

For Immediate Release

Singapore Computer Society Launches Region's First Certification for IT Outsourcing Management

October 5, 2006 – Singapore – Singapore Computer Society (SCS) announces today the launch of the region's first certification program for information technology outsourcing management. Called the Certification in Outsourcing Management for IT (COMIT), the certification will be managed by SCS and supported by the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore.

Market research has revealed that more than 80% of companies expect to increase their investment in outsourcing. A high demand for IT outsourcing professionals with the relevant skills to manage outsourced projects has come about as a result of increasing reliance on outsourcing to meet business needs. Such skills are vital for ensuring that outsourcing is well aligned to realize an organization's business imperatives.

Says Lee Kwok Cheong, Chairman, Singapore Computer Society, "Since the 1990s, IT outsourcing has grown from developing turnkey solutions to take the load off the company's in-house IT team to outsourcing of entire IT operations. Having observed this trend in recent years, Singapore Computer Society, as the national body for IT professionals in Singapore, saw a critical need to certify IT outsourcing professionals and raise their value and level of competency. That is why we are launching COMIT today."

Says Mr Chan Yeng Kit, Chief Executive, Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore, "Singapore needs to develop globally competitive infocomm professionals to ensure our competitiveness in this dynamic and competitive global economy. To enjoy enhanced employability and career prospects, infocomm professionals need to enhance their competency level and undergo relevant training and certification. Holding a recognised certification like The Certification in Outsourcing Management for IT (COMIT) is an advantage, as it certifies the infocomm professional as possessing the necessary and industry-relevant skills in particular infocomm focus areas."

“With this recognised benchmark in IT outsourcing competence, IT professionals will be able to add value to their career development as well as the organisations that they work in.” Says Mr Lau Soon Liang, Chairman, COMIT Resource Panel, “I believe that COMIT can do for outsourcing professionals, their organizations and their clients what the Certified IT Project Manager (CITPM) program has done for project managers and their employers. Launched in 1998 by SCS, that program has achieved enrolment growth of 40% with more than 1,300 CITPMs certified to date.”

The certification is intended for professionals who are intending to make a career as IT Project Manager or Outsourcing Manager both in a service provider or client environment. It is also intended for experienced professionals who want to attain recognized professional qualification. With training and upgrading of skills through certification, outsourcing professionals can better help their organizations or customers succeed.

Candidates can apply for either the COMIT (Associate) or COMIT – depending on their experience and qualification. This program places strong emphasis on practical experience. Candidates will be assessed through submission of a dossier to demonstrate their professional competence in the practical development of the project undertaken. Alternatively, candidates who have yet to acquire sufficient years of outsourcing management experience can be examined by sitting for the COMIT Examination conducted by the National University of Singapore’s Institute of Systems Science (ISS), SCS’ appointed examination agent.

ISS is also the official training partner and offers the IT Outsourcing Management for Practitioners Course and the COMIT Preparation Course. The former enhances the practitioners’ skills and provides an update on the latest industry trends and best practices, while the latter prepares candidates for the examinations.

Says Mr Lim Swee Cheang, Director of ISS, “ISS has been running IT outsourcing courses since 1995, and we are delighted to share our input and expertise in the development of COMIT. With increasing demand for outsourcing management expertise, this official certification is extremely timely.”

The certification aims to assess a candidate’s competence in the following twelve areas:

1. Outsourcing Planning and Preparation of Request for Proposal
2. Vendor Evaluation and Selection
3. Contract Formulation and Negotiation
4. Contract Initiation, Transition and Transformation Management
5. Relationship Management and Dispute Resolution
6. Service Quality Management and Performance Monitoring
7. Contract Migration and Handover Management
8. Cost Management
9. Risk Management
10. Human Resource Management
11. Communications Management
12. Interpersonal Skills

Enrolment for COMIT takes place in May and November each year, while the examinations are held in January and July. Those who have been certified have to renew their certification status every five years, to ensure they remain upgraded and updated on the latest trends in IT outsourcing management.

About Singapore Computer Society

Incorporated in 1967, Singapore Computer Society is the national society for IT professionals. With a membership of more than 22,000, it is the largest local infocomm body in Singapore. It aims to provide a unified voice for the industry in the areas of public policy, workforce development, IT standards and certification as well as offer networking, relationship building and partnering opportunities. For more information, visit www.scs.org.sg

About the Institute of Systems Science

The Institute of Systems Science (ISS) is a leading IT knowledge transfer institute promoting and fostering IT manpower development. Its education programs, from master, graduate diploma to professional short courses and seminars, has trained over 50,000 IT professionals and management executives in strategic IT management, knowledge management, IT project management, and software technologies and engineering best practices. Above and beyond training, ISS provides research and consulting services. For more information, please visit www.iss.nus.edu.sg.

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