



PART VI

Making productive use of information and communications technology

SOURCE: GCR Custom Research



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Networking Academies Boost Career Opportunities in Least Developed Nations

Program Fuels Job Readiness, Information Technology (IT) Skills, Increased Opportunities for Women, and Interest in IT and Networking Careers

PORTLAND, OR--(Marketwire - July 9, 2007) - GCR Custom Research along with Cisco, the Cisco Learning Institute (CLI), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) today announced the results of a commissioned study that examines how the Cisco Networking Academy is affecting developing countries in Africa.

The Cisco Learning Institute worked with these partners of the [Least Developed Countries \(LDC\) Initiative](#) to determine goals, definition of impact and strategy for evaluation. "The results indicate that the Least Developed Countries (LDC) Initiative is having a strong positive impact on developing nations," said Ross Barker, Vice President, GCR Custom Research. "The study, which specifically examined six African nations that are part of the initiative, found that the Cisco Networking Academy is boosting necessary IT career skills, providing critical job opportunities, promoting self-confidence in women entering the IT field and enhancing the overall education level within communities."

"Training in information technology and networking skills provides a much-needed path to economic success and independence for individuals in many developing nations," said Amy Christen, Vice President and General Manager of Cisco Networking Academy. "We are proud to

courses are women, exceeding the target of 30 percent female participation for the LDC Initiative. The majority of female respondents said they have more confidence and their career opportunities are better as a result of attending the program. Describing the impact the program has had on her life, one female student from Cameroon comments, "because of the Cisco program I have a job and I find so much fun in it as a woman."

Impacting communities

Whereas the program has the most impact on individuals, the Cisco Networking Academies also shape the communities where they are located. Community leaders cited positive effects including more technology experts in the local area who are able to share their knowledge with others, and an overall raising of the community's education level. And, for the first time, technical training is no longer limited to an elite few.

Fueling Innovation

The Cisco Networking Academy offers specific training that is unmatched by competitive programs. Students learn how to build, design and maintain computer networks. Community leaders stated a Cisco certificate gives job seekers more credibility. It has also fueled a wave of job creation in these markets, with participation in the program leading to over one in ten students surveyed starting their own business.

Through this global development alliance, more than 40 new countries in Africa have been added to the Cisco Networking Academy. The LDC Initiative provides a compelling example of how business, international organizations and governments can work together to meet the urgent needs of LDCs, promote digital opportunity and contribute to the advancement of these countries. For more information about the Cisco Networking Academy, visit: <http://www.cisco.com/go/netacad>

About GCR Custom Research

GCR Custom Research is a full service market research firm serving the technology sector for over 25 years. GCR's team of some of the best analytical minds in the business brings insight and solutions to the challenges facing companies in the fast-changing technology world, where staying ahead of the competition is essential. GCR uses qualitative and quantitative methodologies to deliver data-based answers to tough questions about markets, customers, competition, trends and opportunities. For more information, visit: www.gcrinsight.com.

About Cisco Learning Institute

[Cisco Learning Institute](http://www.ciscolearning.org/) is a non profit organization committed to innovation in education on a global scale through integrating technology and evaluation into instructional design, delivery, and support. We partner with other nonprofits, educational institutions, and professional organizations to develop scalable and sustainable solutions to improve the quality of learning experiences of teachers and students. For more information, visit: <http://www.ciscolearning.org/>

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Cameroon students gain Internet power with TICAD support

Friday, 11 July, 2003

Students at the University of Yaoundé in Cameroon now have easy access to the wealth of information on the internet thanks to a project funded by the [Tokyo International Conference on African development \(TICAD\)](#) IT Initiative. UNDP helped arrange the project, managed by the [Cisco Networking Academy Programme](#) at the University.

Until recently, students had few computers and an unreliable phone line to connect to the Internet, making it difficult to keep abreast of developments in their fields. The project provided fast access via wireless link to the Internet and additional computer terminals.

The initiative covers several countries in the region, including Nigeria, Tanzania and Zambia, helping close the digital divide and improve the regulatory framework for ICT development.

