Anglo-Chinese School (Independent) recently won the innovate IT Challenge with Dunman High School and NgeeAnn Polytechnic coming in as 1st and 2nd runner-up respectively. innovateIT is organized by the students of the School of Information Systems, Singapore Management University, on 08 December 2007 as part of the National Infocomm Competition.

Participants are given a real-life inspired business scenario to prove their skills in business-IT integration. In addition, students are required to present their ideas in the form of a technically feasible business proposal to convince the judges.

The winning team consisted of members Joel Khoo, Li Haoyi and Ronald Ip. Speaking about the formula for success, Khoo said, “While everyone (you and me inclusive) has the capability for creative winning ideas, they are meaningless unless you can convey to the audience at the receiving end that your idea suits their needs.”

He adds that this practical approach is important, as well as having strong faith that your ideas can work. Lack of faith in your ideas can be seen through the body language.

Khoo also mentioned that the challenge laid in being upbeat about their pitch, and believing that it will stand out and resonate well with the judges even though many teams before them may have showcased more unique ideas.

Besides turning to their creativity in developing an effective business-IT integration program, the participants also got to hone their skills on convincing the audience that their idea was the best. With innovation touted as a key to success in the business world today, perhaps we should not forget that innovation is not the only ingredient to success. As Khoo said, “You do not need keen business sense, but you do need to be clear-headed and prepared when the time comes for you to sell your idea to the world.”

ACS (I) tops the innovateIT Challenge by empowering the customers and enhancing their shopping experience. Their idea was to use the existing technologies such as touchscreen displays, wireless internet and barcode scanners and then incorporating them unto a portable device. This device would enable the customer to browse through the wide range of products as well as product information and reviews.