

## **National Conference on ICTs for the differently-abled/ under privileged communities in Education, Employment and Entrepreneurship 2009 - (NCIDEEE 2009)**

Loyola College, Chennai and the Centre for Internet and Society (CIS) are jointly organizing a three day National Conference on ICT for the Differently Abled from 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> December 2009. The main aim of this conference is to bring together persons working to bridge the digital divide by way of developing technologies, doing research and grass roots activism, imparting trainings, building awareness and capacity to mainstream persons with disabilities to share their work. It is hoped that this conference will serve to assess the present state of development and work in the area of ICTs for the differently abled, serve as a platform to explore collaborations and to raise the level of awareness of the general public as well as persons with disabilities on the array of opportunities available for accessing knowledge and improving their quality of life and participation in society.

Some of the main aims and themes of this conference would be the Institutional and national responses to technological change, the intersections of Political economy and educational technology, The architecture of learning, Pedagogy in the evolving tech environment, Informal and formal adult education, Multi-grade education, Instructional design and delivery; evaluation and assessment, Strategies and tools for teaching and learning, development of technologies, specialized and general trainings, simulations and gaming, Effects on training institutions and industry, Impacts on educational institutions: effects on faculty, staff, administration, and students; curriculum and program development Intellectual property, Building communities of teachers/educators, e-governance and leadership and so on.

The conference will be divided into four tracks which will be running simultaneously, except for the main session and the concluding session on the first and last days which are to be common for all participants. The tentative schedule for the different tracks is as follows:

Track 1:

Day 1. Presentations of papers

Day 2. OCR Round Table- Deployment of OCR technologies in Indian languages: present state and road ahead

Day 3. TTS Round Table: Assessing the state of TTS in Indian languages: current position and future road map.

Track 2- Workshop on Web Accessibility for web developers- Web developers and designers from various sectors will be initiated into the need for and the techniques of compliance with the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0 formulated by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C). The tentative schedule for this track is given below:

WCAG Training Session Plan (2 Day)

Day 1

14:00-15:30

### Introductory Session

- \* Disability - 5 major types
- \* The W3C and the WCAG
- \* How people with disabilities use computers (could use a movie here)

### Group Exercise/Discussion

- \* Split participants into small groups and give them questions/problems to talk about and solve
- \* Example: If your friend is deaf, how do you make sure that s/he understands what a video is about? OR How does someone who can't see or hear answer/check their email? OR X lost his hands in a car accident. How does he do a Google search?

15:30-16:00- coffee/tea break

16:00-17:30

### Session 1 - Building an Accessible Website

- \* Laying Accessible Foundations
- \* Table-less layouts
- \* Well-structured markup
- \* Valid Code

### End of Day 1

### Day 2

09:30-11:00

### Group Exercise

11:00-11:30- tea/coffee break

11:30-13:00

### Session 2 - Building an Accessible Website

- \* Removing Barriers
- \* Guideline 1 - Perception
- \* Non-text content
- \* Audio/Visual content
- \* Adaptability
- \* Contrast

13:00-14:00 Lunch

14:00-15:30 Group Exercise

15:30-16:00-tea/coffee break

16:00-17:30

### Session 3 - Guideline 2

- \* Operable
- \* Keyboard Access
- \* Enough Time
- \* Seizures
- \* Navigable

Wrap Session - Feedback and Clarifications

### Day 3

09:30-11:00 Session 4 - Guideline 3 and 4

- \* Understandable
- \* Natural Language
- \* Predictable
- \* Input Assistance
- \* Robust
- \* Compatible

11:00-11:30- tea/coffee break

11:30-13:00

Session 5 - Accessibility Testing

- \* Automated Testing + Tools
- \* Manual Testing

13:00-14:00 Lunch break

14:00-15:30

concluding session- feedback, clarification and action points of participants

15:30-16:00 tea/coffee break

### Track 3- capacity building for persons with visual impairments

This track is designed to equip students with visual impairments with skills and information required to face the employment world. It has courses such as goal orientation, soft skills and etiquettes and managing challenges in the work environment. It informs the students on what to expect when they go out to look for jobs and how to deal with potential logistic and attitudinal barriers. This is a very popular module which is currently being offered by Enable India Solutions, Bangalore and is being replicated in two days for the benefit of college students in Chennai.

The tentative sessionwise schedule for this track is given below:

#### Sessions

14:00-15:30- Why/How to be a finished product

15:30-16:00- Tea/coffee

16:00-17:30- Awareness on different jobs

#### Day 2

09:30-11:00- Goal orientation session

11:00-11:30- Tea/coffee break

13:30-13:00 Employability awareness session 1 – Case studies of jobs and skills

Employability awareness session 2 – Computer skills (efficiency / quality)

13:00-14:00- Lunch

14:00-15:30- Employability awareness session 3 – Understand the real world perspective (& sighted point of view)

15:30-16:00- Tea/coffee break

16:00-17:30- Employability awareness session 4 - Importance of mobility

16:00-17:30- Employability awareness session 5 – Case studies on problem solving, workplace solutions, employed visually impaired

#### Day 3

Equipping for the employment world: Sessions

09:30-11:00- Soft skills including Social skills and etiquettes

Independent living skills

emerging technologies - GPS, Mobile based OCR etc

11:00-11:30- tea/coffee break

11:30-13:00 Working in the corporate world- Managing challenges in work environment

#### **Track 4- Capacity building for NGOs**

This track is designed for general capacity building and information dissemination. It will cover topics like legal challenges, special needs for different disabilities, setting up resource centres, experimenting with new pedagogic techniques and using ICTs to impart education, presentation of case studies and so on.