

CENTRE FOR INFORMATION



Mr A Rosunee
Officer-in Charge

INTRODUCTION

The Centre for Information Technology and Systems (CITS) provides central computing support services to University of Mauritius management, administration staff and students. During the year under review CITS technicians attended to 2250 IT support requests and systems analysts and programmers completed 16 computing development, modification or enhancement requests, which amounted to nearly 10,000 staff hours.

A key goal of the Centre is to provide Internet access to student systems. Existing student systems function well; however, there is a clear need to stay abreast of technology and accelerate Internet access to the Student Information Systems (SIS). A major project to web-enable the SIS in a secure environment was undertaken.

Students can now apply for admission, register for classes, access on-line courses and other student facilities via the University Local Area Network and the Internet. During the last admission exercise 43% of applicants preferred the on-line method for submitting their applications. This facility continues to expand and developments which will allow students to look up their grades via the mobile phone are now in the pipe-line.

SUMMARY OF MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MIS Development

The Management Information System (MIS) Department of CITS consolidated, enhanced and maintained Information Systems and on-line services which had already been developed. These were:

- 1 Student Information System;
- 1 Admission and Nominal Roll System;
- 1 Assets and Inventory System;
- 1 Human Resource System;
- 1 Virtual Recruitment System;
- 1 On-Line Posting of Marks System;
- 1 On-Line Application System; and
- 1 On-Line Purchase Requisition System.

In addition to the above, the MIS Department started the development of the following systems:

- 1 On-Line Module Registration System;
- 1 University of Mauritius Payroll System;
- 1 On-Line Staff Profile System; and
- 1 Chemical Stores System.

The above four systems will be duly integrated into the existing MIS.

IT Support Services

Activities undertaken during the year under review included:

- 1 170 Pentium IV Personal Computers were assembled in-house by CITS Technicians and Technical Assistants
- 1 One Intelligent Classroom with PC, RGB Projector and Document Camera was set up in the New Academic Complex.
- 1 Staff spent considerable time handling computer virus protection and cures for infected machines.
- 1 One high performance MIS Server was procured to address the increase in load demand on the existing server.
- 1 One IBM server was procured to run the Oracle Financial System.
- 1 An Electronic Access Control System was installed to monitor physical access to the CITS console room.
- 1 CITS staff worked together with the University Library to prepare a comprehensive bidding document in view of replacing the existing CAIRS Library Management System.

Network Services

During 2002/03, over 5000 student email accounts were created. This means that every full-time student of the University now has an email account.

- 1 A paid laser-printing service was implemented for students
- 1 The Frame-Relay line was upgraded to 512 kbps
- 1 One additional ADSL line was introduced in an effort to provide better Internet Access to students
- 1 180 additional network access points were added to the University Local Area Network

TRAINING

- 1 CITS organised a hands-on training session on CELCAT Time-tabling Software for administrative staff on 11th December 2002.
- 1 CITS organised a demonstration session for Senior Executive Assistants and Executive Assistants on Assets and Inventory System on 4th March 2003.
- 1 CITS organised a 3-day training session on Microsoft Outlook 2000 from 8th to 10th July 2003
- 1 In collaboration with the National Computer Board and the Ministry of Education, the Centre organised a one week training programme Let's Go Surfing Use of Internet to coach 40 CPE students of Louis Serge Coutet Government School, Tombeau Bay from 28th July to 1st August 2003

TRAINING OF CITS PERSONNEL

Name	Institution	Programme	Period
Messrs Arvind Rosunee (Manager IT Services) and Krishna Ramen (Systems Engineer)	Port Elizabeth Technikon South Africa	"Cisco Certified Academy Instructor Training Programme"	14th to 25th April 2003
Mrs T Deal, Mr K Muthen, Mrs R Venethethan (Technicians) and Miss A Maywah (Analyst Programmer)	Formation Recrutement et Conseil en Informatique (FRCI)	Macromedia Web Graphics Courses	23rd June to 4th July 2003
Messrs D Desscan and S Soocheta	Formation Recrutement et Conseil en Informatique (FRCI)	Microsoft Certified Systems Administrator – Windows 2003 Track	2nd July 2003
Messrs A Rosunee, S Soocheta, A Futloo, K Muthen, J Mungra, Ms L Bucktowar and V Maunkee	Port Elizabeth Technikon, South Africa	Cisco Sponsored Curriculum Programme IT Essentials I	21st to 25th July 2003

