MIDAS launches University-Industry Collaboration

Singapore, February 4th 2008: MIDAS, Singapore's Semiconductor Association, today launched a University-Industry Collaboration. This initiative is targeted to foster proactive communication and interactions between the universities and semiconductor industry partners of MIDAS. The semiconductor industry partners include foundries, IDMs, fabless companies, assembly and test houses, EDA vendors and IC design solution providers. The collaboration allows for joint projects, technology transfers, industrial attachments for students and recruitment of graduating students.

This collaboration encompasses & focuses on mainly 3 areas:

(i) Student Professional Development and Recruitment

This includes Industrial Attachment (IA) for students from universities like for NTU and NUS. Students are placed in the companies for either six or nine months working on projects which range from product design and testing to manufacturing. This gives the students the practical industrial experience which helps them to better appreciate the concepts when they return to the university for their final year.

Together with the Economic Development Board (EDB), scholarship will be offered for final year students to specialize in IC design and microelectronics. The scholarship is offered under the IC design / microelectronics Specialist Manpower Programme (SMP).

Many of MIDAS members participate in campus recruitment of graduating students.

(ii) Educational Activities

- Along with IEEE Singapore and experts drawn from academia and industry, workshops, tutorials, seminars and conferences will be organized to help members keep abreast of the latest developments in the industry with insight into real work experiences.

- Industry members will be invited by the universities to provide inputs for curriculum design so that it stays abreast of the industry's requirements.

- Tours to IC design centres and foundries will be organized for the academia to gain industry insight.

- Design competitions for students will be held and excellence awards will be presented to outstanding students as an encouragement for them to excel in relevant subjects in IC design and microelectronics.

(iii) Research and Development Collaborations

By working closely with the faculty of the universities, the industry can have a first hand knowledge of the research work carried out. This helps in facilitating the industry to tap into new business opportunities as well as the universities in transferring the knowledge from the laboratories to commercialization. Industry participants will sponsor graduate students to investigate a particular area of interest.

Speaking at the launch, Prof Yeo Kiat Seng, Associate Professor of School of Electrical & Electronic Engineering and Head of Division of Circuits and Systems, NTU and who spearheads this collaboration said, **"**The semiconductor industry remains an important economic driver for Singapore and it is crucial that we develop the manpower to meet this growth. NTU has established strengths in semiconductor and IC design and has strong ties with the industry. Our research groups in semiconductor and IC design are among the top few worldwide. I am sure that this University-Industry collaboration initiative will provide engineering students with an opportunity to tackle challenges facing the semiconductor and IC design industry. This is an important work that will accelerate technological innovation, scientific advancement and engineering excellence. It will also provide a valuable channel for exercising the robustness of commercial technologies for advanced applications."

Commenting as an industry partner, Mr. Kenneth Law, Deputy Department Manager at an industry partner, Panasonic Semiconductor Singapore said, "We hope that the formal launch of the University-Industry collaboration initiative will see more programs promoted to enhance the co-operation between the universities and the semiconductor industry. To address the manpower shortage issue, Panasonic has been co-operating for many years with the universities to develop skilled IC Design manpower, by offering scholarships at the undergraduate level and postgraduate level. The training of IC Design engineers requires long term, intensive and specialized training programs. Besides manpower collaboration, Panasonic also had worked together with the universities in research collaboration themes. It is important to recognize that through such kind of university-industry collaboration, we are able to tap the best talents of the research community, working in tandem with the industry, in order to meet the long term practical needs of the industry."

* More details on this scholarship can be found at:
http://www.ntu.edu.sg/eee/students/beng/full_time/scholarship.asp

** More information of career fair can be found at:
http://www.ntu.edu.sg/opawww/careermall/

About MIDAS

MIDAS is a premier organization representing Singapore's semiconductor community. Established in 2005, it includes members from leading semiconductor companies as well as universities. It is committed towards fostering an active collaboration between the various entities in the semiconductor eco system of Singapore.

For more information, please visit www.midas.org.sg

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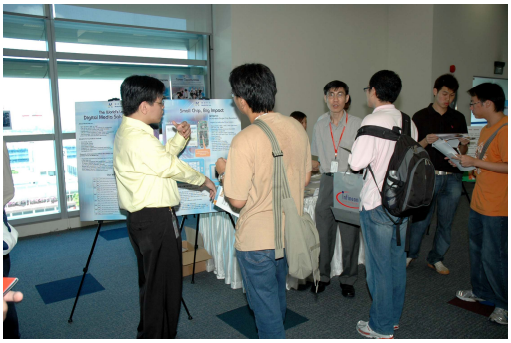

Career Fair 2007

Industry Collaboration

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