialised fields where I get to understand the different accents in English and learned to adapt to a rich multicultural environment. I really enjoyed the communication class which are conducted outdoor and away from the classroom setting. I also find my English has improved tremendously from my interactions with lecturers of different races and background in AeU."

"I would like to thank the Vice Dean of SICT, Dr. Roshayu for assisting me getting a scholarship to finance my education; and the AeU's Resource Centre for the opportunity to work there as a part-time staff. Pursuant to my learning journey, the chance to do my industrial training with Afteroffice.com was such a 'self-discovery' experience, in a more professional way. The working exposure has enabled me to relate and apply my knowledge in ICT especially those relevant to the internet environment," says Nana Puspita Sari, who is recently hired to work for Dell Asia Pacific Sdn Bhd, Penang.