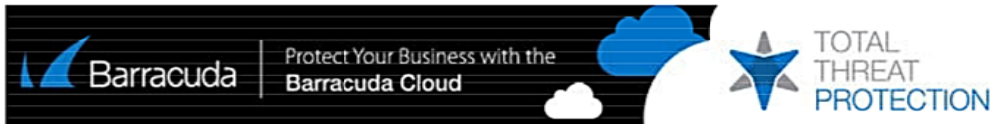




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Networking

NUS-ISS, School of Computing jointly launch IT leadership Master's degree

By Networks Asia staff | Monday, June 15, 2015 - 10:27



Email



The National University of Singapore's (NUS) Institute of Systems Science (NUS-ISS) and School of Computing have launched a new graduate degree programme aimed at equipping next generation IT leaders with both technical skills and professional knowledge for effective business leadership and

IT management. The programme will commence in January 2016.

The comprehensive programme will be jointly designed and delivered by NUS-ISS and NUS Computing. It will lead to a Master of Technology in IT Leadership (MTech ITL) awarded by NUS – the only locally conferred Master's degree focused on grooming strategic and forward-thinking IT leaders with the competencies needed to steer their organisations through fast-changing business and technology landscapes.

The first IT Leadership Master's degree in Singapore

"Although there are many IT and business graduate programmes available today, senior IT professionals in Singapore and the region have not been able to benefit from an integrated programme with a strong blend of IT, business and leadership curriculum for well-rounded development," said Khoong Chan Meng, Director and CEO of NUS-ISS.

Khoong added that the "goal is to nurture IT leaders who are not only capable, but possess the foresight, confidence and drive to leverage technology, integrate business and IT strategies, and build agile, innovative and effective IT organisations in an increasingly digital world."

The MTech ITL programme offers an academic and practice-based curriculum to help IT practitioners exploit digital opportunities and broaden their strategic role.

Professor David S. Rosenblum, Dean of NUS School of Computing, believes that a collaborative effort with NUS-ISS would bring forth a new generation of MTech graduates who are better prepared for business challenges of tomorrow.

"Both the Institute of Systems Science and the School of Computing have been actively engaged with the IT community to meet various facets of their manpower development needs. By combining our strengths in academic, industry-oriented and practice-based pedagogies, MTech ITL graduates can be assured of a pragmatic programme that is relevant to real-world needs," said Prof Rosenblum.

A comprehensive practice-oriented curriculum

The curriculum is structured to develop the critical business, management, info-communication and leadership skills necessary to take on key IT leadership positions and responsibilities. In addition to the coursework, MTech ITL students can apply their newly acquired competencies to solving IT issues confronting today's organisations through a capstone project for an organisation.

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The IT Management Association (ITMA) is committed to supporting the new MTech ITL programme by fielding practising CIOs to share industry experiences and provide mentorship to the students.

"In line with ITMA's mission to nurture new generations of CIOs, we support NUS MTech ITL in providing a good platform for aspiring IT professionals to develop their IT leadership and capabilities. ITMA members and leaders will contribute by sharing our experiences and knowledge with the students," said Steve Lee, President of ITMA and CIO / Senior Vice President (Technology) of Changi Airport Group (Singapore). "We will also sponsor book prizes for outstanding students. This programme is much needed to develop the next IT leaders, a key and vital component in Singapore's continual push to exploit the use of ICT."

Classroom lectures will be combined with a multi-modal learning approach that covers case studies, group assignments to encourage peer sharing, and mentorship by senior practitioners. Briefings and workshops will be conducted or facilitated by industry thought leaders and business practitioners, so that students can gain first-hand insights on current IT trends and challenges.

Janet Ang, Vice President, Systems of Engagement & Smarter Cities for IBM Asia Pacific, notes that MTech ITL will achieve the outcomes with its intensive practice orientation.

"The programme offers a solid foundation in digital business transformation, understanding of the interplay between IT and business, and leadership in IT. Students will be groomed to become more strategic, agile and innovative under the mentorship of industry leaders and through industry projects," said Ang.

Taught by seasoned practitioners

Commencing in January 2016, the MTech ITL programme will be available for both full and part-time study. Organisations are encouraged to support the enrolment of their high-potential future leaders into this programme.

Topics will be instructed by highly qualified and experienced teaching staff, who would either have held CIO and IT leadership positions in industry, or are career information systems and leadership academics.

These include seasoned practitioners who bring many years of experience as CEOs, CIOs and entrepreneurs to the MTech ITL programme, such as: Alex Siow, Practice Professor of NUS Computing; Dr Francis Yeoh, Professorial Fellow of NUS Computing; Khoong Chan Meng, Director and CEO of NUS-ISS; Dr Leong Mun Kew, Deputy Director, NUS-ISS; Lim Hooi Ling, Chief of MTech in IT Leadership Programme, NUS-ISS; Stuart Smith, Chief of Service Innovation Practice, NUS-ISS; and Yap Chee Yuen, Adjunct Professor of NUS Computing; EVP, Corporate Services, Genting Singapore.

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