

Certification scheme for credit managers launched

By **MANDE KHIN**

A CERTIFICATION scheme modelled after the Certified Credit Executive programme of the United States was launched in Singapore yesterday to give credit managers here having the right amount of training and experience due recognition.

Launched by the Singapore Association of Credit Management (SACM) and DP Information Group (DP

Info), the SACM-DP Certification programme seeks to enhance the awareness of the credit management profession and give its practitioners more recognition.

A company's credit professional manages the company's cash-flow items, like account receivables, and the ability to do this is "crucial to the success and failure of a business", said SACM's president Grace

Wong. "However, we feel that for too long credit managers here have been overshadowed by their more high-profile siblings — the asset and fund managers," she added.

To become a certified credit manager (CCM) in Singapore, an applicant has to complete three stages of the SACM-DP Certification programme.

David How, SACM's vice-president, reckons it

will take 2-5 years for an applicant to become a CCM and said the exact length of time will depend on how much professional experience in credit management the applicant already has.

Modules under the certification programme start from about \$500 for a two-day course and the programme is open to anyone with at least an O-level education, he added.

Mr How said the SACM-

DP Certification programme is modelled after the Certified Credit Executive programme of the US National Association of Credit Management.

DP Info's role in the certification programme is to provide credit information tools and help with credit models and techniques, said DP Info's general manager Ong Siew Kim.

Last night, 21 credit professionals were awarded

the CCM certification, and SACM's Ms Wong said her association was to have another 100 applicants working towards the certification by year-end.

SACM is also in discussions to get organisations like the Singapore Business Federation, Singapore National Employers' Federation and the Singapore Manufacturers' Federation to recognise the SACM-DP Certification.