In Cameroon, it supports the formulation of a national information and communications technology (ICT) policy, strengthening of human and institutional ICT capacity, and enabling private sector to maximize business opportunities offered by ICT for increased South-South cooperation.

"The TICAD IT Initiative covers priorities ranging from technical support to the Government to creating an enabling environment for the UNDP country programme," said Patricia De Mowbray, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative. The initiative plans to establish other wireless connections at educational centres around Cameroon and in neighbouring countries through the Cisco Networking Academy with UNDP support, she noted.

The Cisco Networking Academy, established in 2001 with support from the initiative and UNDP, includes five certified instructors who provide training for about 100 students. A bachelor's degree is required for enrolment. The academy provides an eight-month training course for graduate students and a six-month course for professionals. Students completing the programme earn a Cisco Certified Network Associate diploma and are prepared for jobs in the private and public sectors.

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“We are gaining recognition as a regional centre providing high-level training in networking, web design and office tools,” said Professor Gabriel Nguetseng, director of the academy.

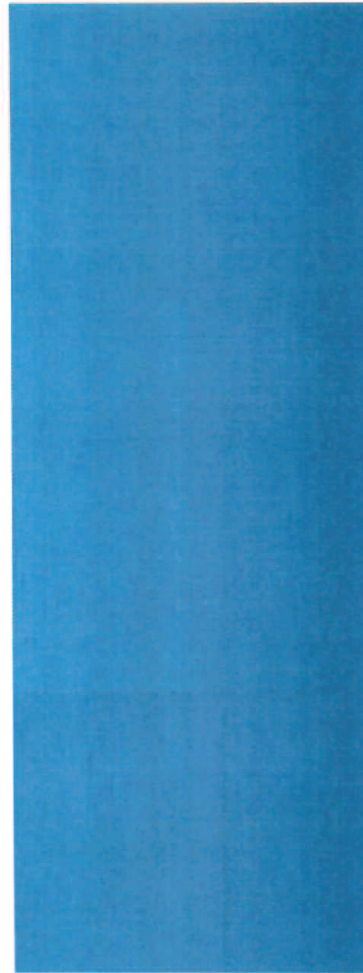
“These activities are a reflection of UNDP’s ongoing support for technical cooperation in Cameroon,” said UNDP Associate Administrator Zéphirin Diabré, who visited the academy during a recent mission to Cameroon. “UNDP is keen to explore ways and means of improving the ICT development in the country,” he said.

At the third TICAD regional consultation for West and Central African countries, in Yaoundé on 23-24 June, Mr. Diabré expressed gratitude to the Japanese Government for its support for African development, noting that the common objectives of TICAD and the [New Partnership for Africa’s Development \(NEPAD\)](#), an initiative by African leaders, provide an opportunity for sister South-South cooperation.

He also called for reinforcing UNDP activities carried out in cooperation with TICAD, including development of [New Rice for Africa \(NERICA\)](#), the [Africa-Asia Business Forum](#), the TICAD IT Initiative and the [TICAD Volunteers](#) programme.

About 200 delegates representing governments, civil society groups and international organizations attended the meeting. They discussed the region’s development priorities, including conflict resolution and peace and infrastructure development, in the run-up to [TICAD III](#), scheduled for 29 September - 1 October in Tokyo.

For further information please contact [Peter Ngu Tayong](#), UNDP Cameroon, or [Nicholas Gouede](#), UNDP Communications Office.



