Tech Seminar

New convergence gears from HP

The Science of Printing: Day 2

NAFID IMRAN AHMED,
back from Singapore

I t was delightful to see a pack of m&m waiting on the table on the concluding day of the two day-long seminar on 'The Science of Printing' at HP's Inkjet Supplies Manufacturing Singapore (IJMS) facility on March 4 -5. But only a few minutes later, during a presentation on Toner Technology by Brett Smith, product support engineer, HP, came the realisation that the m&m had a totally different meaning.

Brett started his interesting demonstration explaining the science of electro-photographic (ep) process that takes place in all HP LaserJet print cartridges and how colour images are created by the combination of four colours in a colour LaserJet printer.

While explaining the design process of the cartridges he elaborated ergonomics, package design, storage, SMART features and environmental aspects. He then exemplified the m&ms with genuine HP colour cartridges. The shape, size and charging properties of these toners are optimised for effective toner transfer and fusing.

An on-hand experiment by scientist Nils Miller helped the participants understand the substrate and coating techniques involved in today's paper technologies. He also talked about HP's latest colourfast photo papers, which are formulated for light-fade and air-fade resistance.

Jean-Claude Vanderstraeten, environmental director and Abhijit Patwardhan, supplies marketing manager, then presented two separate papers on HP's commitment to environmental sustainability and how their inkjet cartridge recycling centre in Australia operates.

Hewlett Packard then unveiled a range of multi-function products and print solutions specially designed for small and medium businesses (SMBs).

The new all-in-one devices include two OfficeJets and three new HP LaserJets, each having the functions of printing, scanning, copying and faxing.

Three latest print applications -- Jet Anywhere, HP FormPort and HP Safe Paper were also released for the purpose of mobility, automation and security.

The HP OfficeJet 9100 has been designed to provide functions of a large multi-function printer such as print, copy, fax and scan and is able to digitally send documents and images to e-mails or a network folder without a computer connection.

"The new all-in-ones deliver custom-made solutions and maximise returns on investment," said Tan Lee Chew, vice-president, Business and Enterprise, HP Imaging and Printing group, Asia Pacific/Japan, speaking on the occasion.

Brett Smith explains colour LaserJet printer technologies

Top: Nils Miller performing an experiment on ink impact on media.
Bottom: An HP official explains the new HP OfficeJet 9100 all-in-one printer.

Tech News

Bringing innovative solutions to market products

SAAD BIN FAZLE HAMMADI

H EWLETT Packard (HP) introduced the intelligent HP Compaq tablet PC -- TC 1100 -- at a lucky draw competition, which started from March 15. HP announced this at an event at a local restaurant.

The architecturally redesigned HP Compaq Tablet PC -- TC 1100 is a versatile and fully functional mobile PC. Its design offers exceptional mobility and versatility for sharing business information and simplifies computing with the added convenience of handwriting. TC 1100 incorporates the integrated wireless Centrino technology with the 802.11b wireless LAN solution and built in Bluetooth technology.

On every purchase of selected HP products, such as iPAQ pocket PC h2210, HP Compaq Business Desktop d220, HP Compaq Notebook nx9010 and HP Proliant servers, consumers will have the opportunity to win a free HP Compaq tablet PC TC 1100 worth 2000 US dollars.

Buyers simply need to register at http://www.selecthp.com/bd/lucky to participate in the lucky draw after purchasing the HP products. The resellers would also receive a free HP iPAQ h5550

HP Compaq tablet PC -- TC 1100

Pocket PC worth $649 on each draw won by their customers. The draw would be performed online at HP Singapore.

Participants are entitled to earn 10 chances for every HP server, 5 for every notebook or workstation, 3 for every desktop, 2 for every TFT monitor and 1 for every HP iPAQ Pocket PC.

HP expects a good response from this promotional package. The competition will continue till April 23 in five weekly draws.

