

Cisco Networking Academy™ Program

ITU Internet Training Centers Initiative

Cisco Systems® joined forces with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) in May 2001 to launch the Internet Training Centers Initiative (ITCI). The project aims to provide students and professionals in developing countries access to affordable and relevant IT training through the establishment of Internet Training Centers (ITCs) delivering the Cisco Networking Academy® Program curricula. The goals of the project are: to establish a worldwide network of 50 ITCs by the end of 2003, to train a minimum of 50 students annually per institution, to achieve an overall female enrollment of 30 percent, to target the least developed countries where possible, and to strengthen Internet and networking skills within the staff of the national telecom operators. The project places strong emphasis on promoting female participation and several gender-focused Networking Academies have been established in countries including India, Romania, and Uganda.

ITCI Youth Delegates



**Anita Mago-Sempa,
40 years old**

**Uganda,
Makerere University,
Women & Gender
Studies Department**

Film editor and media productions specialist Anita Mago-Sempa is a creative entrepreneur in the realms of business and academia. Having started her own professional media company in 1998

in Kampala with two business partners, Anita is always searching for ways to improve her company's products and services. At the age of 39, while attending the Gender Studies graduate program at Makerere University's Women & Gender Studies Department, Anita made the decision to enroll in the Cisco Networking Academy Program with the goal to enhance her technical skills in digital media and computer networking so that she could improve her company's daily business operations. "The program has had a tremendous impact on my work; I believe that the program will help to increase women's incomes and boost the image of women," shares Anita. In the Networking Academy classroom, Anita is the oldest student among her peers, and, as such, has since become a role model for the younger female students in the class who are anxious to enter the business world.



**Dmitry Dyatel,
22 years old**

**Ukraine, Head Training
Center of Ukrtelecom**

Dmitry Dyatel divides his weekly schedule between his undergraduate degree studies in Computer Science and a part-time job as an Internet Service Provider (ISP) network administrator at MCI in Kiev. In January 2004, he will graduate from the National Technical University of Ukraine, and he has plans to join the ISP full-time. Last year, he was hired as a network administrator for MCI

after having completed the Cisco Networking Academy Program and the associate-level CCNA® certification exam; his experience is proof that the Networking Academy Program is the missing link between academia and the telecommunications sector. Dmitry believes that his CCNA certification will bring about an increase in his annual salary as a network administrator: “Almost all of the managers and technical specialists in the telecommunications sector recognize the CCNA certification, and I think that in one year it will help to significantly increase my job salary.” In addition to his CCNA certification, he aspires to obtain the professional-level CCNP® and the expert-level CCIE® certifications in the near future.



Nabil Ajam,
23 years old

**Tunisia, École Supérieure des
Communications de Tunis (Sup'Com)**

At the age of 18, Nabil Ajam developed his first computer program in Pascal language and began studying Java and UNIX programming. Although he excelled at these subjects, he was unsatisfied with his lack of practical hands-on experience in computer programming and networking, and thus decided to enroll in the Networking Academy program at Sup'Com to complement his theoretical background. “This was the first time that I had worked with real routers, and it was a great experience for me,” shares Nabil. Soon after enrolling in the program, Nabil was hired to be a telecommunications engineer in the Intelligence Network group at Tunisia Telecom. His competitive education and technical hands-on experience at the Cisco Networking Academy Program proved to be marketable assets for Nabil’s industry potential. As a part of the Intelligence Network group, he has the opportunity to explore and configure Short Message Service (SMS) capabilities for mobile networks. Nabil hopes to apply his current industry experience to find a future job in a multinational telecommunications company.



Patricia Chávez,
24 years old

**Ecuador, Escuela Superior Politecnica
del Litoral (ESPOL)**

Patricia Chávez is a recent Computer Science college graduate and one of 39 students from the ESPOL Networking Academy’s first graduating class. As a pioneering female student in computer networking and IT studies and as one of the top graduating students at her ESPOL Networking Academy, Patricia was asked by ESPOL to stay and join the fac-

ulty curriculum-development team in August 2003. She works as a curriculum developer for the ESPOL Faculty of Computer Science, planning academic curricula and IT programs that are designed to encourage more female student interest and involvement in IT studies. “We have to change the way IT companies think about gender,” states Patricia. She earnestly expects to influence the creation of new teaching methods in IT education. Within the next four years, Patricia hopes to promote at least 50-percent female involvement in the Ecuadorian telecommunications sector.



Shirley Guo,
20 years old

**China, Nanjing University
of Posts and Telecom (NJUPT)**

Shirley Guo is an undergraduate student at NJUPT and is currently ranked at the top of her class within the department of Computer Science. She discovered a new passion for e-learning and gender-equity building when she enrolled in the Cisco Networking Academy Program in 2002. As a successful program graduate and CCNA certification holder, Shirley has made efforts to encourage more women to participate in IT-related fields. “I think that women serve an important role in sharing IT knowledge and empowerment. Women are natural-born ‘broadcasters’; they are more inclined to share their experiences with others,” Shirley explains. Shirley holds a positive outlook about the Networking Academy Program’s impact in China: “Going through the Networking Academy curriculum has been a life-changing experience and a real eye-opener to what can be achieved with Internet technologies, which I am really anxious to share with others for the development of communications in China.” In the future, Shirley intends to complete the professional-level CCNP certification and hopes to find a job in network management. She has even made a goal to set up a LAN in her mother’s factory to improve communications and efficiency.

Visit the following Websites for more information:

Internet Training Centers Initiative

<http://www.cisco.com/edu/itci>

<http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/hrd/itci/index.html>

Cisco Networking Academy Program

<http://www.cisco.com/edu/academy>

Student Voices from Participating Academies

<http://www.cisco.com/edu/itci/voices>

