

## **Singapore's Institutes of Higher Learning Take Bold Step to Enable Wi-Fi Roaming Across One Another's Campuses**

**More than 100,000 staff and students nationwide will benefit from Wi-Fi networks built primarily on Cisco Aironet Wireless LAN equipment**

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The ten major institutes of higher learning (IHLs) in Singapore have signed Memorandum of Understanding agreements to create the IHL-CIO Forum and plan to collaborate more closely on their IT practices. The first project involves the creation of EDUWIN (Education Wireless Network) which will allow staff and students of the all the IHLs to access their respective campus intranets using the Cisco wireless networks at any of the IHL locations.

The IHLs include the Institute of Technical Education (ITE), Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP), Nanyang Technological University (NTU), National Institute of Education (NIE), National University of Singapore (NUS), Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP), Republic Polytechnic (RP), Singapore Management University (SMU), Singapore Polytechnic (SP) and Temasek Polytechnic (TP).

EDUWIN effectively creates Wi-Fi hotspots for the IHL community across Singapore and will facilitate tighter-knit relationships between the IHLs. Security will be ensured through VPN (virtual private networking) technology.

Cisco Systems is one of the main networking providers to all the IHLs with the Cisco Aironet Wireless LAN (WLAN) solution comprising the majority of the IHL's campus Wi-Fi networks.

NUS, which has taken a leadership role in the IHL-CIO Forum, also has plans to expand EDUWIN outside of Singapore. The university plans to launch a wireless interoperability program with its foreign partners such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Stanford University within the next six months.

"The long-term objective of the IHL-CIO Forum is to create the best computing and communications infrastructure for tertiary education and to better position Singapore as an education hub. Working with leading technology providers such as Cisco Systems will ensure that we stay on the leading edge of technology as well as stay relevant to the industry," said Tommy Hor, director of Computing Centre, NUS.

Besides providing technology, Cisco has also been appointed as an Industrial Advisor to the IHL-CIO Forum and will facilitate visits by leaders in the global IT arena. Cisco will also offer the Cisco iExecutive Education (iExec Ed) Program to the Forum. iExec Ed is an online curriculum designed by Cisco's Internet Business Solutions Group (IBSG) to complement the executive MBA programs offered by tertiary institutions. iExec Ed is currently being offered by SMU as well as the Beijing, Fudan and Tsinghua Universities in China. The program provides a practical framework for building the Internet Corporation.

"The education sector remains very close to Cisco's heart. Our contribution to the IHL-CIO Forum and to EDUWIN is the latest in a series of activities that we have undertaken in Singapore. Equipping the next generation of Singaporeans with the Internet and networking tools and skills will benefit not only the individuals but also the education institutions, the industry and Singapore," said James Chia, director of sales operations, South Asia, Cisco Systems.

Other projects in the academic sector that Cisco remains committed to include the Singapore Economic Development Board's Training and Attachment Program (TAP); the IHL-NSITE (Networked Solutions Integration Test Engineering) Lab Attachment Program; and the Cisco Networking Academy Program. Most of the ten IHLs in the IHL-CIO Forum are also participants in the Cisco Networking Academy Program and collectively are training over 3,500 young Singaporeans in the fundamentals of building computer networks.