

E-GOVERNANCE

Courses recognise importance of CIOs

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Sooner or later, every organisation has to prepare to implement good governance. A compelling direction will see the roles of the CIO become as significant as that of the CEO, since they have to take responsibility for the organisations' good (corporate) governance.

Jirapon Tubtimhin, secretary general International Academy of CIO (IAC) Thailand, said CIOs will have more responsibilities as more document tend to be prepared in electronic formats and most of an organisation's processes are based on IT tools.

"CIOs thus have to be in charge of the governance," he said.

In a bid to boost the standard of CIO professionals, the International Academy of CIOs (IAC) has signed an MoU with the United Nations University to set up a Global Resource Centre.

The general meeting, which concluded yesterday, was expected to resolve and mark-up some milestones for CIO community development, including establishment of international CIO training centres and a global accreditation program.

Dr Pairash Thajchayapong, who stepped down as the IAC president yesterday, said in the US and Japan, CIO courses have been conducted to degree level, and CIOs of both the government and private sectors can enroll on such courses. In Thailand, Thammasat University's College of Innovative Education will be the Kingdom's awarding CIO university.

Thammasat has adapted the course to run under the Technology Management field for the CIO candidates to carry out their projects in addition to coursework. However, only small numbers of CIOs have so far joined.

In the meantime, Chulalongkorn Uni-

versity has expressed interest in also conducting the CIO courses, either short-term or a complete curriculum, said Dr Suttichai Jitapunkul, Chula Unisearch director, who noted that the IAC was at a stage of academic and research development that should encourage the confidence of foreigners to study in Thailand.

Recently, the Office of the Civil Services Commission and the National Electronics and Computer Technology Centre (Nectec) have been working together training CIOs. Nectec deputy director Dr Virach Sornlertlamvanich said: "CIOs in Japan have been recognised in the IT field and this will be the model to be adapted for Thailand."

He added that the IAC International Forum 2009 was an opportunity to push the CIO courses of Thailand up to international standard.

Jantima Sirisaengtaksin, advisor on ICT's revenue department, noted that the success of e-government initiative also depended on the potential CIO. "We need to build human resources and encourage CIO universities," he said.

The IAC was formed in 2006 by co-founders including Japan, the US, Indonesia, Philippines, Switzerland and Thailand. Membership is gradually expanding to include economies in all regions such as China, Cambodia, Holland, India, Korea, Laos, Macao, Singapore, Taiwan, South Africa, and more.

The IAC's tasks are to establish academic standards based on its research into social phenomenon relating to ICT, facilitate the exchange of information and ideas among members, professionals and individuals in academic, business and government fields, to foster the development of best practice in CIO and CIO Councils with the goal of furthering good e-governance, and to introduce a global CIO standard by uniting academic resources with case studies.