

# Cisco Networking Academy Program

## The Least Developed Countries Initiative

### Cisco Invests in Least Developed Countries

In July 2000, Cisco Systems formed a strategic partnership with international development organizations to help train students in the world's Least Developed Countries (LDCs) for jobs in the Internet economy. This partnership has created opportunities for skills development in participating countries, empowering them to accelerate progress, attain sustainable development, and fully integrate into the world economy. Together, Cisco Systems, United Nations Development Program, United States Agency for International Development's Leland Initiative, and United Nations Volunteers are investing in education and technology training for LDCs. Cisco's initial \$3.5 million investment established its global Cisco Networking Academy Program in LDCs, a comprehensive, eight-course, 560-hour curriculum that trains students and in-transition workers how to design, build, and maintain computer networks. Employing an e-learning model, the Networking Academies deliver Web-based educational content, online testing, student performance tracking, hands-on labs, and instructor training and support. Currently, more than 450,000 students are enrolled in more than 10,000 Academies established in 151 countries worldwide.

Aurore Valenta Kapay  
Academy Student  
University of Kinshasa Academy  
Democratic Republic of the Congo



### The Power of Partnership

The LDC Initiative provides a compelling example of how business, international organizations and governments can work together to meet the urgent needs of LDCs and promote digital opportunity. Cisco relies on the expertise and local relationships of its partners to facilitate implementation of the Cisco Networking Academy Program in LDCs. With the support of Cisco's partners, by December 2003, the program had expanded to include 40 of the 49 LDC's (see table), surpassing the initial goal of 24. An additional 13 non-LDCs in Africa are participating in the LDC Initiative. The founding partners of the Initiative include:

#### **The United Nations Development Program (UNDP)**

- Cisco and UNDP have launched the Academy Program in Africa, Arab States, Asia and the Caribbean. UNDP provides developing countries with advice and technical assistance on information technology, as well as the extra support needed to maintain and expand the Academy Program in LDCs.

#### **U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)**

- Through the Leland Initiative, USAID is helping African countries achieve sustainable development and deliver information worldwide. By joining forces with Cisco, USAID is making progress to improve Internet connectivity and access within Africa.

#### **United Nations Volunteers (UNV)**

- Through a partnership with the UNITEs project, over 30 volunteers have been deployed to strengthen and expand the Academy Program in LDCs.

*“By including these countries in our program, we will show that the Internet and education are truly the two great equalizers in life for countries, companies, and individuals.”*

