

CISCO SEMINAR ON TRENDS IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Cisco recently organised a seminar on '21st century trends in higher education'. Among those present on the occasion included Technical and Higher Education, Govt of Rajasthan, Principal Secretary, Ravi Mathur Technical and Higher Education, Govt of Rajasthan, Deputy Secretary, Dinesh Kumar and Corporate Responsibility, Cisco South Asia, Regional Manager Lokesh Mehra.

The aim of the seminar was to provide an opportunity to participants from various technical institutes across the region to share and learn about various innovative trends in higher education. Mathur provided an overview of the regional academy and its offerings to address ICT skills based education. The sessions also highlighted Cisco's education solutions including Campus Wide Networking, Wi-Fi Campus, Digital Media Manager (DMS) and Video Conferencing.

Speaking on the occasion, Mehra said, "Cisco's key initiatives in Rajasthan include the introduction of the 'ITE PC Hardware and Software' Course in Hindi to reach out to the rural masses in the hinterland. Students from Below



Poverty Line (BPL) as well as physically challenged have also had access to the above course, enabling them to get an entry in the new emerging knowledge economy."

Mehra further said, "Education, as we all know, is the ticket to opportunity and prosperity. It has enabled individuals, irrespective whether in developing or developed countries to become entrepreneurs, business and government leaders. The 21st century will have the learner at the centre and the teacher would be a facilitator drawing from repository of strategies and skills." Students

would learn interdisciplinary subjects and undertake project-based work which is beyond the classroom into the community and the virtual world, he added.

"Technology has become pervasive and higher education will need to be designed for non-traditional learners - where learning can take place anytime, anywhere - where the learner makes the choices. A paradigm shift in the educational approach is required to allow students to progress at their optimum rates and to focus on what is useful education," he added.