

# IN HIGH DEMAND



An ICTP workshop on Microelectronics was held recently for the first time in Malaysia, and attracted a lot of participants.

**G**ETTING into the right course may seem like a difficult decision to make especially if there seems to be a decline in job opportunities these days. However, microelectronics is still very much in demand by the industry.

Multinational companies like Texas Instruments, Altera, Intel and Renesas have been asking for TAR College graduates who major in microelectronics. More graduates are required to fill the vacuum of much needed manpower in this specialised area.

For years, TAR College has had technology collaborations with the industry to provide "enterprise solution" to the private sectors. The most recent industrial collaborations include working closely with MIMOS Malaysia on the area of IC layout fabrication.

Altera Penang involved TAR College lecturers in its Train the Trainers workshop the College is chosen as one of the locations to support this workshop. In the workshop, lecturers from Malaysian universities and colleges are specially trained on Altera's Advanced Quartus-II and the latest FPGA Development Board.

Dr Ng Swee Chin, the head of School of Arts and Science of TAR College said, "TAR College has been conducting Microelectronics courses for the past 22 years. We have produced graduates who are well trained in circuit theory, electronic devices, computer controller, I/O interfaces and control as well as IC design."

TAR College offers three streams of Microelectronics courses – Microelectronics and Physics, Microelectronics with Computer Communications and Microelectronics with Automatic Control. The three courses focus on IC design, computer communications and automatic control respectively. Embedded system design, programming (high level and assembly languages), semiconductor physics, computer networking and industrial automation and control are covered in these courses.

On top of the Advanced Diploma in Science, students can also obtain the corresponding BS Degree from Campbell University, US simultaneously without having to leave Malaysia. The College prepares students to sit for the external examination of Campbell University while they do their Advanced Diploma. The dual qualification attained is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, which is the regional body for the accreditation of degree-granting higher education institutions of the Southern states of US.

The website of this body [www.saccoc.org](http://www.saccoc.org).

Another recent collaboration that has taken place was TAR College joining hands with the International Centre of Theoretical Physics, Italy and International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM) in successfully organizing a microelectronics workshop and training on integrated circuit design language for hardware synthesis and FPGA chip implementation. The workshop was held for the very first time in Malaysia and the Asia Pacific region, from June 16 to July 11 last year at IIUM and TAR College. It featured lecturers and speakers from renowned universities in different countries such as Switzerland, France, United States, Italy and Canada, and attracted the participation of educators and researchers from countries in Asia Pacific.

To find out more about the Microelectronics course that is offered at Kuala Lumpur Main Campus, go to [www.tarc.edu.my](http://www.tarc.edu.my) or contact the KL Main Campus at 03-4145 0100.

As for other courses, call the following numbers: 04-899 5230 (Penang), 05-466 0388 (Perak), 07-927 0801 (Johor), 09-231 4185 (Pahang), and 088-718 482 (Sabah).

Application forms for the May intake are available at all campuses, as well as online.