Returning to her first love

A Graduate Diploma in Systems Analysis allows Ms Teresa Siah to switch from her human resources job to a career in information technology.

Lynn Seah

Ms Terezia Siah always had an interest in information technology (IT) but the unreasonable cost got in the way. She studied economics and statistics instead, and after graduation, she drifted into a human resources job where she spent the next decade or so.

In 2009, she decided to take a part-time diploma programme in web development technology at the National University of Singapore (NUS). She did well in the course, boosting her confidence in her ability to hit the books again.

“More importantly, I also realised that I still have a passion for it,” she says.

During that period, her husband learnt about a Graduate Diploma in Systems Analysis programme at the Institute of Systems Science (ISS) at NUS, which was designed for non-IT graduates like her, and encouraged her to go for it.

While ISS has given me the basic skills, she explains: “In ADLC, we get to design systems based on a specific case study. The same case study was used throughout and we could see the connectivity from one module to the next.”

She also liked the hands-on experience in coding that the programming modules gave her. “The projects were practical and meaningful,” she says.

Students had to work in teams for projects. “Besides learning the technical skills, we also learnt some soft skills, for example, teamwork, presentation skills and the cultural differences when working with team members from different countries.”

Her class of about 70 comprised students from a mix of nationalities. She is impressed with the lecturers in the programme, who were all full-time staff of ISS. “They were very knowledgeable and sincere in wanting to help us succeed,” she recalls.

“If you took your work to a lecturer and asked for feedback, he would take the trouble to look through your work and ask you questions; if your work was well done and your portfolio could be improved, and then share ideas on how it could be improved.

“The impression with their level of commitment.”

Apart from lectures, workshops and projects, the programme included a five-month industrial attachment coordinated by ISS. Some of the top companies from the companies they were attached to.

“[I] was now looking forward to carrying a future for myself in the IT industry. While ISS has given me the basic skills, there’s still a lot to learn. So my focus now is to learn as much and as fast as I can, and do a good job,” she says.

PROGRAMME
Graduate Diploma in Systems Analysis

ORGANISED BY
Institute of Systems Science, National University of Singapore

SUITABLE FOR
Graduates who want to equip themselves with the latest IT knowledge and skills, including those from non-IT disciplines who wish to enter the IT industry.

DURATION
11 months, full-time

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS
April 30, 2012 for August 2012 intake

WEBSITE
www.iss.nus.edu.sg/postgrad