

Cisco Networking Academy Program Mexico

Success Story Adopt an Academy



Classrooms without walls. Less distance. A world without frontiers. This is the future of education. The way to get there is full of challenges; infrastructure and training challenges; challenges for teachers, students and schools as well as for society.

Education with future.

In a country like Mexico, having technological infrastructure available for the students is like a dream for a lot of educational institutions. A lot of children in isolated communities do not even know what a computer looks like. That is why a lot of organizations have taken measures so that one day more schools have computer equipment and Internet.

But it is not only a matter of resources. Once they have the technology on their hands, the schools face the challenge of integrating it to their learning process. This is the only way technology can promote change.

In order to fulfill the objective of raising the educational level, we need the effort of society, of communities where the government, companies, organizations and institutions contribute with resources as well as with their time and their expert knowledge.

In this context, the strategic alliances between the different members of society are essential.

When the union is more than a coincidence.

For more than 5 years, Cisco Networking Academy, Fundación Televisa and the Union of Managers for Technology in Education, (Union de Empresarios para la Tecnología en la Educación, UNETE), are working each one on their own with a common premise: education is a fundamental element for Mexico's development.

On early 2005, these organizations and the Metropolitan Technological University (Universidad Tecnológica Metropolitana, UTM), undertook a work alliance in favour of technological education in Mexico, through the initiative **Adopt an Academy**.

The Cisco Networking Academy Program provides skills students need to work in IT fields. The program offers web-based content, online assessment, hand-on labs, instructor training, and preparation for industry certifications.

- Fundación Televisa has developed a great number of programs dedicated to promote the development of Mexican childhood and youth and has the mission of broadening the development possibilities of the person 365 days a year.
- UNETE is a civil association founded on September 1999. Its main objective is to contribute to raise the educational level, incorporating the benefits of computers and Internet to elementary and secondary schools in all the country.
- The Metropolitan Technological University opened its doors in September 1999 and brings education to 14 nearby counties. Up to now it offers higher education through 9 educational programs to 1,500 students.

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More than a year has gone by and the results of this project are proof that shared work multiplies opportunities. Different needs, complementary resources and a common objective were the factors which let the encounter among Cisco Networking Academy, the UTM, Fundación Televisa and UNETE become successful.

The state of Yucatan is located in the south of Mexico. With more than 1.5 million of inhabitants, Yucatan is among the 15 states of the country with the highest number of students – 546,266 – from preschool to masters degree. With a large number of schools depending on the public sector, there is great effort of the government as well as from organizations such as UNETE and Fundación Televisa, for providing these schools with computers and Internet. However, the process of real possession of technology is not guaranteed with the sole fact of making it available to the schools.

As a benefit from **Adopt an Academy**, the Metropolitan Technological University (UTM) located in Merida, Yucatán, received a Cisco Networking hands-on lab on behalf of Fundación Televisa. The main purpose of this contribution was that the students in the degrees of Information and Communication Technologies who receive the Cisco Networking Academy Program since 2001, can improve their practical abilities and become better professionals in the near future. With this donation, the UTM would not only have the possibility of teaching the Program with high quality standards but it would be in condition of extending their educational offer to a higher number of students. From 35 students who were in the program in December 2004, the number has gone up to 134.

Adopt an Academy does not pretend to be a simple donation program, but it also aims to generate a culture of social responsibility. This way, the UTM does not only receives infrastructure, but it also gets a serious commitment.

The students of Cisco Networking Company are developing together with UNETE and Fundación Televisa, a Corrective Measures and Maintenance Plan (PACM), in elementary and secondary schools where Fundación Televisa, through UNETE, has donated media classrooms.

This way, from January 2005, 135 students under the guidance of 8 instructors, have diagnosed the media classrooms of 14 primary and secondary schools. The diagnosis describes the condition of the classrooms regarding hardware, software and network function. The requirements and modifications are written down and the corrective and maintenance measures are made so that the classrooms work at their best. All of this is made in accordance and in coordination with each of the persons responsible of the media classrooms of the elementary schools which participate, as well as with the distance education coordinator of the state.

Thus, the persons responsible for the classrooms and teachers of the elementary and secondary schools have the opportunity of asking questions and receiving answers, acquire new knowledge

and exchange experiences, but most of all, they have the opportunity of incorporating the technology to the teaching-learning processes. The students of Networking Academy, on their part, develop team work abilities and establish collaboration networks. In this case, they developed diffusion material on their own so that the classrooms had preventive maintenance and were self sufficient in the future.

Win, win, win.... Always win.

In the projects, everybody wants to win. Adopt an Academy is not the exception. Its objective is to generate win-win relations among the different actors of society who work to improve the quality of technological education in Mexico. That is why the results have to translate in real benefits for all participants. **Adopt an Academy** must be a virtuous circle which translates into benefits for everyone. The dedicated commitment of all the involved participants has made this objective a reality.

