

## Microsoft India announces two new grants to CAP Foundation

*Microsoft to fund Rs. 1.61 Crore for IT skills projects in Anti-trafficking and Overseas Workers training*

Gurgaon, Haryana, November 5, 2008 /[India PRwire](#)/ -- Under the Unlimited Potential vision, Microsoft Corporation India Private Limited today announced an additional funding of Rs. 1.61 crore to CAP Foundation through its Community Technology Skills Program (CTSP) to promote IT access and training to communities vulnerable to unsafe migration and human trafficking. This announcement was made at a valedictory function for graduates of CAP Foundation training courses, attended by senior representatives from Microsoft, CAP Foundation and USAID/India. Addressing one of the root causes of unemployment in India, CAP Foundation provides employability skills training and economic empowerment to individuals and youth in at-risk communities.

Speaking at the event, **Nancy Anderson, Corporate Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, Microsoft Corporation, USA** said, "Access to information and communication technology holds tremendous potential to be the change agent for creating a more equitable order of economic opportunities and sustainable development. Every life that Project Jyoti - our Community Technology Skills Program in India - has helped transform through IT skills training is a testament to this. I am glad to deepen the engagement with our partner CAP Foundation for continuing to reach out to underserved individuals and changing lives".

In his comments, **Mr. George Deikun, Mission Director, USAID/India**, said, "USAID is privileged to be a part of this very exciting initiative which links learning with livelihood. It is revolutionizing the way vulnerable youth, who have little prospect of employment, are mainstreamed into society".

Expressing her views, **Ms. Nalini Gangadharan, Chairperson, CAP Foundation**, said, "Under the Microsoft and USAID-supported program, disadvantaged youth acquire basic IT skills, technical domain skills in fast expanding sectors, as well as life skills. It is a concrete step in positively changing the course of an individual's life".

Microsoft has so far partnered with 13 NGOs for on-the-ground CTSP program implementation in India, supported close to 900 Community Technology Learning Centres (CTLs) across the country, and trained more than 120,000 people in approximately 20 states and Union Territories in IT skills based on the Unlimited Potential curriculum.

Under the grants announced by Microsoft, for **phase II of an ongoing anti-human trafficking project**, CAP Foundation will get Rs 1.18 crores in cash, software and curriculum across 30 training centres focusing on high migration and trafficking pockets in 15 states and union territories. A total of 44,800 at-risk youth from economically disadvantaged communities especially vulnerable to trafficking will receive IT and other skills training over three years. Most significantly, 80% of them are expected to be placed in jobs. This continues the momentum of phase I (2006-2008) of the project which was supported by USAID and QUEST Alliance for digitization of life skills content for improved delivery of the training.

A second project for **IT skills training of Overseas Workers to assist their safe migration** will get Rs 42.53 lakhs in cash, software and curriculum donations from Microsoft for 3 training centres in Hyderabad, Chennai and Ranchi. Around 6000 workers who have made the decision to migrate overseas for employment and are registered with Overseas Migration Corporations or similar agencies in India will receive pre-migration related employability skills training, certification and placement assistance. In addition to enabling professional advancement and safer, more informed migration, technology training will also help overseas workers transition more easily to life overseas and remain in closer contact with their families back home via use of ICT.

### Notes to Editor

#### About CAP Foundation ([www.capfoundation.in](http://www.capfoundation.in))

The mission of CAP Foundation is to link learning and livelihood for youth at risk by providing a holistic education and livelihood promotion module which combines formal education with employability skill development training, life skills, job placement and career exploration opportunities, using experience to develop confident individuals capable of self directed growth.

### **About Microsoft India ([www.microsoft.com/india](http://www.microsoft.com/india))**

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (NASDAQ "MSFT") is the worldwide leader in software for personal and business computing. The company offers a wide range of products and services designed to empower people through great software - any time, any place and on any device. Microsoft Corporation India Private Ltd is a subsidiary of Microsoft Corporation USA. It has had a presence in India since 1990 and currently has offices in 16 cities - Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chandigarh, Chennai, Coimbatore, Hyderabad, Indore, Jaipur, Jamshedpur, Kochi, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai, Nagpur, New Delhi, and Pune.

### **About USAID India (<http://www.usaid.gov/in>)**

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is the principal U.S. agency that provides economic, development and humanitarian assistance to countries around the world. Despite India's booming economic growth, large segments of the youth population lack the education and skills necessary for success in the modern economy. To address this gap, USAID/India supports the Workforce Development Initiative (*Ek Mouka or one opportunity*) implemented by the CAP Foundation, which mobilizes poor and marginally educated youth and provides them with training in the skills demanded by industry.

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