

**SPECIAL**

## The Entrepreneur of the Year Award 2006

Mr J. Anton Ravindran, Genovate Solutions

# When IT calls, go for it

SIX years ago, after having spent more than a decade working in the information technology (IT) industry, 40-year-old J. Anton Ravindran decided to heed his "growing desire to be a technopreneur — someone with a vision, who could carve a place in the IT business community in the region".

And he took the plunge, founding home-grown company Genovate Solutions.

Of his decision then, he says: "The conducive environment created by the Government and the timing prompted me to take the decision, as did the vision to develop innovative products and services."

At that time, Genovate had only a "limited" focus on IT implementation projects and product development.

But under his stewardship over the last six years, Genovate now boasts its own suite of products and services for

the human resources, manufacturing, healthcare and e-learning markets.

Mr Ravindran, group chief executive officer of Genovate, also steered the company's successful expansion into nine countries, with 15 offices within five years. Revenue growth, too, hit an impressive 40 to 50 per cent year-on-year.

With fast-growing business, the company now hires 200 full-time IT professionals in the region. He cites this creation of employment opportunities for his staff as one of his key achievements at Genovate. "I am in a position to offer these people an engaging and long-term career path that is genuine and satisfying," he says.

And for those who are tingling with the idea of starting a business, he has this parting shot: "For budding entrepreneurs, my advice is to not hesitate to take the plunge, and to snare opportunities that do not wait for the less confident."

He adds: "Success is simply a fulfilment of supply to demand — at the right moment, in the right amount — and value created for stakeholders and society."



Mr Ravindran believes in snaring opportunities that do not wait for the less confident.

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