

# What's hot among executives

by Chan Seet Fun

THE common goal is to boost your employability and groom yourself for greater responsibility.

And the good news is that there is more than one way of getting there.

Law courses, for instance, have gained popularity, said Ms Ananthi Durairaj, executive director of Intech Management Consultants which specialises in law diplomas and degrees.

"We used to have 60 students. Now, we have 200," she added.

However, the external law degree does not qualify people to practise in Singapore.

Why then do people still take up the course?

"It's not about practising law.

These students are between 30 and 40 years old and have established careers as accountants, engineers and even doctors," she said.

"They are 'upgrading' because they want to be prepared for management roles. As they become part of management, they may have to deal with contracts and negligence suits. Some of them have to deal with lawyers and do not want to be at the losing end."

There is also no shortage of students taking the traditional business degree.

Said Ms Linette Lim, the sales and marketing manager of Times Educational Services: "Students come from banking and finance, marketing, IT and even engineering backgrounds. They're professionals who

want to groom themselves for management."

Ms Lim said the school attracts middle to senior management executives with eight to 10 years of experience.

Another popular course is the Master of Risk Management offered by the TMC Education Group.

TMC's spokesman said: "This course is ideal for middle management professionals from banking and finance who want a leg up in the industry.

"The course familiarises students with the current and best practices, hence preparing them for a wider range of responsibilities."

While management and business-oriented courses remain popular, another "hot" field of study is infor-

mation technology.

TMC offers a higher diploma in computing which enables students to go on to a degree in IT.

Genovate is another company that provides training in IT.

Said Mr Anton Ravindran, its CEO and co-founder: "Based on the most recent trends, we have seen an increase in popularity in wireless LAN, bioinformatics, security, XML, high-end Java and Linux."

Students who sign up for Genovate courses include IT professionals, researchers, accountants and

professionals from the manufacturing industry.

"Upon completing their courses, students are immediately deployable to complex projects as they will be well-versed in the technology from an implementation, maintenance and project management standpoint," added Mr Ravindran.

Still, as the lifespan of technologies decreases, what was popular in the last quarter may not be so sought after in the next quarter.

So, the key is in constant upgrading and lifelong learning.

TODAY • FRIDAY • AUGUST 23, 2002

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