SMEs get help to move up innovation ladder

By Jo-Ann Huang | Posted: 26 March 2010 2224 hrs

SINGAPORE: Small and medium-sized enterprises can count on a new pilot training programme to move up the innovation ladder.

The programme by the Singapore Management University aims to train SMEs in innovation methods and management.

It will also pair the companies with SMU students, who will inject fresh ideas. The students will serve internships with the SMEs from April to August.

Desai Narasimhalu, Practice Professor of Information Systems, Singapore Management University (SMU), said: "They will help to set up the processes within the small and medium-sized enterprise. They are also probably going to help design some form the SMEs would use."

"And we are also trying to link small and medium enterprises to I-SCORE, a process that Spring Singapore has defined to benchmark any establishment on whether they are innovative or not."

SMU said it has been working on the pilot programme for the last 3 to 6 months and plans to offer it annually.

The programme has so far tossed up suggestions like a membership scheme and having an emergency house-call service.

Hardware store Home Fix is one company taking advantage of the programme.

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