

ONLINE TOOL PILOT TESTED IN PHILIPPINES

“Always dream and shoot higher than you know you can do. Don’t bother just to be better than your contemporaries or predecessors. Try to be better than yourself.”

- William Faulkner

ICTC’s Immigration Initiatives Director, and Project Coordinator headed to the Philippines to pilot the alpha version of the Online Learning Workshops. The tool, funded by Citizenship and Immigration Canada, is set to launch in the fall of 2009.

The Online Learning Workshops have components that will assist both Immigrant Serving Agencies (ISAs) and Internationally Educated Professionals (IEPs).

FOR IMMIGRANT SERVING AGENCIES:

The courses and units will provide Labour Market Intelligence to help them better serve their ICT clients.



FOR IEPS:

It will provide an array of information from settlement to employment and job searches for IEPs thinking of coming, in the process of coming to Canada, or those already here in Canada.

ICTC left the Philippines with excellent comments and suggestions from

both IEPs and Employment Counselors at the Canadian Immigration Integration Project. This will further assist in the development of the tool.

Thank you to all those who participated in the Philippines!

ICTC LAUNCHES TWO MENTORING PILOT PROGRAMS

BROADENING LEADERSHIP AND CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT IN OTTAWA

In March 2009, ICTC initiated a pilot mentoring program designed to provide the skills needed to access, identify and retain the talents of internationally educated professionals (IEPs).

Fifteen volunteer mentors who are Human Resource professionals, Technical and ICT/IT Hiring Managers have joined this innovative and targeted seven week pilot.

This is a timely program as 100% of Canada’s net labour growth will come from immigration by 2011. The pilot will focus on developing a better

understanding of capacity development, cross-cultural skills, fundamentals of retention and the importance of “fit”.

The program is helping mentors to understand and develop the skills needed to tap into this labour pipeline.

The program, funded by the Government of Canada’s Foreign Credential Recognition (FCR) program, will be delivered by Integration Resources Canada (IRCI) in partnership with the Ottawa Chinese Community Service Centre (OCCSC).



INTEGRATION RESOURCES CANADA

MENTORING PILOT FOR TORONTO’S ICT SECTOR

Corporate Connections was designed as an innovative mentoring program, piloted by ICTC to assist Internationally Educated Professionals (IEPs) in the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector with their integration into the Canadian labour market.

Modelled after “speed dating”, Corporate Connections replaces potential love connections with



‘speedy professional interactions’ between mentors and IEPs within a time-sensitive environment.

The goal of this Toronto-based pilot, is to assist Information and Communications Technology professionals that are new to the country in developing a deeper knowledge of the Canadian labour market.

Continued on Page 2

AMIDST THE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN, THERE ARE STILL HOT SPOTS FOR JOBS IN CANADA

Published with permission from the Canada Immigration Newsletter, CICNews.com

Though Canada has been less affected by the global economic downturn than the United States and other OECD nations, the national unemployment rate has increased slightly over the past several months. This has prompted Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) to review immigration numbers to ensure that there will be enough jobs for newcomers once they arrive. Despite these trends, certain regions in Canada remain hot spots for jobs, where regional employers continue to seek skilled foreign workers to meet chronic labour gaps. Notably, the Canadian provinces of Saskatchewan, Alberta, and Manitoba are still experiencing skills shortages and continue to recruit foreign workers to alleviate them.

To maximize your chances for finding work in Canada, keep an open mind and consider choosing a region where unemployment is low and where your particular skills are in high demand.

The January unemployment rates for Saskatchewan and Alberta came in at 4.1 per cent and 4.4 per cent respectively; both under Alberta Employment and Immigration's 'balanced labour market' rate of 5 per cent. Though these provinces have been impacted by current economic events, economists claim that they have been faring much better than other regions - some saying that the job market in Alberta remains among the best in North America.

Indeed, for many years Alberta has been recruiting foreign workers and Canadians from other regions to try to keep pace with the rapid job creation in the province. The Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program (AINP) has been very effective at welcoming skilled foreign workers, and is constantly evolving to reflect current conditions. Its Strategic Recruitment Stream for US H1B holders (for which candidates do not need a job offer) has recently been reworked to welcome applicants with experience in new occupations, such as industrial designers, database analysts and web developers.

Alberta's two major cities, Calgary and Edmonton, recorded very low unemployment rates last month, at 4.1 and 3.8 per cent respectively. The areas of the province with the lowest unemployment rates were the Camrose-Drumheller region at 3.1 per cent and the Medicine Hat-Lethbridge region at 4 per cent. Skills shortages also persist in Manitoba, where the provincial Immigration Minister is looking to offer jobs to skilled foreign workers in biotechnology, healthcare, information technology, social services, and geothermal energy.

Temporary foreign workers in these industries may eventually be able to qualify for fast-track Canadian Permanent Residency under Manitoba's Provincial Nominee Program (PNP). For those deciding where to live when immigrating to Canada, the take-home message from this is simple: To maximize your chances for finding work in Canada, keep an open mind and consider choosing a region where unemployment is low and where your particular skills are in high demand.

