

# Women In Technology

## Cisco Networking Academy Scholarships for Women

### WHAT?

A pilot project sponsored by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and administered by the Institute of International Education (IIE), through a grant from the dot-GOV Program of Internets Network, providing scholarship awards to women to attend the Cisco Networking Academy Program, training them to **DESIGN, BUILD, and MAINTAIN COMPUTER NETWORKS.**

### WHERE?

In 2004 the Women In Technology pilot project awarded **500 scholarships to women in Bangladesh, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia** to attend Cisco Networking Academies located in major cities in their home countries.

The WIT program can now be expanded to other **USAID Mission countries** through the existing dot-GOV mechanism.



*Orientation for the WIT participants at the Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology, Dhaka, Bangladesh, July 2004*

### WHY?

Women are currently underrepresented in the field of Information Technology (IT), from enrollment in technology courses to participation in the IT workforce. The more women who graduate from the Cisco Networking Academy Program, the more workers with IT skills and the stronger that country's IT workforce.

**By providing training through the Cisco Networking Academy Program, Women In Technology**

- *Equips Women with Marketable, Cutting-Edge IT Skills*
- *Provides Women Access to Industry Standard Certification*
- *Prepares Women for IT Careers and Well-Paying Jobs*
- *Leads to Greater Economic Security and Independence*
- *Allows Women to Contribute to the Development of the IT Sector in their Communities*
- *Produces Leaders, Role Models and Mentors for Other Girls and Women*

### HOW?

Expansion of the WIT program to your country is **low cost** and designed to **reduce contracting burdens** on USAID Missions. WIT is **funded via the dot-GOV Program**, a pre-competited "Leader with Associates Cooperative Agreement." **WIT could be implemented in your country** providing scholarships, mentoring activities and policy advocacy training.

If the Mission would like to offer the WIT program, **please contact Ms. Laura Samotshozo, dot-GOV CTO (lsamotshozo@usaid.gov), USAID/EGAT/EIT/IT.**



## Training women to **DESIGN, BUILD** and **MAINTAIN COMPUTER NETWORKS**

### Earning standard **CERTIFICATION** for women as **NETWORKING PROFESSIONALS**

*“CISCO Networking Academy scholarship program is a great opportunity for me. Through this program my dreams will come true. It will be a great milestone for my career.*

*Through this technology women will bring a revolutionary change in their life style. After completing the course I will help poor rural areas women who are deprived from education and technology.”*

*WIT Participant, Bangladesh*



*WIT participants at the Mongolian University of Science and Technology, August 2004*

### **THE CISCO NETWORKING ACADEMY PROGRAM**

The Cisco Networking Academy Program is a comprehensive global training program that teaches students to design, build, and maintain computer networks, preparing them for industry-standard certification as networking professionals. The program teaches students valuable Internet technology skills, including networking, Web design, IT Essentials, Cabling, Java and UNIX. The Academy program combines instructor-led, online learning with hands-on laboratory exercises where students apply what they learn in class while working on actual networks.

In addition to networking and other technology skills, the Academy program helps students improve math, science, writing, and problem-solving abilities and competencies. The Cisco Networking Academy Program is helping to transform education while preparing youth and adults around the world for career opportunities in Information Technology.

The scholarship program equips women with marketable high-tech skills essential to participation in the Internet economy, breaks down socio-cultural barriers for women participating in IT careers, and provides women access to skills and employment with which they can both contribute to the development of the IT sector in their countries and ensure their own economic development.

<http://www.cisco.com/en/US/learning/netacad/index.html>

## **WIT CONTACTS**

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