



PETER SCHREIER RECK

Global Certification Helps Thousands of Peruvians Evolve and Adapt to Changing Times and New Economic Models

SENATI stresses practical application for better paying jobs by incorporating digital literacy training and certification for underprivileged youth

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Peru is among several nations with an economy emerging at such considerable rate that significant technological changes are also leading to a shortage of skilled employees. Peter Schreier Reck, National Director of the National Service for Industrial Works Skills or SENATI, believes that today's working population has been unable to keep pace with the current skill demands and rate of development among businesses.



"The increase in the demand for IT courses has been predicated by students becoming attracted to being trained in programs with relevant and current value," Schreier said.

Efforts from training bodies to remain current and offer services in accordance with demand help bridge the gap between education and employment. Established in 1961, SENATI provides training throughout 48 higher education campuses, empowering students to receive skills in cutting-edge technologies. Supporting national industry development, SENATI specializes in providing Peru's often disadvantaged young adults with relevant and up-to-date skills.

Focusing first on the demands of the labor market, the educational objectives of these centers have been geared towards the development of identified competencies. With a student population of which 30 to 50 percent represents re-skilling workers directly tied to national production, development of knowledge and skills is imperative, said Schreier.

"The impact of workers' training and education levels is not only noticed on a regional level, but also worldwide," he said.

In January 2009, SENATI was approved by the National Council to include Certiport Internet and Computing Core Certification (IC³®) curricula and certification as the official digital literacy course for students in all of SENATI's technical tracks. Digital literacy is promoted where SENATI offers courses to both students and community members. This year, SENATI plans to train more than 128,000 youth under the new curriculum for meeting global standards of digital literacy and preparing for certification.

"We are interested in improving efficiency and relevance to our activities, and this has been reflected in the adoption of international certifications," Schreier said. "It is an extremely valuable contribution allowing our students [the opportunity] to achieve accreditations of international recognition without leaving their own country. Furthermore, they enhance our student's employability and future opportunities."

SENATI has raised the level of its training programs in terms of quality and has also enabled its students to achieve international certifications through its IT National Program (PNI), indicating an individual is well-qualified, efficient and



effective in this high-demand labor market. According to 2007 statistics, employment of SENATI graduates is at about 80 percent.

The success of SENATI in placing students in high-demand jobs stems from the participation of private and public sectors. Industrialists who are working to obtain the maximum productivity of their employees have supported training, education and international certifications offered by SENATI. Training is free for those students sponsored by enterprises that contribute, as well as for their employees. Schreier said these efforts help contribute not only to the competitiveness of each enterprise, but also to the economic standing of the country.

"Peru is in the process of becoming an open market, bringing many new possibilities of international trade based on recent free trade agreements," Schreier said. "It is such a crucial time, and holding an international certification of any competence becomes an advantage which will allow the workforce to accompany this opening process."



Because IC³ certification has been so well received in Lima, Schreier believes the program can go much further than within city limits.

"Since instituting certification, these credentials have become a key advantage when applying for a job. Our goal is to extend this model nationwide to help ensure that students in all training programs of SENATI achieve an IC³ certification as a supplement to their professional training," he said.

ABOUT CERTIPOINT

Certiport prepares individuals with current and relevant digital skills and credentials for the competitive global workforce. These solutions are delivered by more than 12,000 Certiport Centers worldwide and include Certiport Internet and Computing Core Certification (IC³®), the official Microsoft® Office certification programs and the Adobe® Certified Associate certification program. For more information, visit www.certiport.com.

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