



Carmen Lamagna, Vice Chancellor, American International University Bangladesh (AIUB); Imran Shauket, Country Director JOBS/IRIS, the local coordinator of Cisco Networking Academy Programme (CNAP) in Bangladesh and Elli Takagaki, Programme Manager, International Partnership for Cisco Systems Education Team; among the Cisco students at AIUB.

Creating Cisco networking engineers

IT REPORTER

AMERICAN International University - Bangladesh (AIUB) hosted a celebration event to mark the successes of the Cisco Networking Academy Programme (CNAP) in Bangladesh. The programme aimed at increasing network engineers across the country. Nowadays office computers need to be connected for quicker document exchanges. Handheld devices like mobile phone are part of the wireless networking. So today knowing networking is practically a prerequisite to get jobs in the cell phone companies.

Attended by Cisco Systems representatives in the programme, as well as representatives from CNAP global partners, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), local programme co-ordinators from JOBS / IRIS and all participating Cisco Academies, this event marked the first of its kind for the Bangladesh programme.

With two focal points, the event celebrated both the success of the current CNAP programme in Bangladesh as well as the first steps toward expansion. Elli Takagaki, Cisco System Inc., awarded upgraded lab equipment to six of the participating Academies in recognition of their efforts to meet the targeted student numbers and global target of 30 per cent female participation. Subsequently, AIUB launched a new curriculum, the Hewlett Packard IT Essentials, marking the first addition to the course offering available in this country; To date academies had only the networking curriculum available for students.

CNAP is a global e-learning programme created by Cisco Systems, the industry leader in hardware for the

Internet, providing on-line curricula, trained instruction and hands-on experience in a wide range of technology skills from infrastructure to applications. CNAP courses prepare students for globally recognised, industry-standard certifications such as the Cisco Certified Network Administrator (CCNA). Today CNAP operates in 165 countries with over 10,000 Academies, 500,000 students, and 5,000 graduates worldwide. Introduced in Bangladesh in 2000 at Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, the programme has since expanded under the Least Developed Countries initiative and now encompasses an additional nine academies:

- American International University-Bangladesh
- Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology
- BRAC University
- Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology
- Daffodil International University
- Dhaka University of Engineering and Technology
- Khulna University of Engineering and Technology
- Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology
- Shahjalal University of Science and Technology

With over 700 students' currently enrolled and 300 graduates to date, the Bangladesh programme is the fastest growing in the region. The celebration event at AIUB recognised the increasing importance of high-quality, standardised IT education for the human resource needs of Bangladesh and the significant role of the Cisco Networking Academy Programme in providing the country with a competitive edge for both local development and global growth. □