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Smart technology to reshape Việt Nam

The Global Science and Technology Forum (GSTF) Singapore has appointed Bach Khoa Information Technology Academy (BKACAD) of Hanoi University of Science and Technology as its Authorised Training Partner.



Dr Anton Ravindran, current president of GSTF, CEO and founder of RapidStart, and author, adjunct professor and entrepreneur, spoke to Việt Nam News to discuss the partnership and its implications for Việt Nam.

What are the main objectives of your collaboration with BKACAD?

We see Việt Nam as a country in Asia which is of much interest to Singaporean companies due to the size of its population, young work force, its recent market economic policies and the fact that Việt Nam could reportedly be the fastest growing country amongst emerging economies. The best way to reach out to a sizeable market

such as Việt Nam with some 90 million people would be to start off with an institution like BKACAD and focus on transferring knowledge and skills to the locals. BKACAD runs an incubation centre for start-ups, in which we can also play a pivotal role as a platform to potential Vietnamese markets.

But the number one challenge for Việt Nam, like in any other developing economies, is the issue of talent and real skills in the three key technologies that are transforming the world: Cloud Computing, Big Data/Data Science and Internet of Things (IOT).

The educational system in Việt Nam is solid, with good grounding in fundamentals and theoretical knowledge, but the people have yet to be exposed to the above mentioned three key technology fields to develop and deploy commercial application across diverse sectors. Therefore, our programme with BKACAD will offer an opportunity to transfer skills and technical knowhow, as we all know that the speed of execution is vital to a company's success or failure.

What are the details of this partnership?

Our model will essentially in-

clude three flagship programmes on Cloud Computing, Data Science/Big Data and IOT/TOE, with Machine Learning and Cognitive Computing. As part of this initiative, GSTF will train and certify trainers from BKACAD so that they can then train and certify local professionals. We will also provide our partner with the necessary course material and certification upon completion. Our target audience is ICT professionals and practitioners. Incidentally, we have trained participants from Việt Nam, including Intel, in Singapore, and now in partnership with BKACAD we will be able to transfer the knowledge locally to different verticals, including banking and finance, telco, manufacturing, healthcare and the governmental sector.

From your regional expertise and experience, how do you see smart cities and smart homes initiatives developing in Việt Nam?

Last August, HCM City announced that it would become a smart city. It would therefore be in need of developers and solution architects equipped with the technical knowhow to develop and employ the necessary applications for driving a smart city, which include Cloud Computing, Big Data and IOT, along with cognitive computing and artificial intelligence. They would help address the challenges faced by cities with respect to healthcare, transportation, en-

ergy and environment through the use of smart applications. In fact, IOT will lead to the democratization of healthcare and education.

The use of smartphones has had many positive aspects with respect to daily life and now with IOT, e-Health and telemedicine, we can treat patients in villages and remote locations. This would help lessen the costs on healthcare and make it more pervasive. Likewise, we could better manage our traffic on the streets with improved parking facilities that could be remotely monitored and offer world class education to students in distant places who may not otherwise have access to urban educational systems. This would ultimately shift the burden of urbanisation through technology.

The implication of smart technology is phenomenal, as technological development in the past few years with the invention of smartphones has revolutionised the world. We believe the use of IOT will change the globe even faster, hence we are at an inflexion point across the world and it is inevitable. For Việt Nam to fully leverage this, it is essential to acquire the skills, and the success of HCM City will lead to more smart cities and smart homes in Việt Nam.

Do you plan to partner with other institutions in Việt Nam for similar training programmes in the near future?

We would like to give

BKACAD some time to be implemented first, although we have been approached by some other institutions in Việt Nam. We will weigh the merits of each partnership closely as we are committed to this country. We will also look forward to opportunities to branch out in other cities.

Could you tell us more about GSTF's operations and some of the highlights since 2008 inception?

GSTF is a pioneer in the region in developing content using Open Source Technology and in offering training certification in the areas of Cloud Computing, Big Data/Data Science, IOT and Cognitive Computing. These technologies have begun to democratise healthcare and educational systems, transform traffic system, including driverless car, and address challenges faced by the world with respect to energy and environment. There is also intelligent street lighting (also in Smart Homes), which switches itself off to conserve energy when there's no one around. These are some of the examples. This is evident from smart cities such as Singapore, Dubai or Barcelona. Among other activities, GSTF also focuses on Open Access Publications, maintaining an online library of research content, administering nearly 30 academic conferences and publishing 17 research journals. □