

New certification programmes launched

RapidStart offers training in cloud computing, green IT

By **AMIT ROY CHOUDHURY**
RAPIDSTART, an accredited training and certifications provider, has launched training and certification programmes in cloud computing and green IT here, in conjunction with the Global Science and Technology Forum (GSTF).

The certification programmes – Mastering Cloud Computing and Its Applications, and Mastering Green IT – provide different levels of certifications to individuals and corporate professionals keen to expand their IT skills, according to a spokesman for RapidStart.

In Singapore, RapidStart is the authorised part-

ner of GSTF. RapidStart plans to train at least 300 certified professionals for both cloud computing and green IT.

GSTF is in the process of appointing partners in the region. In India, it is about to sign a partner who has 130 centres across the sub-continent and intends to train about 10,000 students in the first year.

Well-known Singaporean entrepreneur Anton Ravindran has teamed up with two Australians – San Murugesan, a former senior research fellow at the US National Research Council, NASA Ames Research Centre; and Stephen Martin, a former Australian foreign secretary and Speaker of Parliament of Australia and former deputy vice-chancellor (strategy and planning) at Curtin University Of Technology – to set up the GSTF.

According to Mr Ravindran, who is president and CEO of GSTF, the entity is an integrated vehicle for the development and promotion of economic development in the areas of infocomm technology (ICT), computer science and engineering, bio informatics, business energy efficiency and new energy technologies.

These programmes, the first of their kind to be launched in the region, were introduced in response to the exponential leap in demand for cloud computing and green IT, according to Mr Ravindran.

Participants will be eligible for Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore's (IDA) CITREP for the associate and specialist levels of both the green IT and cloud computing training programmes at this stage.

“Our training programmes will provide the participants with in-depth knowledge, skills and expertise needed to understand, evaluate, develop and deploy green IT and cloud computing solutions in a range of contexts including business, government and individual,” Mr Ravindran said.

He added that given the rapid growth of virtualisation and green IT practices, the industry will need to ramp up training for their IT staff to meet the needs and demand for skill-sets in these technologies.

The demand for such programmers is expected to escalate due to increased deployment of cloud computing infrastructure and technologies, and these new programmes are expected to generate revenue of \$2 million for RapidStart, he noted.