Mali prepares national strategy to get all major sectors online

Publish Date: 05 July 2003

Cyber cafés catering mainly to students and young people are proliferating around Bamako, Mali's capital, showing the growing importance of information and communications technology (ICT) in the landlocked West African country. However, most Malians are yet to join the digital age. To make the Internet and other digital tools available to all sectors of society, the Government is formulating and implementing a national ICT strategy. Japan is providing US\$90,000 for the initiative and UNDP is assisting the Ministry of Communication and New Information Technologies in carrying it out. The aim is to develop an ICT infrastructure using the new technologies to modernize public administration, making it easier for as many citizens as possible to access services and participate in civic activities. The strategy will also encourage cooperation on ICT with other countries in the region. Endorsing the initiative, President Amadou Toumani Touré called information and communications technology an important aspect of the Government's modernization policies. The Government is focusing on ICT applications relevant to sectors such as health, education, business, farm and pastoral communities, culture, public administration and decentralization, he noted. The Government will face the challenge of enabling the whole society to use these new technologies at costs that are affordable for the largest section of the population. UNDP Resident Representative Joceline Bazile-Finley said: Promotion of ICT, which will help strengthen development and participation, will be facilitated by a partnership between the public and private sectors. During the first year, the main effort will go towards preparing the strategy and plan of action, as well as holding workshops and meetings around the country to ensure that they fit the needs of the institutions involved. The initiative will set up a forum for the main participants—including the public and private sectors, civil society and donors—to exchange information and ideas and formulate a medium-term programme to support ICT development. Feasibility studies will also be carried out on setting up a network for the Government linked to local governments.

Source:
Mahamadou Coulibaly, UNDP Mali,
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New Electronic Platform to connect entrepreneurs from Asia and Africa

New York, 22 April 2005 — Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi of Japan today announced the launch of a new Web site –TICAD Exchange – to facilitate trade and investment between Asia and Africa. Coming on line as the 50th anniversary of the Bandung Conference of 1955 is underway in Jakarta, Indonesia, the TICAD Exchange is a first step toward building a strong interregional networking mechanism of Asian and African public and private sectors.



Speaking at the Asian-African Business Summit 2005, a side event of the Bandung Conference hosted by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Indonesia, Koizumi said, "This network will provide relevant information on business in Asia and Africa via the Internet. The Government of Japan anticipates that the network will contribute further to the development of trade and investment relations between the two regions."

Koizumi also announced the doubling of Japanese aid to Africa, now at 8.8 percent or US\$529.9 million of its total Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) budget. "In the three years to come, Japan will double its ODA to Africa with grant aid continuing to be its central feature," he said, adding that Japan will hold TICAD IV in 2008.

The TICAD Exchange network, which is now up and running on the World Wide Web (<http://www.TICADExchange.org>), is developed and managed by the TICAD Bureau of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), with technical support from the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) through its UNIDO Exchange Programme. Sponsored by the Government of Japan, it aims at improving a readily usable information base on trade and investment to facilitate the identification of new business opportunities, and providing an on-line facility for information exchange among users. The TICAD Exchange network is a web-based information network that provides a wide range of information, including macro- and micro-economic indicators, data on industrial production, trade and investment policies, and laws and regulations of African countries.

"Eight countries from Africa, namely Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, Tanzania, Tunisia, Uganda and Zambia are selected for initial showcasing," said Bouna Semou Diouf, Director of the TICAD Bureau and Senior Adviser to the Assistant Administrator and Director of UNDP's Regional Bureau for Africa. "This is soon to be expanded to cover the entire continent."

TICAD Exchange provides linkages to the trade and investment promotion sites of African States, and relevant sources of data and case studies compiled and managed by such international organizations as the World Bank, UNIDO, the UN Conference on Trade and Development and research institutions. It hosts the directories of Chambers of Commerce and private firms in Africa with their profiles and information on products and investment needs.

The network is linked to the Web sites of such TICAD programmes as the AFRASIA Business Council (<http://www.afrasia.org>), the Africa Asia Business Forum (AABF), and the Asia Africa Investment and Technology Promotion Centre (AAITPC – <http://www.unido-aitpc.org>). The data on Asian markets and investors will be built into the portal as the next step.

The Bandung Conference, which was held in 1955 in Bandung, West Java, was a landmark gathering of representatives from some 29 African and Asian nations. The aim of the conference, which ultimately led to the establishment of the Non-Aligned Movement in 1961, was to promote economic and cultural cooperation and to oppose colonialism. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan along with 40 Heads of Government are attending this year's 50th anniversary of the Bandung Conference, which is viewed as an opportunity to boost economic and trade ties between Asia and Africa.

For more information, please contact in New York:
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