After the launching ceremony of the lucky draw competition, a performance award ceremony for the top HP resellers Personal Systems Group (PSG) was held. Winners of Top Reseller PSG Award 2003 were, National Typewriter Ltd; DNS; Dhaka Business Machine; Technics; Auto Desk Ltd and Orient Computers Ltd.
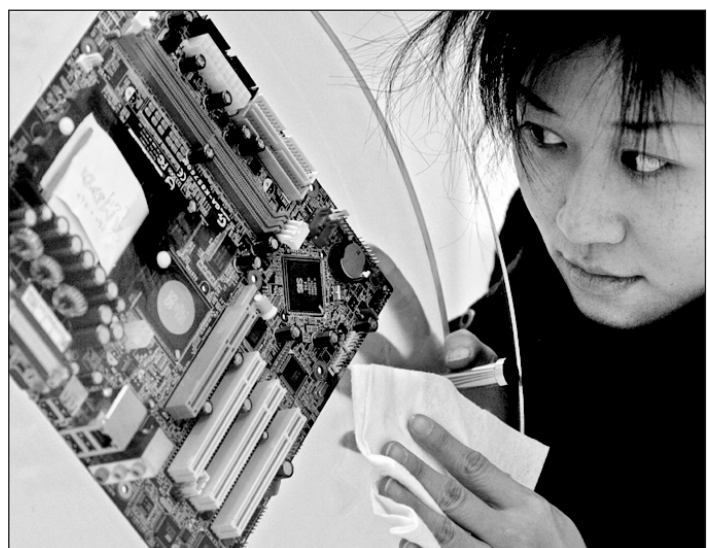
World's biggest tech fair

PHOTO: AFP
An employee shows a computer motherboard prior to CeBIT 2004 computer fair in Hanover on March 14. As of 18 March until 24 March 2004 some 6400 exhibitors from 64 nations will present their products on the world's biggest computer and information technology fair.

Best 10 Websites Category: Sports

Olympic Games
Official site of the world's premier sporting event - the Olympic Games.
http://www.olympics.com/

World Sports Award
Highly prestigious Laureus World Sports Awards.
http://www.laureus.com/

Rugby World Cup 2003
Official website of the Rugby World Cup 2003.
http://www.rugbyworldcup.com/RugbyWorldCup/

FIFA World Cup
Official FIFA World Cup website.
URL: http://fifaworldcup.com/

ESPN
Fast sports portal - comprehensive news, latest scores, fantasy games & more.
URL: http://www.espn.com/

FoxSports
Sports news, links, articles & scores.
URL: http://www.foxsports.com/

CBS SportsLine
Sport articles, news & results.
URL: http://www.sportsline.com/

Rivals
Sports portal with news, latest scores & more.
URL: http://www.rivals.com/

Runner's World
For devotees of track & field.
URL: http://www.runnersworld.com/

CricInfo
For lovers of cricket.
URL: http://www.cricket.org/

Tech Seminar

Insight into the domain of outsourcing

SYED TASHFIN CHOWDHURY

"T HE evasion of communication bottleneck in terms of doing business with the rest of the world is likely to aid the upcoming software companies, focusing toward outsourcing and fetching handsome foreign exchange for Bangladesh," said Sanjay Bhatnagar, director, software development, PCi Corporation, Boston, while sharing his views on the best practices and challenges in global outsourcing at a seminar, on February 23, at IDB bhaban.

Onirban, one of the few software companies who have been channeling foreign currency into the country for quite a while through such outsourcing, organised the seminar.

Chief Technology Officer, PCi Corp, USA, Jamil Azhar's welcome speech started the seminar. "The concerned authority should concentrate on investment towards better resources so as to facilitate and improve the condition of the Information and Technology sector," said Habibullah N. Karim, president, Technohaven Co. and former president of BASIS.

He stressed further on the ways through which, local software firms could be encouraged and thus trained into an efficient workforce catering towards the satisfaction of foreign clients and buyers.

The third speaker at the seminar, Saiful Hasan, chief executive officer, Metronet, shared his experience of being in charge of the project management of the Dhaka Stock Exchange, which Bangladesh outsourced as a client.

He pointed out the problems a software firm may face while trying to cater to foreign clients. Hasan referred to the whole incident as a 'legal nightmare' considering the fact that most employees of the exchange did not want to welcome the drastic changes.

