

UKIBC Case Study

ASSESSMENT TOMORROW

Please give a description of your companies products and services

The take up of e-Assessment is increasing world-wide and is defined as the use of technology to measure skills, knowledge and understanding. Within Education (from the school room to the post graduate seminar), Trainers, Government Agencies and test providers are actively engaged in developing technology based assessment solutions that enable them to provide reliable, flexible assessment for learners, students and employees. Assessment Tomorrow is a leading

- international organisers of conferences and seminars,
- provider of consultancy services in the field of e-Assessment as well as being a
- acknowledged adviser to education, industry and government on the selection and introduction of e-Assessment.

Drawing on expertise from the UK, Europe and worldwide, it manages projects and organises conferences/seminars aimed at informing and assisting policy makers, assessment developers and providers. It covers implementing e-Assessment in the work place and in the classroom and provides the opportunity to understand and successfully implement e-Assessment solutions, debate the issues and find out about the latest developments.

Please outline your current projects/partners/interest in India

In 2006 and 2007 Assessment Tomorrow developed and ran the first international event to be held in India focussed on the practical aspects of e-Assessment with a two day conference and exhibition in Bangalore. This conference met very positive response from government, educators and industrialists who attended. This will now be followed by the second such event in Kolkata in September 2009.

Assessment Tomorrow have also worked with a number of Indian companies in the e-Assessment and e-Learning marketplace to provide seminars introducing the concept of e-Assessment and how it can be used to bridge the Skills gap. Assessment Tomorrow has recently held a further seminar on e-Assessment and the Skills Gap with UK Trade and Investment in Kolkata and is now planning two further such events in India, with the support of UKT&I. An invited audience of companies, training providers and educationalists will be invited to hear a program of presentations including an opening address from UKT&I, an introduction to the tools and techniques of e-Assessment and case studies of successful implementations of the technology in India by Indian organisations.

Assessment Tomorrow is currently working on a range of projects at various stages of development with organisations in West Bengal. Some of these are obviously of a higher confidential nature however we can reveal that they include:

1. Following our joint seminar (March 2009) with UK Trade and Investment on e-Assessment and e-learning (with access to 40 to 50 of the leading organisations in

partnership in action

West Bengal), further seminars with UKT&I are now planned. This is part of an on-going programme of seminars that showcase the technology and tools of e-Assessment and how they can be used to bridge the skills gap. Similar UKT&I supported events in Delhi, Bangalore, Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok are now being planned.

2. Working with two major Kolkata based University Colleges on domain skills assessment programmes. This development is likely to see assessments delivered in 2009/10.
3. Currently beginning discussion with major Schools and College public based examinations body to discuss options of taking national examinations on to a digital/online base.
4. We have been approached by a major National trade body to work with them on projects being proposed to West Bengal Government. Similarly we have an open invitation from WeBEL, supported by WB IT Ministry, to discuss joint projects to enhance skills assessment and development in West Bengal.
5. Working with major West Bengal higher education institution to develop a skills indexing service. This is one of a number of projects with universities and Technical colleges in the region.
6. Talking with WBCHE about West Bengal University e-Assessment projects starting with North Bengal University as first in a broad programme of development. These projects and resultant systems will measure and certify soft and hard skills.
7. In discussion and negotiation with a number of national and international companies to develop internal e-Assessment projects.

Preparation well advanced for a joint conference with NASSCOM on 15th and 16th September at Hyatt in Kolkata as major showcase event on computer based learning and assessment to bridge the skills gap. This has involved considerable press interest in what we are doing.

Describe you potential areas of interest/nature of offer to India

e-Assessment has got an important role to play in addressing the skills gap in India. It is an effective way of meeting the increasing numbers and demands of industry, customers and the wider economy. E-Assessment is able to help employers recognize and develop the right talent, deriving maximum benefit from the new technologies of skills assessment and development.

Using the technology now available is the most reliable and cost effective measurement of skills and competencies. We are also interested in implementing Indian projects in the areas of technology support learning, training and professional development.

What would be most useful to your company in precipitating business links with India?

The ability to further our current operations in India and develop new projects.