—John Chambers, Cisco President and CEO

Country	Cities	Academies
<b>AFRICA</b>		
Angola*	Luanda	1 Regional Academy, 5 Local Academies
Benin	Cotonou	1 Regional Academy, 1 Local Academy
Botswana*	Dukwi Refugee Camp, Gaborone	3 Local Academies
Burkina Faso	Ouagadougou	1 Regional Academy, 1 Local Academy
Burundi*	Bujumbura	1 Local Academy
Cameroon	Buea, Douala, Yaounde	1 Regional Academy, 6 Local Academies
Cape Verde	Cabo Verde, Sao Filipe, Mindelo—S. Vicente, Santa Catarina	1 Regional Academy, 3 Local Academies
Central Africa Republic	Bangui	1 Local Academy
Chad	Ndjamena	1 Local Academy
Comoros*	Moroni	1 Local Academy
Congo, Democratic Republic of*	Kinshasa, Bukavo, Mbuji-Mayi	3 Local Academies
Cote d'Ivoire*	Abidjan, Bouake	1 Regional Academy, 3 Local Academies
Equatorial Guinea*	Malabo	1 Local Academy
Eritrea*	Asmara	1 Regional Academy, 1 Local Academy
Ethiopia*	Addis Ababa	1 Regional Academy, 2 Local Academies
Gabon*	Franceville, Libreville	2 Local Academies
Gambia*	Kanifing, Serrekunda	2 Local Academies
Ghana	Accra, Konongo	1 Regional Academy, 2 Local Academies
Guinea	Conakry	1 Local Academy
Guinea-Bissau*	Bissau	1 Local Academy
Kenya*	Nairobi, Tala, Eldoret, Maseno, Nakuru	2 Regional Academies, 12 Local Academies
Lesotho*	Maseru, Roma	3 Local Academies
Madagascar*	Antananarivo, Fianarantsoa, Antsiranana, Mahajanga, Toamasina, Tolara	1 Regional Academy, 8 Local Academies
Malawi*	Blantyre, Lilongwe, Mzuzu, Zomba	1 Regional Academy, 6 Local Academies
Mali*	Bamako, Seygou, Timbuktu	1 Regional Academy, 2 Local Academies
Mauritania*	Nouakchott	3 Local Academies
Mauritius	Port Louis	1 Regional Academy
Mozambique*	Maputo	1 Regional Academy, 3 Local Academies
Namibia*	Windhoek	1 Local Academy
Niger*	Niamey	2 Local Academies
Nigeria*	Abuja, Ile-Ife, Jos, Lagos, Bauchi, Benin City, Ibadan, Ilorin, Kano, Maiduguri, Minna, Sokoto, Yola, Zaria	3 Regional Academies, 13 Local Academies
Republic of Congo*	Brazzaville	1 Local Academy
Rwanda*	Kigali, Butare	1 Regional Academy, 4 Local Academies
Sao Tome e Principe*	Sao Tome	1 Local Academy
Senegal*	Dakar, Goree Island, Saint Louis, Thies	1 Regional Academy, 14 Local Academies
Seychelles*	Victoria, Mahé	1 Local Academy
Sierra Leone*	Kenema, Freetown	2 Local Academies
Swaziland	Kwaluseni	1 Local Academy
Tanzania*	Arusha, Dar-es-Salaam, Kasulu, Mwanza, Zanzibar, Bukoba	1 Regional Academy, 9 Local Academies
Togo	Lome	2 Local Academies
Uganda*	Kampala, Mpigi, Bushenyi, Fort Portal, Gulu, Lira, Masaka, Mbale, Mbarara, Mukono	1 Regional Academy, 17 Local Academies
Zambia*	Lusaka, Chingola, Kitwe, Livingstone	1 Regional Academy, 5 Local Academies
Zimbabwe*	Harare, Mutare	1 Regional Academy, 2 Local Academies
<b>ARAB STATES</b>		
Djibouti	Djibouti	1 Regional Academy
Yemen	Sana'a	1 Local Academy
<b>ASIA/PACIFIC</b>		
Afghanistan	Kabul	2 Local Academies
Bangladesh	Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi, Sylhet	1 Regional Academy, 8 Local Academies
Bhutan	Simtokha	1 Local Academy
Cambodia	Phnom Penh	1 Regional Academy, 2 Local Academies
Maldives	Male	1 Local Academy
Nepal	Kathmandu, Lalitpur	1 Regional Academy, 5 Local Academies
Samoa	Apia	1 Local Academy
<b>CARIBBEAN</b>		
Haiti	Port-au-Prince	1 Regional Academy

\*New Academies established in these countries as part of “Africa 100” for 2004. LDCs are listed in red text. To learn more about an Academy in a specific country, visit [www.cisco.com/edu/lhci/participatingcountry.html](http://www.cisco.com/edu/lhci/participatingcountry.html)

Other partners have recognized the importance of the Networking Academy Program as a development tool. A partnership with the Cisco Foundation has greatly assisted the program to expand its scope in efforts such as the Gender Initiative. In addition, Cisco launched the Internet Training Centers Initiative in partnership with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to establish 55 Academies around the globe, approximately one third of which are located in LDCs.

### Gender Equity—Empowering Women in IT

Cisco and the Cisco Learning Institute launched the Gender Initiative to address the gender digital divide by proactively promoting greater participation of women in information technology and the Internet economy through the Networking Academy Program. Many gender activities are undertaken in partnership with international agencies, governments, and NGOs. Gender-focused Networking Academies have been established in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Mauritania, Nepal, Rwanda, Senegal, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, and Zambia as a result of mainstreaming gender from the beginning of the program. There is 32% female enrollment in Africa.

*“We now have the Cisco Networking Academy Program for the first time in Afghanistan. Today we move towards the civilized world. We want to stand at the same level as the rest of the world in terms of technology. The network enables us to finally have a close relationship with the industrialized countries and become aware of the advantages of Information Technology. We can now be servants to the vulnerable people of our country using Internet/computer services. The students of computer science promise to make ourselves ready to learn networking to the best of our ability. Finally, thanks to Cisco for paying attention.”*



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Visit the following Web sites for more information:

[www.cisco.com/edu/lhci](http://www.cisco.com/edu/lhci)

[www.cisco.com/edu/academy](http://www.cisco.com/edu/academy)



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