

IEP TECH NETWORK LAUNCHES

“SUCCESS IS THE ABILITY TO GO FROM FAILURE TO FAILURE WITHOUT LOSING YOUR ENTHUSIASM.”

SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

ICTC's Immigration Initiatives has just launched our online community for internationally educated professionals, the IEP Tech Network. This online community will help you connect to other IEPs in your city, in your technical field, and from your home country. There are three main areas in the IEP Tech Network: Groups, Events and My Network.

My Network includes the people you have met online in the IEP Tech Network. This is a tool that allows you to connect with peers, friends and make personal and professional contacts. Build your Network by finding peers and contacts you want to be a part of your network. Like other social

networking web sites, you can expand My Network by inviting your friends to join the IEP Tech Network.

Events are also a big part of networking. You can announce and attend events in your area or online. Events can be public, for everyone to see or join, or private, if you want to invite just certain peers. ICTC will also announce ICT events when we hear about them as often as possible.

Groups are like an online water cooler or coffee room. This is the place everyone meets up and talks about whatever is on their mind at the moment. You can start your own group or join a group that interests you.



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ONLINE SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL GETS TESTED OVERSEAS

ICTC's Immigration Initiatives brought the online competency-based self assessment tool to an international audience in March. The tool, which is currently in the Alpha phase, was tested by 30 Internationally Educated Professionals in 3 countries – China, Philippines and India.

Sandra Saric, Program Director for Immigration Initiatives at ICTC couldn't have been more pleased with phase 1. "The tool will provide individuals with a realistic understanding of what Canadian ICT Employers are looking for. We had an excellent mix of engineers, business analysts, ICT Group Managers and Programmers volunteer their time to provide us with the feedback that we need."

The pilot testing will run from March through September 2009.

While in the Philippines, ICTC had the distinct pleasure of being able to meet the 4000th client at the CIIP Manila Office. Mr. Wilfredo A. de Vera is an ICT professional coming to Canada later this year. "I would like to thank CIIP, and all its partners, for guiding us, for your great concern for us, for not leaving us stumble in the dark, for providing us with every possible info and support to increase our likelihood of success, as we integrate ourselves in the labour market in Canada."

ICTC wishes Mr. Vera every success on his journey to Canada.

PILOT PROGRAM FOR INTERNATIONALLY EDUCATED ICT PROFESSIONALS LAUNCHES IN BC

The Information and Communications Technology Council (ICTC) and S.U.C.C.E.S.S. BC are proud to announce the launch of a first-of-its-kind pilot program to help prepare internationally educated professionals (IEPs) for employment in Canada's information and communications technology (ICT) sector.

The Integrated Work Experience Strategy (IWES) pilot program is being hosted in Greater Vancouver and will run throughout 2009. It provides IEPs with an intensive introduction to Canadian workplace culture and the communications skills they require for success on the job.

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PILOT PROGRAM FOR INTERNATIONALLY EDUCATED ICT PROFESSIONALS LAUNCHES IN BC

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The program also prepares candidates for specific occupations and arranges work placements with ICT employers. By December 2009, 30 participants will have completed the program.

This IWES pilot will help address current employment barriers facing highly skilled ICT IEPs, create opportunities for these professionals to find meaningful employment in the ICT industry, and support the industry as it responds to workforce skills shortages.

The IWES program consists of a five-week intensive training session including full-time classroom training and interactive workshops followed by guided work experience. It allows IEPs to identify and improve their soft skills which are necessary for successfully integrating into the Canadian ICT workplace. The program will increase the availability of highly qualified IEPs to meet the demand of the ICT sector.

IWES is part of ICTC's Immigration Initiatives, which aims to strengthen Canada's competitive advantage in the global ICT market.

The IWES program provides training in workplace cultural intelligence, workplace communication, business networking and community connections. If the pilot proves successful, it may be replicated throughout Canada.

The IWES program is available to unemployed or underemployed internationally educated ICT professionals who are legally entitled to work in Canada and are recent immigrants to Canada. Eligible IEPs must have a background in ICT/IT, be committed to completing an intensive program, and have an interest in working in Canada's ICT sector.



OUR PARTNERS



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Groups can be for a select group of people, such as Women in ICT or Taiwanese IEPs. Groups can be by the city or technical area, such as the Vancouver Tech Group or Database Administrators. Groups include message boards for discussing topics like technical issues, workplace concerns, job search tips and local resources for IEPs.

Our hope is that ICT employers will also check out our IEP Tech Network and become active in the online community as well, as we build this valuable online community.

Because this is the Beta version of the IEP Tech Network, we want your feedback on ways to make it better. Your input and suggestions will help us build you a better community, and we have added a survey to provide feedback to us.

You will need to register before you can access some of the sections of the IEP Tech Network.

Check it out today. Here is the link to the IEP Tech Network: www.ictc-ctic.ca.../

LINKS AND RESOURCES

Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers

www.emcn.ab.ca/

Metropolitan Immigrant Settlement Association - Halifax Immigrant Learning Centre

www.misa.ns.ca/

ANOTHER PERSPECTIVE BY I-HSUAN WU

WORKING IN TAIWAN

In Taiwan the work day is usually over 12 hours, especially in the IT domain. Double income families or working mothers almost have no time to shopping for their family or take care the dinner. That's why we have two special office culture in Taiwan companies --- group shopping and tea time.

Everything can be bought with group shopping. For example, fresh vegetables, high-quality meat, clothes, desserts, bicycles, motorcycles, stocks, condoms, pregnancy test kits, trip tickets, fitness equipment, expensive jewellery and watches, cars or BMW vans, just to name a few. The process is simple, Goods' Menus (pictures and specifications of the products) are passed around the office. Each employee will record what he/she would like to purchase on the order sheets. The group shopping host will bargain with the stores, and handle the delivery. Group shopping in Taiwan is very popular, and some programmers even develop several friendly groups shopping order systems for connecting with various shopping groups.

The work day in Taiwan is very long and because of this the tea time in Taiwan is not only just cake and coffee, the department assistants usually order some food between 4:00-5:00 pm. Sometimes the meals will be paid by employees, other times by the employer. There is a huge

variety of Taiwanese snacks, I never ate the same snacks during one year's tea time. We usually eat delicious chicken steak, steamed and pyramid dumplings, rice and vegetable rolls, thin oyster noodles, meat ball soup, thick pork soup, thick squid soup, vegetarian gelatin, Tofu pudding, red bean with ice milk, oyster omelet, stinky tofu, spicy hot bean curd, spring rolls, chicken rolls, rice tube pudding, Taiwan meatballs, dried tofu, angelia duck, and so on. A good assistant will record what has already been ordered, which one is the hot produce, which one is easy to eat without interrupting the work and everyone's favorites. It's an amazing and joyful experience. The tea time usually helps to balance the engineers' stress in whole day and provide some energy to continue working.



Working in the Taiwan IT domain is very stressfull, we do however find a good balance to handle our life and family. I miss the experience.

IMMIGRATION INITIATIVES

GET INVOLVED!!!

Many opportunities exist for employers, ISAs and IEPs within the Immigration Initiatives including:

- Online Workshops for Newcomers & IEP Stakeholders
- Integrated Work Employment Strategy in Vancouver
- Online Competency Based Self-Assessment Tool Pilots

To learn more about the initiatives or to get involved, please contact us directly at immigration@ictc-ctic.ca

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.

OUR PARTNERS

