

Factsheet on Infocomm Accessibility Centre

Trains People With Disabilities To Increase Independence And Employability

The *Infocomm Accessibility Centre* aims to train about 4,000 trainees with disabilities (visually-impaired, hearing-impaired or physically-challenged) over three years. The *Infocomm Accessibility Centre* will offer customised infocomm courses and training facilities, vocational training and on-the-job work projects. It will also provide Assistive Technology (AT) assessment and loan services to help the people with disabilities to be independent, improve their job prospects and enhance their quality of life in the Digital Age.

Through the *Infocomm Accessibility Centre*, persons with disabilities will benefit from:

- **Customised Courses and Affordable Training**
IDA and the Society for the Physically Disabled (SPD) will work with commercial training providers and institutes of higher learning on structured training curriculum such as digital Imaging, network management and database management for the disabled community. There will be three levels of training – elementary, intermediate and advanced, that will lead to industry certification. Fee subsidies are available based on means testing.
- **Technology Aids for Learning and Interaction**
From January 2008, the Infocomm Accessibility Centre will be equipped with a range of Assistive Technology (AT) tools like adapted mice and keyboards for the physically-disabled, screen readers and Braille notetakers for the visually-handicapped and sound amplifiers for the hearing-impaired. These tools will aid trainees with different disabilities as they learn and interact together.
- **Infocomm AT Library**
The Infocomm AT Library will showcase a variety of AT tools which will be available for loan and trial by people with disabilities, so that they can overcome the barriers to accessing a computer, and assess the suitability of the equipment prior to purchase.
- **Apprenticeship and Employment Opportunities**
To prepare for work-readiness, trainees who show good potential can progress into the 3 to 12-month-long apprenticeship training for infocomm-industry skills, such as web design and database administration. The *Infocomm Accessibility Centre* will provide hands-on work experience through workshops, vocational assessments and facilitated job placements to enhance the employability of Singaporeans with disabilities and create new employment opportunities for them.

The *Infocomm Accessibility Centre* is one of the key programmes under the iN2015 masterplan's digital inclusion initiative that aims to develop a digitally-inclusive society. Co-funded by IDA and MCYS, with other contributions from the private and people sector, the *Infocomm Accessibility Centre* is expected to be fully operational from mid 2008.