

SHOTS offset print training simulator changes teaching model

The first Asia Customer Meeting for Sinapse Print Simulators has been successfully held at the Beijing Institute of Graphic Communication on April 22-24. At the meeting, attendees discussed the current real conditions of print simulators used in teaching activities and skills competitions, and outlined the roadmap for the future development. Zhang Xiaowen, Associate Director of the Department of Print Engineering at Tianjin Vocational Institute, made a special presentation on the changes brought by print simulators to teaching.



Zhang Xiaowen, Associate Director of the Department of Printing Engineering at Tianjin Vocational Institute

Tianjin Vocational Institute is an ordinary higher education institution specializing in fostering high-quality skilled specialty talents. The major of Packaging Technology and Design of the Department of Print Engineering has received strong fiscal support from the central government, while the major of Printing Technology has become one of the pilot programs in Tianjin's teaching reform. In 2003, Tianjin Vocational Institute officially established the Department of Print Engineering, which included four majors, Packaging Technology and Design, Printing Technology, Printing Graphic Information Processing, and Printing Equipment and Technique. The Campus Printing Training Center, a practical training project invested and constructed by the Institute as part of its eleventh five-year plan, offers students systemic practical trainings. Through addressing the needs for packaging and printing design, printing plate-making, offset printing operating technologies, post-printing processing

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technologies, digital printing technologies and other hands-on trainings, students can learn their printing skills required by printing businesses as they are in a real production scenario.

During the training, the institute found that the chief operator plays a crucial role in the operation of an offset printing press, because the quality and output of products from the device will be satisfying if the chief operator has solid theoretical knowledge about printing, as well as rich hands-on experience and rapid response capabilities. However, the training of an excellent chief operator, including the cost and time of practical operation training, is high for printing businesses and schools.

In terms of teaching, the introduction of the SHOTS offset press training simulator strengthens the students' skills and cuts the training costs by improving the effect of practice teaching and reducing the time of training on printing operation skills greatly. The simulator is proven to be an effective aid in the skills development and training of qualified printing operators. The institute bought multiple SHOTS offset press training simulators in late 2008 and led the way in applying the system in the training and teaching of printing operation practice.

In the teaching process, 30 students in one class, for example, are divided into 10 teams of three students each for participating in synchronous training and discussion. Teachers provide pithy explanation about the courses and detailed analysis on project exercises, as well as offer students with training on project analysis and troubleshooting. Students with high enthusiasm in leaning join in lively discussions and most of them give warm responses to the system. They are able to grasp printing operation skills more quickly and effectively, while have learned more knowledge by a more vivid way and they have improved their abilities in analyzing and solving printing operation problems with skills training on press operation.

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