With this project the elementary and secondary schools who have received de media classrooms are benefited with the contribution of the students from the Cisco Networking Academy in the UTM; they now have the certainty that such technology can really be used to transform education.

On the other hand, **Adopt an Academy** has made possible that the UTM can bring state-of-the-art teaching in technological matter to a higher number of students with better infrastructure. But most important of all is that these students have not only received the technology theory, but they have applied their knowledge and technical abilities in real problems in their own communities. With good luck, we will have great professionals graduating from these educational institutions; professionals more conscious of the needs of their environment, with the certainty that they can contribute to the development of their society, professionals with better opportunities and better growing perspectives in the future.



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“The project Adopt an Academy in the media classrooms was an enriching experience. Thanks to it they let us develop practices, grow as persons and apply the knowledge we acquired at school...”

Abraham Edmundo Meneses Navarrete.
Student, UTM.

With good luck too, these institutions will have better professors who are better prepared to face the challenges of technology; professors who will not only master the theory, but the professional exercise as well; professors who will teach with example, who know their communities and who are capable of contributing with their time to promote development.

“As coordinator I am left with a great experience. Supporting the teachers of these institutions is very gratifying. Besides, the students who participate feel motivated and see that they can put into practice everything they have learned through the Cisco Networking Academy Program...”

Ing. Martha Zapata Vargas.
Coordinator and Instructor, UTM.

Through Adopt an Academy, the organizations who have channelled the contribution of a great number of donors, such as UNETE and Fundación Televisa have invested in technological equipment for schools and they can have the certainty that such technology will be used in optimum conditions. With this project 14 media classrooms were left working and we hope that each year, 15 more schools will benefit from this measure, through the UTM students.

“For UNETE it is of vital importance to generate strategic alliances which let them make their equipping model for public elementary and high schools more efficient day by day in all the country... We know that only with programs like this, where society takes part with a common purpose we can keep on doing our work of offering more developing opportunities through technology to all the students and teachers all over the country”.

Lic. Miguel Ángel Pichardo.
General Director of UNETE.

“We are very glad of being able of joining two efforts, the one from the media classrooms in the public schools and the participation of the UTM students with a mutual benefit. On one hand, students and teachers of schools when they use the computer and internet classrooms, and on the other one, the students at the Cisco Networking Academy in the UTM when they put into practice their knowledge in benefit of their community. It is an extraordinary way of showing solidarity among persons. I thank Ricardo Bello, Dean of the UTM, for his human approach and his enthusiasm, as well as the Cisco team for the operation of this initiative”.

Alicia Lebrija.
Education and Training Director Fundación Televisa.



Finally, the benefits are transferred to the community; a community more committed with its environment, with young people who are better prepared. A road to reduce the digital divide, the objective of a great number of institutions who every day make an effort so that our kids, in whom the future of our nation relies, receive a better education.

“The initiative of Cisco Systems for developing an academic support for the Universities which are interested in the development of their students in the areas of Networks and Communications, makes the Cisco Networking Academy an ideal program for the Technological Universities for their impact in the formation of our students.

In the particular case of the Metropolitan Technological University, our relation with CISCO has had an important impact, not only in the formation of the students, but in their education as well, in an extensive way, because together with the efforts of Fundación Televisa, UNETE, Cisco Systems and our professors and students, we have been able to develop a project with a great scope for society. The initiatives “Adopt an Academy” and “Media Classrooms” are two projects through which our students have the opportunity, not only of developing work under real conditions with the newest technology, but they are in contact with the most important element for technological development: people, kids and professors of 14 schools of the state of Yucatan, to which the University, with the means offered by Cisco and Fundación Televisa, support in the optimum use of their media classrooms, giving them maintenance services and most important of all, studying their behavior as users of this important technological resource, Internet, and the use of computers as a tool for their formation.

Hereby, we see our relation with Cisco, Fundación Televisa and UNETE as a partnership with a common objective using the media we have at our reach in the best possible way. We are partners in the wonderful opportunity of bringing up Mexico’s youth”.

Ing. Ricardo Bello Bolio.
Dean of the UTM.

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Benefits of Adopt an Academy

- Cisco Networking Academy students: 135
- UTM Instructors: 8
- Primary and Secondary Schools: 14
- Primary and Secondary students: 17,186
- Primary and Secondary teachers: 455
- Hands-on lab donated: 1

For more information about the Cisco Networking Academy Program, please visit:

Cisco Networking Academy Program
www.cisco.com/edu/espanol

Adopt an Academy Initiative
www.cisco.com/warp/public/779/edu/espanol/adopta



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