Reportedly, the software is currently operated by 650 users in the Stock Exchange and has been running quite efficiently for the last six years. He also stressed on the point that the client and the software firm, should always have a strong 'trust' relationship, which is the one of the key factors in outsourcing.

After a break, the chief guest at the seminar, Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, vice chancellor of BRAC University, delivered his speech. He pointed out that most of the people including the policy makers had the idea that a lump-some amount to the information and technology sector, would improve the sector within very brief time.

"The concerned authority, should dedicate more time and energy towards ensuring a sound and value-based IT education for the mass," said Chowdhury.

As per outsourcing, the chief guest pointed out that the buyers and the sellers must have extensive knowledge about contracts and their performance.

"Solutions for improvement of the IT sector has already been pointed out in a number of occasions, and we are still awaiting the efforts by the authority toward the completion of these solutions," he concluded.

Onirban then displayed their technologies, which has been outsourced to numerous clients in many countries of the world.

Their first solution, CRAWiz is the market leading (www.eciwiz.com) CRA and HMDA analysis and data reporting system. Compliance professionals at the largest institutions, community banks, mortgage companies, credit unions, consulting firms, law firms, regulatory agencies, and enforcement agencies use this tool to monitor and assess compliance with these regulations. Already CRA Wiz, has satisfied customers like the Bank of America, FFIEC and many others. They also displayed their second product, Wiz Enterprise, which is an extension of the former and took only five months to be developed.

After the product display, Sanjay Bhatnagar, group development manager, PCi, delivered his keynote speech on the topic.

"The differences in the infrastructure of India and Bangladesh has been a huge factor as far as the transactions are concerned," said Bhatnagar. He elaborated that the slow data transfer processes available to the software firms of Bangladesh have been a real handicap towards outsourcing of their products. He also stressed on the problems of process adaptation and also the miscommunications, which occur between companies and the outsourcing agencies.

"The government has to develop the information and communication infrastructure, if they wish to improve the IT sector and thus channel in more foreign currency as revenue with the aid of such firms as Onirban and so on," he concluded.

"We wanted to share our decade long experience as a software outsourcer. And we believe that sharing knowledge and experience can only increase our combined strength" said Jowad Kazi, director operations of Onirban.

Later a 'discussion session' was held, where the visitors discussed and expressed their own view with the speakers and guests.

Speakers at the seminar titled 'Best Practices and Challenges in Global Software Outsourcing'.

Photo Tech

PHOTO: AFP
Toshiba Corporation shows off its 0.85-inch hard disk drive (HDD) at the headquarters in Tokyo on March 16. Toshiba announced that the Guinness World Records has certified it as the smallest HDD in the world. With initial capacities up to four gigabytes, the drive delivers enhanced storage to smaller, lighter, more efficient products. The company expects to start mass production of the drive in autumn 2004.

Tech News

Deep-sea robot to broadcast images straight to internet

AFP, *Bremen*

A new deep-sea robot is to be deployed in the northern Pacific and send back images from the ocean depths to the Internet as part of a global research project on underwater ecosystems.

The International University Bremen (IUB) in northern Germany presented a prototype Monday of the Deep Sea Crawler, which can transmit measurements and video footage from depths of up to 6,000 meters (19,700 feet) below the sea to the Internet using a web camera connected to a fiber optic cable.

Until now, such research devices required the costly presence of research ships.

The robot was developed for use with deep-sea observatories planned by the International Research Consortium on Continental Margins, grouping experts from around the world, said Laurenz Thomsen, a professor for marine studies at the IUB.

The consortium is working on a number of global projects such as an early warning system for earthquakes and tsunamis and hopes the robot will provide insight into ecological changes.

After a test phase beginning late in 2004, the robot, which cost 30,000 euros (36,670 dollars) to develop, will be placed near unmanned underwater stations along the northwest coast of the United States. A similar project on earthquake research is also planned for the eastern Mediterranean.

The images will be accessible on the website www.deepseacam.com.

Thomsen said the system, which was developed by US and

Light effects seen through fiber optic cables. The Deep Sea Crawler, can transmit measurements and video footage from depths of up to 6,000 meters (19,700 feet) below the sea to the Internet using a web camera connected to a fiber optic cable.