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Over 600 Technology Professionals and Enthusiasts Attend PACE 2004

National Infocomm Competency Centre's (NICC) two-day IT symposium PACE 2004 drew to a close today. Over 600 IT professionals and enthusiasts attended the event, participating in conference sessions and on-site competitions, and signing on for certification training. PACE (Promoting Accreditation, Competency & Employability) is an annual event that aims to highlight the relevance of training and certification to increase the mobility of Singapore's IT talent pool.

Singapore, Singapore (PRWEB) August 23, 2004 -- National Infocomm Competency Centre's (NICC) two-day IT symposium PACE 2004 drew to a close today. Over 600 IT professionals and enthusiasts attended the event, participating in conference sessions and on-site competitions, and signing on for certification training. PACE (Promoting Accreditation, Competency & Employability) is an annual event that aims to highlight the relevance of training and certification to increase the mobility of Singapore's IT talent pool.

"PACE 2004 is the only industry event that brings together IT professionals who understand the need to constantly update and upgrade their skills, and a number of leading technology and training organizations who offer cutting-edge certification and career enhancement courses. We are delighted by the response for PACE 2004, held for the second consecutive year in Singapore," said Ms Lim Choon Heong, General Manager, NICC. "With over 100,000 IT professionals in Singapore, and a growing number of technology professionals leaving school and moving to Singapore to enhance the talent pool, the challenge is to increase the awareness of the availability of training and certification options to keep pace with the changes in technologies and standards."

NICC, in partnership with XMLOne User Group, also launched a new Web Services Certification Programme at PACE 2004 that will provide individuals and organizations with a certification of proficiency in this area. The Certified Web Services Associate Programme will be offered through course provider NetAssist, and will contribute to IDA's three-year Web Services Add Value To Enterprises (WEAVE) targets, which are to have \$120 million invested in the development of Web Services; to train and certify 600 professionals in Web Services and to have 20% of companies in Singapore adopt Web Services.

In addition, leading organizations launched a number of new certifications at the event:

- Sun Microsystems announced a new professional certification programme on Java™ technologies called Java Fast Track, as well as a Sun Certified Developer for Java Web Services certification that will help developers in creating web services applications using Java technologies and APIs

- CISCO, the leading commercial security organisation in Singapore, in partnership with Mile2 introduced the Certified Penetration Testing Professional (CPTP) Program, an intensive hands-on course developed to address the training needs of IT professionals who are required to carry out responsibilities of penetrating, analysing and verifying network security

PACE 2004 saw a number of exhibitors showcasing their certification offerings, some for the second year, including Sun Microsystems, Microsoft Certified Learning Partner Solutions; COMAT Training Services, Avantus Training, NetAssist Services and New

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Horizons Computer Learning Center.

Siti Z Ali Bawthan, Education Consultant, New Horizons Computer Learning Center said, "We are encouraged by the traffic and number of enquiries we have received over the last two days. The interest in Microsoft certifications and security courses is quite high, as these are the skills in demand." New Horizons saw 150 individuals registering at its booth at PACE 2004.

Says IT professional Aung Kyaw Win, Software Engineer at Mobilistic Technologies, "It is very interesting to see so many course providers in one place, and to be able to check out trends in technology. I am waiting for the assessment of my skills at the Technology Olympiad, so I can map my strengths and weaknesses as compared to other professionals. I also signed on for the promotional Sun Microsystems Java Fast Track Program, since this is an area relevant to my business." The Technology Olympiad was hosted by Hewlett-Packard and TeckCheck, a knowledge management systems company to test a participant's level of competency in HP Unix 10, Java 2.0 Programming, Microsoft .net Programming and Network Administration.

The BlackOPS©: HackAttack Challenge 2004, however, hogged the limelight, with events across both days. In the competitive challenge on Friday, Team Frozen Throne from Brunei walked away with the first prize, with Team Hellerstern from Singapore receiving recognition for Best Defence. Six teams of two participated in this challenge from Singapore, China, Brunei and Myanmar, that involved both attacking competitor systems while defending their own machines.

PACE 2004 also saw the winners of the first iDA National Infocomm Scholarship Awards being recognised, with 12 students receiving their prizes. iDA selected the winners from more than 200 applications this year.

In addition, NICC announced that it will roll out a new survey with CNET on 24 August 2004 to understand the views and experiences of employers on training and certification. This survey will augment the findings of the employee's survey conducted in 2003.

About National Infocomm Competency Centre

NICC is the main accreditation body in Singapore promoting and facilitating the development and implementation of Infocomm certification. Founded by IT industry bodies such as Singapore infocomm Technology Federation (SiTF), Singapore Computer Society (SCS) and Information Technology Management Association (ITMA), NICC is an industry-driven national body working closely with the Ministry of Manpower (MOM) and the Infocomm Development Authority (IDA) to promote Infocomm knowledge and skills.

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