InformationWeek
THE BUSINESS VALUE OF TECHNOLOGY

Search

InformationWeek **500**
CONFERENCE
The Growth Imperative
September 12-15, 2010

RSS Feeds
Subscribe
Newsletters
Events
Digital Library

Home | News | Blogs | Video | Slideshows

Software | Security | Hardware | Mobility | Windows | Internet | Global CIO | Government | Healthcare | Financial | SMB | Jobs

- **Application Optimization**
- **Applications**
- **Business Systems Management**
- **CRM**

- **Database Applications**
- **Databases**
- **Development Tools**
- **Enterprise Software Reviews**

- **ERP**
- **Hosted Apps**
- **Integration**
- **Linux**

- **Open Source**
- **Operating Systems**
- **Server Virtualization**
- **SOA**

- **Software Blog**
- **Software Discussions**
- **Software Stories**
- **Web Services**

✉ **E-mail** | 🖨 **Print** | 🔖 BOOKMARK ... | Ⓦ Take Us With You | ⓑ Buzz up!

U.S. To Train 3,000 Offshore IT Workers

Federally-backed program aims to help outsourcers in South Asia become more fluent in areas like Java programming—and the English language.

By **Paul McDougall**
InformationWeek
August 3, 2010 01:59 PM

Despite President Obama's pledge to retain more hi-tech jobs in the U.S., a federal agency run by a hand-picked Obama appointee has launched a $36 million program to train workers, including 3,000 specialists in IT and related functions, in South Asia.

UPDATE: *InformationWeek* has learned that USAID just launched **a similar campaign in Armenia.**

Following their training, the tech workers will be placed with outsourcing vendors in the region that provide offshore IT and business services to American companies looking to take advantage of the Asian subcontinent's low labor costs.

Under director Rajiv Shah, the United States Agency for International Development will partner with private outsourcers in Sri Lanka to teach workers there advanced IT skills like Enterprise Java (Java EE) programming, as well as skills in business process outsourcing and call center support. USAID will also help the trainees brush up on their English language proficiency.

Latest IT Jobs

Web Platform Developer
Offer Foundry, San Mateo, CA

Senior PHP Programmer for Solar Company
"Confidential Solar Start up", San Francisco, CA

PreSales BI Solution Architect
Teradata, San Francisco, CA

More Jobs >
Post a Job >

Subscribe to IT Jobs by: ✉ 📶 🐦
Powered by JobThread

Featured Digital Edition

More Software Insights
Whitepapers
» SAP Migration Guide: Moving ERP 6.0 From Solaris To Red Hat Linux
» Backup and Recovery Challenges with Sharepoint
Webcasts

Startup Solidcore enforces
change control on critical
infrastructure.

USAID is contributing about $10 million to the effort, while its private partners are investing roughly $26 million.

"To help fill workforce gaps in BPO and IT, USAID is teaming up with leading BPO and IT/English language training companies to establish professional IT and English skills development training centers," the U.S. Embassy in Colombo, Sri Lanka, said in a statement posted Friday on its Web site.

"Courses in Business Process Outsourcing, Enterprise Java, and English Language Skills will be offered at no charge to over 3,000 under- and unemployed students who will then participate in on-the-job training schemes with private firms," the embassy said.

USAID is also partnering with Sri Lankan companies in other industries, including construction and garment manufacturing, to help create 10,000 new jobs in the country, which is still recovering from a 30-year civil war that ended in 2009.

But it's the outsourcing program that's sure to draw the most fire from critics. While Obama acknowledged that occupations such as garment making don't add much value to the U.S. economy, he argued relentlessly during his presidential run that lawmakers needed to do more to keep hi-tech jobs in IT, biological sciences, and green energy in the country.

He also accused the Bush administration of creating tax loopholes that made it easier for U.S. companies to place work offshore in low-cost countries.

