



Connecting Sichuan Program at a Glance

Overview

Connecting Sichuan is a collaborative partnership that aims to improve lives and build long-term capacity in earthquake-affected areas of Sichuan through innovative solutions for healthcare, education, and economic development. Connecting Sichuan is supported by a US\$45 million, three-year investment from Cisco.

Background

Soon after the devastating earthquake in Sichuan on May 12, 2008, Cisco® employees participated in relief efforts. On May 16, 2008 Cisco provided \$1 million of immediate aid for earthquake victims. Cisco also worked with Chinese business, government, and NGO leaders to identify ways to support long-term reconstruction and redevelopment efforts.

In July 2008, Cisco and the Government of China signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to establish a partnership for building replicable, scalable, and sustainable models of 21st century healthcare and education in earthquake-stricken areas of Sichuan. This resulted in the Connecting Sichuan program.

Connecting Sichuan uses 21st century connectivity and collaborative technologies to help bridge the gap between urban and rural areas by increasing access to the best education and healthcare resources across Sichuan. This effort builds on Cisco's past responses to humanitarian disasters, including Hurricane Katrina in the United States in 2005 and the Indian Ocean Tsunami in 2004.

John Chambers said, "One of Cisco's core values is giving back, and to that end, we believe it's our responsibility to assist local and global communities. We hope our donation will help accelerate the process of helping those impacted by this terrible natural disaster."

The Healthcare Initiative

Cisco is developing innovative and sustainable health IT models in line with the Chinese Government's "Health 2020" vision to develop a network of connected hospitals and other facilities. Our healthcare goals include the following:

- Launching "Health Presence" centers for physical and psychological rehabilitation in Hong Kong and Chengdu to help connect those in need with top healthcare experts
- Developing a Mobile Health Clinic van equipped with Cisco TelePresence, Unified Communications, and medical devices to travel to earthquake-affected areas and communicate with Health Presence centers
- Implementing TelePresence, WebEx, and Unified Communications to facilitate virtual meetings and training for physicians

The Education Initiative

Since we believe education is the key to prosperity, we are providing tools, technology, and training to strengthen primary and secondary schools in earthquake-affected areas of Sichuan Province. Our education goals include the following:

- Enhancing connectivity and implementing interactive classroom technologies in urban schools, and establishing virtual teachers in rural classrooms
- Developing four 21st century school models with connected and interactive classrooms
- Working with NGOs and Chinese agencies to create online resources for the professional development of teachers
- Partnering with leading higher education institutions in China to create 21st century content, pedagogy, and curricula



Economic development

We have invested heavily in building the Cisco Networking Academy[®] program throughout China for more than 10 years and we are now expanding the program to all vocational colleges and universities in Sichuan with strong computer science programs. Our expansion efforts focus on the following:

- Helping Networking Academy graduates secure full-time employment with Cisco customers or partners to advance their careers and improve the lives of family and community members
- Providing training on advanced technologies to support innovations in government and business worldwide

Cisco in China

Cisco established operations in China in 1994 and now employs more than 3000 staff in sales, customer support, research and development, and manufacturing. The company has 12 offices in China, a major R&D facility in Shanghai, Scientific Atlanta R&D and manufacturing facilities, and several WebEx development centers.

Connecting Sichuan Team

This program is sponsored by Cisco's executive team. The Connecting Sichuan healthcare and education initiatives are led by a cross functional team of Cisco experts representing Corporate Affairs, Internet Business Solutions Group (IBSG), Global Education, and Customer Service.

Additional Information

News release about Cisco Sichuan commitment:

www.cisco.com/web/CN/aboutcisco/news_info/china_news/2008/07_02_1.html (Chinese)

http://newsroom.cisco.com/dlls/2008/corp_070108.html (English)

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