MENTORING PILOT FOR THE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY SECTOR

Continued from Page 1

Benefits for Participating Organizations:

- Mentoring activities are one of the best ways to tap into human capital
- Increase diversity awareness among your staff;
- Promote corporate citizenship while fostering a sense of pride and identity in your company;
- Employees will gain personal satisfaction and a fresh perspective by interacting with IEPs;
- Recognition from the Information and Communications Technology Council
- Raise your company's profile among a pool of highly qualified job-ready professionals.

As mentors, employees will have an opportunity to:

- Increase communication and leadership skills which could be transferred to many social, academic and professional situations;
- Develop a sense of organizational pride through corporate citizenship;
- Enhance active listening skills, generated while networking.

Benefits to Mentees:

The mentees benefit from the wisdom of experience. They come with questions and have 10 minutes to obtain the information needed before meeting the next mentor. They realize it is possible that mentors may not have the answers to their questions; chances are the next person will. It is okay if some of the answers are the same: this reinforces the direction the mentee must take.

For more information please contact ICTC at immigration@ictc-ctic.ca

LINKS AND RESOURCES

**Saskatoon Open Door Society Services
for Immigrant and Refugees**

<http://www.sods.sk.ca/>

PEI Association for Newcomers to Canada

<http://www.peianc.com/>

OUR PARTNERS



JOB'S ARE STILL AVAILABLE IF YOU HAVE EXPERTISE AND CERTIFICATIONS IN THESE AREAS

This story appeared on Network World at <http://www.networkworld.com/news/2009/040609-10-tech-skills.html>

By Carolyn Duffy Marsan ,
Network World , 03/30/2009

NETWORKWORLD

Amid the worst job market in 25 years, IT is holding steady. Most CIOs are maintaining their current staffing levels; while a few are hiring specialists who have in-demand IT skills.

Overall, companies are so dependent on IT that they can't lay off the people who keep their data center operations humming, and they're loath to let go of the developers who are working on next-generation Internet applications.

"IT remains a real safe and interesting and high-paying place to be," says David Foote, CEO of Foote

Partners, which conducts quarterly assessments of IT pay trends in the United States. "The world has embraced IT...because it enables companies to deliver cheaper and better products. I'm pretty bullish on IT."

Foote says what's unique about this downturn is that IT departments are hiring talent in certain areas – such as business process modeling and project management – while laying off in others connected to weak product lines.

"IT is counter-trending a lot of what's happening in the general economy," Foote says.

All contents copyright 1995-2009 Network World, Inc.
<http://www.networkworld.com>

Ten technology skills that are still in demand*:

1. Business Process Modeling
2. Database
3. Messaging/ Communications
4. IT Architecture
5. IT Security
6. Project Management
7. Data Mining
8. Web Development
9. IT Optimization
10. Networking

* see article for full details

ICTC's Immigration Initiatives are aimed at improving the integration of IEPs into Canada's ICT workforce. The initiative is funded by the Government of Canada's Foreign Credential Recognition (FCR) program, one of the key components of the government's "Internationally Trained Workers Initiative" and Citizenship and Immigration Canada.



FINDING GOLDEN OPPORTUNITIES IN THE JOB MARKET ANOTHER IMMIGRATION SUCCESS STORY -- THIS TIME WITHIN ICTC

Stories of landed skilled immigrants searching for job opportunities in vain, coupled with the current world economic turbulence, have become common in Canada recently. Undoubtedly immigrants face unexpected challenges living in a different country and culture, mostly when it seems that economic factors are not helping. However, this is not the case for Jean Roberth Souza. He has a very different story to tell us exactly in a moment when he is celebrating just one year since arriving in Canada.

In March 2008, Jean Roberth moved to Ottawa from Brazil plenty of dreams and expectations. His personal immigration project

had finally reached what he had considered the final phase: landing in Canada.

As a fact, it was the initial phase of a new life. It was also time for Jean Roberth to test and experience everything he had learned and studied about Canada before his long trip north.

Actually Jean Roberth quickly found a temporary job in the communications field with a crown corporation in his second month in Ottawa, but after many CVs, interviews, networking and outreach.



Later, he found another temporary opportunity in a community-based project for immigrants. And since December 2008, Jean Roberth joined the Information and Communications Technology Council as Client Tracking Officer.

"Much has happened in the past year and I believe that I was very successful finding good opportunities in Ottawa due mostly to the intensive preparation I had before coming to Canada. The more prepared you are, the easier you will adapt to a new culture. I had spent almost two years analyzing the local job market, job offers, trends in my professional area, and trying to adapt myself culturally to the requirements here," says Jean Roberth. "Another important aspect of my adaptation process to Canada was the support I received from immigrant serving agencies and their employability programs. Without them, the beginning wouldn't be easy."

OUR PARTNERS

