

# Informatics poised to gain up to 540 students from rival

## Windfall due to AIT Academy's scrapping of string of courses

By DANIEL BUENAS

EDUCATION services provider Informatics Holdings looks set to gain up to 540 students from rival firm AIT Academy after the latter decided to discontinue some of its courses in business, IT, and other disciplines.

"AIT seeks the help of Informatics to assist its students to continue with their studies," Informatics said in response to BT queries.

"Informatics has made its offer to some 540 of AIT students taking language, business and IT courses, as we conduct similar courses that could readily absorb these students."

AIT Academy is a private education services provider which runs courses in business, IT and language. It was registered under the Education Act by the Ministry of Education in February, 2003.

The school also offers courses in hospitality management, early childhood education, mass communications and sports management, and conducts classes

at two campuses — Stamford Road and Prince Edward Road.

It is understood that AIT has an enrolment of around 900 students, the majority of whom are from China.

When contacted yesterday, managers and staff of AIT declined to speak to BT, although one staff member insisted that the school was not closing.

However, industry sources said that the courses which AIT were terminating represented more than half of what the school currently offers, and that the school has already begun informing its stu-

dents of their discontinuation.

Some insiders say that AIT's move could be related to new regulations that requires all private education organisations that want to enrol international students to have CaseTrust for Education status.

The CaseTrust for Education scheme is a Consumers Association of Singapore (Case) initiative for the education industry in Singapore, and is aimed at protecting international students.

When contacted, Case said that it had received and was reviewing an ap-

plication for CaseTrust status from AIT, although the company had been told to provide "corrective measures" to their application.

"In this case, I understand the company is still undergoing assessment," said Case executive director Seah Seng Choon.

"We haven't got any report from the assessor yet, so I can't comment on whether they have met the standards yet."

Meanwhile, Informatics said yesterday that AIT students would be able to start their courses at its facilities from next week.