

# Industry-relevant courses

**C**ELEBRATING 40 years of academic excellence, TAR College has always been committed to providing quality and affordable education to young Malaysians. The college's School of Arts and Science (SAS) offers various market-driven programmes, such as chemistry and biology, information systems engineering, business information systems, computer science, microelectronics, Internet technology and interactive software technology.

SAS students have the advantage of obtaining an American degree from Campbell University without having to go overseas. At the advanced diploma level, students are prepared to simultaneously sit for the external examinations that lead to the completion of their Bachelor of Science (BS) Degree conducted by SAS in conjunction with Campbell University. The university is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, USA, to award the BS Degree conducted at TAR College.

To ensure the relevance of its programmes, TAR College has been adopting a proactive approach in identifying the industry needs in its curriculum planning. The college has collaborations and partnerships with specialist organisations and institutions to provide students with the latest industrial applications, technical know-how and software leading to professional and technical certification. Such developments are incorporated into the relevant programmes.

They include incorporation of professional certification curriculum such as Cisco Certified Network Associates (CCNA) and network security into net-



TAR College principal Dr Tan Chik Heok (2nd from left) presenting the top prize to the winning team of the software design competition at the college's ICT Showcase,

working related courses, Novell Certified Linux Professional programmes into information systems programmes, SAP modules into business information systems courses as well as incorporation of the latest programming concepts and tools governed under either Java development teams or Microsoft Developer Network Academic Alliance (MSDN AA) into the respective programme of studies.

Due to the concerted efforts to promote students to go for the CCNA certification, TAR College was awarded "In Recognition of Great Collaborative Efforts for Student

Certification" during the recent 4th Cisco Networking Academy Annual Conference 2009. TAR College was also awarded the "Best Novell Academic Training Partner 2009" at the recent NATP Summit 2009. The NCL Solutions and TAR College collaboration has led to the recent signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on SUSE Linux Innovation Club Evangelist (SLICE) program to mark a higher level of synergy for more new and dynamic collaborative activities.

In addition, TAR College has also been organising the ICT Showcase on an annual

basis since 2006 to expose students to the latest ICT information and communication technologies.

The 2009 ICT Showcase held in November was on a bigger and better scale with the increase in the number of competitions from one competition the previous year to three for last year, namely the TARC Imagine Competition, TARC Networking Skills Competitions and the TARC Business idea Competition.

All these internal competitions are to prepare students for the national level competitions, namely the Microsoft Imagine Cup, Cisco National Networking Skills Competition and also the upcoming MSC IHL Business Plan Competition.

At the 2009 ICT Showcase, TAR College principal Dr Tan Chik Heok said, "This event provides a good platform for students and staff members to learn about the latest ICT technologies from participating companies and also as a platform to foster closer collaborations and to strengthen our friendship with leading ICT organisations."

The success of the showcase also reflects the excellent efforts of the college in providing the right exposure to enhance the students' marketability upon graduation.

To find out more on TAR College's January and May intake, visit their booths at *Star Education Fair* from Jan 9 to 10 2010 (Hall 2, booths B099-101 and B110-112), as well as other major education fairs and roadshows nationwide.

For details, call 03-4145 0100/23 or visit [www.tarc.edu.my](http://www.tarc.edu.my).