APPOINTMENTS

Name	Post	Effective Date
Miss Vanishta Maunkee	Technical Assistant	2nd September 2002
Jageeraj Mungra	Technical Assistant	2nd September 2002
Krishnen Muthen	Technician	3rd September 2002
Abhimanyu Dhunessur	Analyst Programmer	1st October 2002
Mrs Taruna Deal	Technician	14th April 2003
Nomadeven Periacarpen	Technician	25th June 2003

STAFF ON LEAVE

- Mrs Vijambal Ponnosamy, Confidential Secretary, was granted extension of leave without pay up to 21st September 2003

RESUMPTION OF DUTY

- Mr Parvahan Kumarsing Bhoonah, resumed duty on 15th July 2003 after two years leave without pay.

RESIGNATION

- Mr Vishaal Ramkhelawon, Technician, resigned on 3rd January 2003.
- Mr Rajesh Ballchand, Technician, who was on leave without pay, resigned on 1st March 2003.

CONSULTANCY

- Proposal to computerise the Documentation and Research Unit of the Rodrigues Human Resource Centre.
- Consultancy Services with reference to Computerisation at the Mahatma Gandhi Institute.

SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS/MEETINGS

- 1 Mr. S. Govinda attended a workshop in Québec, Canada for the setting up of an International Intranet for the CAERENAD Project in December 2002.
- 1 Mr A Rosunee visited Howard University in Washington, D.C and Jackson State University (Jackson, MS) in connection with the Mississippi Consortium for International Development Project from 13th to 24th January 2003.
- 1 Mr. S. Govinda gave a presentation on Secure Electronic Transaction: The Need for a PKI in the Information Security Workshop organized by the Mauritius Research Council, on 7th March 2003.
- 1 CITS organised, jointly with the National Computer Board, an awareness Seminar on Starting up in the ICT Sector on 24th April 2003. This was followed by a 27-hour short course entitled Entrepreneurship in the ICT Sector which started on 14th June 2003. 112 undergraduate and postgraduate students participated in the short course.

CAERENAD PROJECT

Mr. S. Govinda was nominated leader of the PDP36 Infrastructure Technologique project in October 2002.

VISITORS

Mr Renaldo Rheeder from Port Elizabeth Technikon Regional Academy, South Africa, visited CITS from 8th to 9th July 2003.
Mrs Van de Haar from Regional Academy of CISCO, South Africa, visited CITS and took this opportunity to train 7 CITS staff on IT Essentials I from 21st to 25th July 2003.

PUBLICATIONS

A. J. Rodrigues, S. Govinda, Towards an Integrated Management Information System: A case of the University of Mauritius - June 2003 Information Technology for Development 10 (2003), 105, pg 41-56.

M. K. Oolun, S. Govinda, C. Deepchand, M. I. Jahmeebaccus and K. M. S. Soyjaudah, An Internet-based Data Acquisition System via PSTA , 2002 IEEE AFRICON, ELECTROTECHNOLOGICAL SERVICES FOR AFRICA, Vol I, 2 4 October 2002, University of Pretoria, South Africa.

K. M. S. Soyjaudah, M. K. Oolun, I. Jahmeerbaccus and S. Govinda, ICT Development in Mauritius , 2002 IEEE AFRICON, ELECTROTECHNOLOGICAL SERVICES FOR AFRICA, Vol I, 2 4 October 2002, University of Pretoria, South Africa