

Informatics unveiled the Bird Flu contingency plans for its students

> **Agony of international students and their families: Study schedule may be disrupted by the external environment caused by Bird Flu**

21 November 2005, Singapore – The threat of disruption to education is very real for students in bird flu affected countries.

'The bird flu virus H5N1 has circulated largely among flocks in Asia, though it has spread to birds in 16 countries, including Russia and parts of Europe. In all, more than 140 million birds have been killed to stem its spread, which scientists blame on migratory birds.

So far, the disease does not appear to infect people easily, with the WHO having tallied just 121 human cases. But, unlike other forms of influenza, it has a high mortality rate -- 62 of those cases proved fatal.

Health experts fear that it could mutate and acquire the ability to infect large numbers of people. Should that happen, without immediate and effective interventions to contain it, the global impact could be incalculable.

There have been three pandemics in the past century, and global health experts say the world is overdue for another.'

[Source: CNN.com 'Bush to unveil bird flu strategy' article on 1 November 2005]

Students and their families may be concerned about the spread of flu virus which may affect classes conducted in the campuses across the affected country during this time of the year. Many foreign students may return to their homes in the respective countries in the event of a pandemic.

The flu virus changes every year, one vaccine probably will not combat the following year's virus.

As such, the threat of disruption to education is very real for students studying in bird flu affected countries. The threat is even bigger for foreign students who incur huge financial investment in an overseas education.

Informatics, a global leader in providing quality lifelong education has make plans to protect students against the risk of not being able to continue or complete their education as schedule in the event of a pandemic.

"For the majority of our programmes, students will be able to switch from their face-to-face classes to either the Capstone mode of learning or 100% e-Learning via PurpleTrain.com in the event of a pandemic. Capstone mode of learning or e-Learning could prove to be a critical



advantage in the event of a pandemic for both local and foreign students. Students can carry on with their lessons via an alternative platform even if they have to return to their home countries or be confined at home. It will be a seamless transition from the tradition classroom mode of learning.” Mr. Lawrence Wee, Vice President of Global Higher Education and PurpleTrain.com – Informatics Group

The very nature of Purple Train's e-Learning concept makes it literally Flu-proof. Not a single aspect or participant in its e-learning process can be disrupted nor can it be threatened by external environment caused by the Bird Flu. Students, course facilitators, backend administrators - are able to communicate and interact freely with each other online but physically and safely separated. In the event of a pandemic, international students who need to return to their home country will be offered to switch over to an alternative mode of learning like e-Learning on PurpleTrain or even the Capstone.

Students are also given a choice to complete their education via the Capstone mode of learning whereby tutorials can be attended locally to supplement the e-Learning education. As long as there is internet connectivity, Informatics students can complete their education as scheduled.

“Concentrate on their studies and leave the rest to us.” Added Lawrence

About PurpleTrain.com

PurpleTrain.com, the global e-Learning provider, started out as Asia's first e-Learning provider in 1999. It is the largest e-Learning provider outside the United States, with over 72,000 e-users, and offers Business, IT education and Health Sciences programmes, corporate training courses and education-related services.

PurpleTrain.com firmly supports continuous lifelong learning and provides students from all over the world with access to internationally renowned courses anytime, anywhere with minimal disruptions to their work and other obligations, and without having to leave home.

By combining innovative technology with world-class training content, PurpleTrain.com offers companies and individuals a high value, quality and effective online training solution. Its online courses range from Master and Bachelor degree programmes to diplomas and certificates, ranging from technical level to management level to cater for the varied needs of corporations and professionals.

Please visit www.purpletrain.com

About Informatics Group

The Informatics Group, listed on the Mainboard of the Stock Exchange of Singapore, was established in 1983, and is a multinational corporation providing lifelong learning services in information technology and business management. Informatics presently has a global network spanning more than 50 countries, offering programmes from O/A Levels (for international students) to undergraduate and postgraduate degrees. The Company has won many awards including the Singapore Brand Awards 2002 and 2003, the Singapore Quality Class for Private Education Organisations (SQC for PEO) as well as the People Developer Standards Award. In July year 2005, Informatics attained CaseTrust for Education, a scheme by the Consumer Association of Singapore to certify companies that have foundation for good quality student welfare practices and standards. Informatics has achieved the Golden Brand Award for the Education sector in Sep year 2005. The Golden Brand Award for the Education sector is a competition organized by the organizers of the International Brand Summit 2005. This award aims to give recognition to local and China enterprises for the good work done in building their companies' brands. The International



Brand Summit (IBS) is an event held in conjunction with Global Entrepolis @Singapore 2005 a mega event jointly presented by the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB) and the Singapore Business Federation. The IBS is organized to increase awareness on the importance of branding among local and regional enterprises and also to stimulate the growth of Singapore's brands and enterprises locally and regionally. For more information, please visit <http://www.informaticsgroup.com>.

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