As recently as Monday, Obama, speaking at a Democratic fundraiser in Atlanta, boasted about his efforts to reduce offshoring. The President said he's implemented "a plan that's focused on making our middle class more secure and our country more competitive in the long run -- so that the jobs and industries of the future aren't all going to China and India, but are being created right here in the United States of America."

Obama in January tapped Shah to head USAID. At the time of his appointment, Shah—whose experience in the development community included senior positions at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation—said the organization needed to focus more on helping developing nations build technology-based economies. "We need to develop new capabilities to pursue innovation, science, and technology," said Shah, during his swearing in ceremony.

Sri Lanka's outsourcing industry is nascent, but growing as it begins to scoop up work from neighboring India.

In addition to homegrown firms, it's attracting investment from Indian outsourcers looking to expand beyond increasingly expensive tech hubs like Bangalore, Hyderabad, and Mumbai. In 2007, consultants at A.T. Kearney listed the country as 29th on their list of the top 50 global outsourcing destinations.

Emerging technology always comes with a learning curve. Here are some real-world lessons about cloud computing from early adopters. Download the latest all-digital issue of InformationWeek for that story and more. (Free registration required.)

InformationWeek

See Image Galleries

Get InformationWeek in Print

This site is not authorized to access the Community Everywhere feature.

XML **Subscribe to RSS**

Advertisement

» **Write To Editor**
» **Reprint This Article**
» **Download Top Reports**

Sponsored Links

UBM TechWeb

Enabling People and Organizations to Harness the Transformative Power of Technology

CIOs & IT Professionals

Black Hat
Cloud Connect
Dark Reading
Enterprise 2.0
Enterprise Connect
Enterprise Efficiency
HDI
InformationWeek
InformationWeek 500
InformationWeek 500 Conference
InformationWeek Analytics
InformationWeek Events
InformationWeek Global CIO
InformationWeek Healthcare
InformationWeek India
InformationWeek SMB
Intelligent Enterprise
Interop

Software Developers

Dr. Dobbs
Dr. Dobbs M-Dev
Dr. Dobbs Digest
Dr. Dobb's Update
TechWeb.com

Web & Digital Professionals

Internet Evolution
Web 2.0 Expo
Web 2.0 Summit
TechWeb.com

Government Officials

Gov 2.0 Expo
Gov 2.0 Summit
GTEC
InformationWeek Government
TechWeb.com

Vertical Markets

Advanced Trading
Bank Systems & Technology
InformationWeek Government
InformationWeek Healthcare
Insurance & Technology
Light Reading / Telecom
Wall Street & Technology

Game Industry Professionals

Gamasutra
Game Developers Conference (GDC)
Independent Games Festival
Game Developer Magazine
GDC Europe
GDC China
Game Career Guide
Game Advertising Online

Global Communications Service Providers

Heavy Reading
Heavy Reading Insiders
Pyramid Research
Light Reading
Light Reading Mobile
Light Reading Cable
Light Reading Europe
Light Reading Asia
Ethernet Expo
TelcoTV
Tower Summit
Light Reading Live & Virtual Events
Webinars

Most Popular

ANTenna
Bob Evan's Global CIO

Network Computing

No Jitter

Plug into the Cloud

TechWeb.com

Cable Catchup

David Berlind's Tech Radar

Digital Life

Evil Bytes

InformationWeek Analytics

My Interop

Jon Erickson's Blog

Microsoft/Windows Blog

Monkey Bidness

Over the Air

The Philter

Valley Wonk

Wolfe's Den

UBM TechWeb Reader Services

About UBM TechWeb   Advertising Contacts   Technology Marketing Solutions   Contact Us   Feedback

Reprints   TechWeb Digital Library / White Papers   TechWeb Events Calendar   TechWeb.com

InformationWeek Home » News » Blogs » Software » Security » Hardware » Mobility » Windows » Internet » Global CIO » Government » Healthcare » Financial

About Us » Contact Us » Current Issue » Back Issues » Site Map » Reprints » Briefing Centers » Editorial Calendar