



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

NETWORKING ACADEMY ALLIANCE

BUILDING WORLDWIDE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

THE CHALLENGE

In the developing world, significant shortages of information technology (IT) professionals cripple the ability of countries to tap into the new global IT infrastructure that will power commerce and culture for the foreseeable future. An estimated 2 million computer network installers are needed worldwide, particularly in developing nations. Developing the human capital to exploit this opportunity, fostering the proper regulatory framework, and laying a durable IT infrastructure are key interventions these countries can make to enable future economic growth and achieve self-sufficiency.



THE APPROACH

The Cisco Networking Academy Alliance is a multimillion dollar global e-learning initiative that is cultivating a robust IT workforce in developing countries. By teaching students the necessary computer networking skills and preparing them for internationally recognized Cisco Certified Network Associate credentials, the alliance enables trainees to compete effectively in the global marketplace. The alliance also provides scholarships for girls and women to attend the Networking Academies and offers job-searching guidelines to Academy graduates. Through its Networking Academy Program pioneered in the United States, Cisco is now a global partner with USAID and other donors working to bridge the digital divide among nations.

RESULTS

- 239 academies were established in 60 countries in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East
- 10,000 students were trained, with female participation at 30 percent.
- 700 Cisco instructors trained on IT and computer networking skills
- Financial sustainability, workforce development, and gender mainstreaming training manuals help academies achieve locally defined measures of success

PARTNERS

Cisco Learning Institute, Cisco Systems, Inc., Hewlett-Packard, International Telecommunications Union, Panduit, United Nations Development Programme

