

# PRESS RELEASE

United Nations Development Programme

Afghanistan Country Office, Shah Mahmood Ghazi Watt, Kabul



Afghanistan

## Kabul University Cisco Networking Academy Promoted from Local Academy to Regional Academy

**July 18, 2004 Kabul** – A ceremony held at Kabul University announced the promotion of Kabul University Cisco Networking Academy from a Local to a Regional Academy. This will enable the Kabul University Computer Science Cisco Networking Academy to train more trainers as Cisco Instructors. As a result, thousands of dollars spent on training instructors abroad will be saved, and the new Regional Academy can offer instructor training to neighbouring countries in central Asia.

So far four instructors – two of them female - from the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Ministry of Communications have been trained and certified. At the ceremony, which awarded certificates in networking to 113 students - 66 women and 47 men – speakers, including Government officials, emphasized the importance and the need for information technology specialists in Afghanistan's future. The programme is implemented by Kabul University, the Ministry of Communications, UNDP and CISCO, with support from the International Telecommunications Union. Some 409 students are currently being trained in three Cisco Academies in Kabul..

CNAP is offered in 151 countries, and is expanding into less-developed countries with the assistance of UNDP. In Afghanistan, CNAP works to develop and promote information and communication technology, particularly among women, to help move the country into the digital era of new technologies for development. UNDP supports the training, provides computer hardware and facilitates partnerships with host institutions.

The UNDP ICT project has previously supported the establishment of the first public internet kiosks in Kabul, technical and managerial training for the Ministry of Communications, ICT training and the Afghan Government's acquisition and operation of the country-code top-level domain ".af". The next phase will be focussing on support to the Ministry of Communications in ICT policy-making, capacity building and developing e-governance solutions.

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