MAPÚA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
BECOMING AN IT CENTER OF EXCELLENCE THANKS TO THE SAP® UNIVERSITY ALLIANCES PROGRAM

QUICK FACTS

Institution
- Name: Mapúa Institute of Technology
- Location: Campuses in Manila and Makati, Philippines
- Courses offered: Architecture, engineering, IT, computer science, and other technical-intensive courses
- Employees: 800 (both teaching and non-teaching staff)

Challenges and Opportunities
- The question of how to seamlessly integrate SAP topics in the curriculum, apply the SAP® University Alliances program, and train professors in practical application

SAP Software – Curriculum
- Information technology
- Computer science
- Architecture
- Engineering

Why SAP University Alliances
- Enable students to become more competitive in the workplace
- Enable the school to be ahead in the field of IT and computer science

Benefits for the University
- Provide a facility and platform for education in enterprise resource planning (ERP) software
- Establish a specialization track
- Harness the school's academic talent

Benefits for the Student
- Enables students to be marketable while still in college
- Gives them a greater competitive edge when joining the workforce

"There's so much to learn about SAP software. It's not easy, but with the right attitude and application on the job, you'll get it. What makes the program worthwhile is that it makes graduates more employable."

Andrew Eliquen, IT graduate, Mapúa Institute of Technology

SAP provides ERP skills at the collegiate level, which allows students to be marketable even while still in school. Employers, in turn, have access year-in and year-out to a fresh pool of IT professionals.

The SAP® University Alliances program is a global endeavor that provides university faculty members with the tools and resources necessary to teach students how technology can enable integrated business processes and strategic thinking. SAP University Alliances program member schools gain access to use SAP software. This program can support a school's business, engineering, and IT programs, enabling students to put classroom theory into practice through demonstrations, exercises and problem solving, case studies, and research programs. Hands-on experience with SAP solutions allows program members to gain insight into how technology can empower a business to optimize key processes. These business processes include, for example, accounting and controlling, human capital management, project planning, plant and materials management, and sales and distribution.

Mapúa Institute of Technology, a member school in the University alliance program, cites the invaluable contribution of the program toward becoming centers of excellence for IT.

Providing Students with a Competitive Edge

Mapua has been associated with academic excellence in the field of technical courses. It boasts of being in the forefront of developing academic skills among students of engineering, architecture, IT, and computer science. SAP is a strategic partner that improves Mapua's quality of education. SAP gives Mapua students a greater competitive edge as they join the workforce.

Mapúa Institute of Technology, whose mission is to become a center for global education in IT and computer science, chose to become an SAP University Alliances program partner precisely to harness SAP's long history and expertise with enterprise resource planning (ERP) software. The university has integrated the program in its IT and computer science departments. To date, more than 1,000 students have taken or are taking SAP courses through the program.

"The education I received has taught me the fundamentals I need to see the bigger picture," says Marie Virginne Guanio, a graduate in computer science from Mapúa institute of Technology in Makati. Guanio, 20, now works for Hewlett-Packard Development Company, L.P. (HP), along with Andrew Eliquen and Louie Reyes, both 20, who are IT graduates.

"There's so much to learn about SAP software," says Eliquen. "It's not easy, but with the right attitude and application on the job, you'll get it. What makes the program worthwhile is that it makes graduates more employable." He looks to having a consulting career with SAP in the future, so he is hard at work on his certification as an IT expert.

Reyes translates data from HP to customers, which makes him grateful for his knowledge of SAP software. He says his interviewer had been surprised to learn about his skills. "The interviewer didn't know this course was taught in college. That gave me an advantage because I had an additional skill that other graduates would have had to take elsewhere after the usual college degree."

Industry Partnership: HP

These graduates now put into practice their skills after being exposed to SAP software in school. They cite the many advantages of the participation of Mapúa Institute of Technology in the SAP University Alliances program, and how these helped their immediate employability.

The partnership was brought about by the need of industry leader HP to address the constant need for well-skilled IT professionals. Through the partnership with the SAP University Alliances program, HP can tap technical learning institutions like Mapúa for a constant pool of talent in the face of high attrition to other IT firms and to the job market abroad.

On-the-Job Training

HP, an Information Technology leader, assigned Mapua students to use the SAP NetWeaver® platform while doing on-the-job training. Graduating students who perform above-average are immediately offered employment. This works to HP's benefit because the company is assured a ready pool of talent, given the high turnover and scarcity of competent IT professionals. It also elevates the professionalism of the industry as fresh graduates attain advance skills that the employing company can readily utilize.

Judging by the success the partnership has brought its students, Mapúa Institute expects to roll out the program university-wide by the end of 2011. The university is also looking at a continuing partnership with the SAP University Alliances program, as the university remains committed to programs that help improve the quality of education that Mapúa offers.

The SAP University Alliances program brings many benefits to schools, students, the industry, and to the academe as a whole. By providing ERP skills at the collegiate level, the program lets students become marketable even while they are still in school. Employers in turn have access year-in and year-out to a fresh pool of IT professionals. The industry benefits because the scarcity of IT professionals is constantly addressed.

SAP University Alliances

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