A MEICOM TRAILWALKER

The record of 100 kilometres in 43 hours 39 minutes may not mean anything to you, but to the 2008 MEICOM team it meant unity, determination and perseverance. The trailwalker distance of 100 kilometers was from Sai Kung to Tuen Mun, which is equivalent to going round the Hong Kong stadium 250 times. The route was very hilly - there were about 20 hills with the highest being about 1000 metres to give an idea of the scale, the International Finance Centre, or the IFC, is 415m tall. In fact at least six of the hills we climbed were taller than the IFC.

This is the second year that a MEICOM Team has joined the Trailwalker event and the team members this year were Alga Ma (Captain), Patrick Chan (coach), Michael Tsui and myself. The coach in charge was Vins Fong. This was Michael’s and my first attempt, Algae’s third and Patrick’s second. The team finished the walk, surprisingly, withain no injuries or cramps but understandably in a state of extreme exhaustion.

To me, accomplishing this walk was a miracle. I am a person who is not too keen on sport. I remember at the end of my first training session, which was a four-hour walk of an easy route, I could barely walk and it took me a few days to recover. In my second training session, which was a six-hour walk, I thought I had broken my thigh bone towards the end of the walk. I was just too tired! After I finished the 100 km trailwalk on November 9, I was able to attend a business function in a hotel ballroom wearing high heels the following evening. Wasn’t that amazing?

In the last mile of our walk, we had to walk by a ditch. Vins constantly reminded us to walk on the left hand side to avoid falling into the ditch, which was on our right. There were accidents in previous trailwalker events as people were so tired that they stepped into the ditch, hurt themselves and had to be hospitalised. I said to Vins, “In case I fall into the ditch, don’t send me to the hospital. Let me climb back up to the road, crawl to the finish line, and have my number registered with the organiser first. And only then dispatch me to the hospital!” We were determined to finish the walk!

The distance covered by our five months of training was more than 400 km. I have to pay tribute to Vins and Patrick for not giving up on me, to Algae who walked with me and encouraged me all the time during training, and to Michael for giving me tips and support to carry on.

Training is important. Having a great coach is even more important. Vins designed the training program and developed the strategy of who, when and where to provide food, to replenish supply and to walk with the team in certain routes. Both Vins and Patrick taught us the techniques of trailwalking, what food and drink to bring for the walk, the gear to take along, the kit for the walk. The training focused on our physical fitness for the walk and built up our psychological readiness. This was not just a walk but an endurance involving a wealth of knowledge (I know this sounds grand, but I really mean what I say).

We also had a windfall from this event - the team lost over 50 lbs in five months. Look at the picture and guess who lost the most weight!

If you are interested in experiencing this unforgettable once in a lifetime opportunity, you may contact the MEICOM Board at sig-sports@ecom.hku.hk. There will be another MEICOM team participating in the trailwalker event in 2009. See you there! A converted Maria Bong!

PROGRAMME OFFICE UPDATES

NEW MODULES TO BE OFFERED

Two new ICOM modules will be introduced in the third semester 2008-09. They are:

ICOM6036 A practical introduction to business intelligence - This module will be taught by Dr. Joachim Hammer. It will cover the technology pillars of BI namely data collection and transformation, data warehousing including master data management, and reporting & analysis.

ICOM6037 The new telecommunications landscape: convergence to Internet protocol, seamless mobile communications, and new services - This module will be taught by Professor Foad Tobagi. It exposes students to advances in telecommunications, encompassing new technical solutions as well as new services.

ECOM/COMP EXPERTS ADDRESS

The Ecom/Comp Experts Address series is designed primarily to keep students and alumni of our programme up-to-date with the information technology and electronic business trends around the world, and given by our visiting instructors around the world.

Mr. Sampson Lee started the series off for the new academic year of 2008-09 by presenting on 16 October on experience science management. He explained how experience science management used time-tested theories and uncommon principles in a structured approach for experience design and innovation.

In November, Professor Roger Clarke gave the talk “An eCommerce Perspective on Carbon Trading”. His presentation provided a preliminary examination of the nature of carbon trading, from the perspective of electronic commerce theory and practice.

Mr. Peter Looms gave the talk “E-Inclusiveness - IT for some or for all?” on 3 December. He focuss on a number of key terms to do with inclusive design, outlined the main challenges facing work of this kind and suggested approaches that can be followed to move from exclusion to e-inclusiveness.

Upcoming seminar:

In February, Professor Bevo White will present his talk on “The Emergence of Web Science”. He will discuss how the technology might evolve and how we can be prepared for the future Web.

The slides and video recording of most of the addresses are available on our web site: http://www.ecom-icom.hku.hk/seminar/

ADMISSION 2009

We are now inviting applications for 2009 September admissions. Updated information can be found in the programme web site and brochure. If your friends or colleagues are interested in our programme, please ask them to contact the Programme Office.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) COURSES

Graduates are welcome to enroll in MSc(ECOM&Comp) modules for continuing and professional development purpose. We will offer the new modules as CPD courses to our graduates of enrolment. Quota allows. Information about CPD courses is published on the programme web site in September, December, and May. Watch out for our email notification if you are interested!

GRADUATE DIRECTORY

To stay in touch with the Programme and with your fellow graduates, the Programme Office provides a graduate directory for you to update your contact information and look for other graduates. So don't forget to tell us if you have moved, changed your telephone number or email address. You could check to make sure that your information is correct and up-to-date.

http://www.ecom-icom.hku.hk/graduate-info/