

LDC Initiative Progress

Current Partners: UNDP, USAID, UNV, ITU, Peace Corps

LDC STATISTICS					
Participating LDCs:	34	Continuing Students/April*:	7314	Instructors Trained:	486
Participating non-LDCs:	8	Confirmed number of female:	2250	Female Instructors:	74
Academies:	151	Gender Percentage:	30.8%	Graduates**:	1969

* Denotes those students continuing through all 4 courses of the Cisco Certified Network Associate curriculum

**Over 78% of students seeking employment have found jobs upon completion of the CCNA program within the LDC Initiative

10-Year Anniversary of Rwandan Genocide

This month marks the 10-year anniversary of the 1994 Rwandan Genocide. 10 years later, we see the dedication and the strength of the people to persevere against all odds. Today, over 150 Academy students in Rwanda are succeeding and thriving within the program. We would like to pay tribute to our Academies and students in Rwanda and commend them on their success despite the continued challenges they face.

February – March 2004 LDC Initiative Highlights

Bangladesh:

The Women in Technology Scholarship Program, which is funded through USAID ANE Bureau, and is being implemented by the Institute for International Education, has reached great success with over 340 women that signed up to participate with the Networking Academies in that country.

Cameroon:

The University of Yaounde Regional Academy team, with the help of the UNV, Quentin Eboa, has created a Yahoo e-discussion group for the Networking Academy family in Cameroon. This tool is used by the Academies to exchange relevant information, reports, and photos on a weekly basis.

Nepal:

Over 350 Applications were received for the Women in Technology Scholarship Program (with IIE and USAID)!

Peace Corps:

The US Peace Corps in Africa has joined forces with the LDC Initiative and are implementing projects with Academies. We are soon to have 10 Peace Corps Volunteers working with the program in Cape Verde, and 2 in Mauritania, with many more to come!

American DFI Delegation visits Mariama Ba Academy:

During March 2-6, 2004, a government delegation led by Under Secretary of Commerce for Technology, Phillip Bond, and Department of State Ambassador, David Gross, U.S. Coordinator for International Communications and Information Policy, and USAID Coordinators Lane Smith and Judith Payne, visited the Mariama Ba Cisco Networking Academy to discuss the success of the Academy Program and to evaluate the

progress of the Digital Freedom Initiative (DFI) in Senegal, at the first year anniversary of its launching.

Academy Sustainability Phase

At the 2003 Africa Forum in Dakar Senegal we emphasized the need for every academy to develop a structure and plan that will afford each a self-sustainable future. We are developing the "Sustainability Plan-It" toolkit to be ready for roll out to all academies in the fall. It will include tools for you to build your academy financial model as well as tools for determining future expansion needs.

Sustainability Task Force

Cisco and our partners are extremely encouraged by the interest and motivation demonstrated by the academy participants in the sustainability working sessions at the Africa Forum in Dakar in December. We are in the process of establishing a formal Sustainability Taskforce with USAID that will be comprised of academy instructors and administrators who will develop detailed business models adaptable to the academies throughout the LDCs in Africa. Instructors and administrators who are highly committed to developing a model for sustainability and have a desire to be part of the taskforce should email Annette Kerlin, akerlin@cisco.com.

50/30 Congratulations!

Congratulations to Academies who reached the 50 students/30% female requirement in Jan-March:

Bangladesh, Shahjalal University of Science and Technology
Guinea, Internet Society
Rwanda, Kigali Institute of Science and Technology
Senegal, John Fitzgerald Kennedy Secondary School
Zimbabwe, University of Zimbabwe

WELCOME to New Academies in the LDC Initiative

Kenya	Kenya College of Accountancy, St. Martin's Academy Secondary School
Malawi	Bunda College of Agriculture, Chancellor College
Mozambique	ISCTEM
Nigeria	Fantsuam Academy, Kafanchan, University of Maiduguri
Senegal	Martin Luther King Secondary School, University du Sahel, I.S.M. Local Academy
Tanzania	State University of Zanzibar
Uganda	Gayaza High School, Kampala International

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	University, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Uganda Martyrs University
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FAREWELL to LDC Initiative Academies **(Performance-Based)**

Benin	CED-Benin	Failure to reach 50/30 requirement
Nigeria	University of Ibadan	Lack of communication and failure to start classes
Uganda	Makerere Business School	Lack of communication and failure to start classes

Upcoming Instructor Training

Instructor Trainings took place/ are scheduled for the following: April, CCNA Orientation, 1&2: Cambodia (NITDA), DRC (University of Kinshasa), Nigeria (UNDP RA), South Africa (PE Technikon)

Feature Story—Uganda

As a part of the Workforce Development Program in Uganda, a group of seven Cisco students and instructors from the Makerere University, Institute of Computer Science Academy participated in a work site tour at Africa Online Uganda's offices in Kampala. The Technical Manager for Africa Online Uganda gave two hours of his expertise and time to show them the company's satellite connectivity and the Network Operations Center. He spoke inspiringly about a day in the life of a Network Engineer giving the students inside information on what it takes to succeed in the IT industry. (Submitted by Tariq Mohammed, UNV, Uganda)

