

Project Title: A Study of Relevancy of College - Level  
Computer Curricula to the Market Needs.

Name of the Investigator: Mrs. Taksina Savanananda

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#### ABSTRACT

This study attempts to find out whether there is a relevancy of college-level computer curricula to the market needs.

The scope of the study is limited to five curricula namely, 1. Computer Engineering curriculum offered by Faculty of Engineering, Chulalongkorn University; 2. Computer Engineering curriculum offered by King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang 3. Electronic Data Processing Curriculum offered by Department of Statistics, Faculty of Commerce and Accountancy, Chulalongkorn University 4. Computer Science Curriculum offered by Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science, Chiangmai University and 5. Business Computer curriculum offered by Assumption Business Administration College. All five curricula received approval from the Ministry of University Affairs and have produced graduates into the work force.

Data were collected from four types of questionnaires sent out to 174 fourth year students who were graduating

within 30 days from the day of the questionnaires were issued, 190 graduates who were currently in the work force, and 93 employers. Interviews were also conducted with 8 experts in the field.

Major findings include :

1. As computer technology advances extremely fast, graduates in different years therefore were exposed to different learning experiences.

2. At present, system analysts are mostly needed in the computer professional market, followed by programmers. Not as many computer engineers are demanded as it should be.

3. In connection with the study of relevancy of five computer curricula to the market needs, the research found that :

3.1 There is not a complete relevancy of the Computer Engineering curriculum offered by the Faculty of Engineering, Chulalongkorn University, to the market needs. However, graduates in this program are able to conduct system analysis since the actual teaching and learning do not correspond only to the name of the curriculum. Therefore, graduates from this curriculum were found to be quite successful in their career, that is, they could all be one of these three, i.e. computer engineers, system engineers or system analysts.

3.2 The Computer Engineering curriculum offered by Faculty of Engineering, King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang is not relevant to the market needs because the objective of this curriculum, not like that of Chulalongkorn University, is to produce computer engineers. Therefore, both faculty members and students expressed a

wish to change the curriculum so that it would be more relevant to the market needs.

3.3 The Electronic Data Processing curriculum offered by Department of Statistics, Faculty of Commerce and Accountancy, Chulalongkorn University, has so far produced more graduates than other programs. The objective of the curriculum is so broadly stated that even some faculty members have difficulties in pinpointing what the curriculum aims at producing. Nevertheless, many of the graduates from this program are currently working in the banking industry though most of them lack financial, banking or even business background. However, they, more or less master in programming which also meets the demand of the market.

3.4 The Computer Science curriculum offered by the Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Science, Chiangmai University, is highly relevant to the market needs. The teaching and learning correspond to the stated objectives, that is, to produce system analysts and programmers.

3.5 The Computer Business curriculum offered by the Assumption Business Administration College whereby as many business administration subjects are required as computer courses, are also highly relevant to the market needs. The opinions that students and graduates have of the objectives of the curriculum correspond to the needs of the market for system analysts and programmers. Although faculty's opinions on the objectives of the curriculum to produce system analysts also correspond with the market needs, most faculty neglect the importance of producing programmers which the market also needs. However, the many business administration foundation courses required of all students

in this program make graduates meet the demand of the market even more.