DCP ‘project eyeball’ in the news

Team talks about the importance of mentorship in the creativity process

THEIR project, Portable Android-based Retina Scanner (PARS) caught the eye of a Straits Times writer. The Design-Centric Programme (DCP) team, Dr Liaw Hwee Choo, Ms Lim Shi Qi and Ms Lee Wei Ting were barely nine weeks into their project, when they were featured in The Straits Times as part of a supplement celebrating Professional Engineers Board Day of Dedication on 9 November.

Their project is to design and develop a Portable Android-based Retina Scanner (PARS) that is cost-effective in capturing retinal images and which can provide analyzing capabilities, Retinal images can be monitored to help doctors identify symptoms of various diseases such as glaucoma, diabetes and macular degeneration. Devices currently available for such monitoring are bulky and expensive. Hence, the team targets to develop a hand-held scanner that is easy and convenient to use, but is yet affordable. Their scanner will also be able to store patients’ records so that doctors have a clear understanding of the development of their conditions.

The team told the reporter that mentoring contributes very much in helping them break down complex projects through brainstorming.

Said Ms Lim, "I have no experience in optics at all. I was worried at first, as to whether I could even complete the project. Dr Liaw also encouraged us not to give up and gave us a lot of moral support."

Added Ms Lee, "When I first looked at datasheets, I did not know where to begin, or where to look. Dr Liaw provided valuable guidance."

All agree that in coming out with solutions for real world problems, open communication, sharing of knowledge and teamwork is essential. And that in essence, is what Design-Centric Programme is about.