

9 Campus Development

INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES

IFT campus is made up of three buildings, all constructed at different phases. The first block is Pousada de Mong-Há. It had been converted from military barracks. After careful adaptation during all these years, it has become a theme hotel with a combination of Chinese and Portuguese cultural characteristics. Its facilities include: 20 guest rooms, front office for practical training, conference room, business centre, gymnasium, Pousada kitchen and restaurant.

The second block is the campus building. Its facilities include: regular classrooms, computer laboratory, multimedia laboratory, bar and wine classroom, auditorium, theatre, outdoor multi-purpose court and the Registry.

The third block mainly accommodates the facilities for practical classes, such as Educational Restaurant, educational kitchens, kitchens for practical training and educational warehouse. The Multimedia Library is also located in this block.

Enhancement of Infrastructure and Facilities

In order to cope with educational needs, some necessary expansion and reconstruction works had been carried out, by IFT, on regular classrooms, multimedia laboratory and mock up and show room.

The road section between the entrance of Colina de Mong-Há and IFT is made up of a narrow mountain slope and many curves. In addition, parking spaces are very limited. As a result, IFT students, staff and visitors had long been

annoyed by parking difficulties. Seeing this problem, IFT began constructing a three-storey carpark which can accommodate 72 vehicles. The construction work was completed in August 2002.

For the purpose of the cooking class in the Professional Knowledge and Skills Training Programme, the construction work of 6 educational kitchens was also carried out in August 2002. The project was completed in October.

To cope with the rapid growth of the tourism and hospitality industry, it is necessary to increase educational infrastructure and facilities. For this reason, a new campus building has been planned to be built.

Environmental Protection

Since IFT is situated in the natural reservation zone of Colina de Mong-Há, the implementation of all foundation works must give priority to the protection of the natural environment. Limited by the environment, some expansion projects had been revised. However, IFT had made every effort to explore, from limited spatial resources, areas for development so as to solve the problem of insufficient infrastructure and facilities. The project design and the construction works had taken into consideration the conservation of the natural green surroundings. For example, when the carpark was being constructed, the plants were moved to another place. Consolidation works of the slope and of the earth were also carried out. All of these were to ensure the stability of the buildings and the balance of the natural environment.

Fire Safety

All students and staff participated in the regular fire drill conducted in November 2002. They also attended the seminar about fire prevention organized by the Fire

Brigade. Recently, additional fire prevention equipment had been installed in Pousada de Mong-Há and in the second block, with the related system being enhanced gradually.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

IT Infrastructure Enhancement

In response to the increasing number of students in the Academic Year 2001/02, the number of computers in the Computer Laboratory has been increased to 56. Two years ago, wireless network was implemented in the Multimedia Library only. Now, wireless network covers most public areas of IFT. As the number of mobile users is increasing, it is planned to extend wireless network coverage to the whole campus. Regarding Internet application, the bandwidth of the Internet leased line has been raised from 256kbps to 512kbps. An Anti-virus system of gateway level has also been installed.

Improving Administrative Efficiency with IT

During the past seven years, the Information Technology Team (ITT) has developed and maintained electronic data processing systems for various offices and departments, such as Student Information Management System for the Registry and Account System, Payroll System and Personnel System for the Financial & Administrative Affairs. Furthermore, the establishment of the IFT Smart Card System is a big step towards the accomplishment of the e-campus concept. The Smart Card offers the functions of identification, access control, electronic cash transactions and attendance management.

LIBRARY SERVICE

During the Academic Year 2001/02, IFT Multimedia Library made changes and improvements in different aspects including service hours, collections and facilities.

Prolonged Library Service Hours

In response to users' request, the library service hours on Saturdays have been prolonged to 18:00. As a result, the library service hours are as follows:

Monday to Friday	09:00-21:00
Saturday	10:00-18:00
Sundays and Public Holidays	closed

Advancement in Library Service

The homepage of IFT Multimedia Library was established in 2001. With the library website, users could keep track of new changes of the library and enquire about library information. In addition, the 'Recommended Projects of IFT Students System (Full-text)' was introduced in 2002.

Enrichment of Library Collection

The library has a sustainable growth of collections

in tourism and hospitality management. In year 2001/02, the overall collection of books in the library was increased by 10% which made up a total of 13,415 volumes, while the non-printed materials also had an increase of 4%. In addition to increasing reference materials, the library also subscribed to three online databases.

On-line Journals Databases

In addition to its 185 printed journals and 71 newsletters from various associations and international organizations, the library subscribed to the Emerald MCB University Press online journal database, with special discounts, through the electronic journals consortium. With this database, users can view, on the Internet, any articles from about 135 titles of the Emerald Intelligence and Fulltext database.

Databases for the M.I.C.E. Industry

To satisfy the users' demand for reference resources about the M.I.C.E. industry, the library started to subscribe to the ICCA Corporate Database and to the ICCA Association Database.

Improvement of Facilities

One laser printer and five computers were added to the library in 2002. At the same time, the operating system of the computers was upgraded to Window 2000 with 256MB RAM. Moreover, Internet connection in the library had been changed from leased line to broadband access, thus improving the speed for downloading online information. In addition to the 9 desktop computers, wireless network has also been introduced in the library. Therefore, users can now get access to the Internet and

to the IFT network with their own laptop computers in every corner inside the library.

Other Ongoing Project

The original library system does not allow off-campus access to the online library catalogue and was thus substituted by Horizon. In addition to the online search function, users themselves can also place renewals and reservations for any library items through the Internet.