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Assessment time

This UK organisation is hosting workshops in India to enable companies to assess effective delivery of their learning systems.

AMBAR SINGH ROY

In the education arena worldwide, e-Assessment is the new buzzword. Educators, trainers, government agencies and test providers are engaged in developing technology-based assessment solutions that facilitate reliable and flexible assessment of students' performances.

Assessment Tomorrow of the UK, an organisation supported by UK Trade and Investment, has been focused on showcasing the potential of technology deployment in measuring competencies of students and also in measuring the delivery system of the learning itself.

Over the years, Assessment Tomorrow has brought together domain experts in e- Assessments and organised seminars and conferences with a view to provide a platform to debate issues and learn about the latest developments on the subject.

After organising conferences in London, Manchester, Birmingham, Glasgow, Kuala Lumpur and Hong Kong, Assessment Tomorrow has zeroed in on the potential of e-Assessment in technical education institutes and engineering colleges in India.

WORKSHOPS

As the first step in this regard, the company has lined up workshops on April 15 and 16, 2008, at the campus of the West Bengal University of Technology (WBUT) in Kolkata. Set up in 2000, WBUT has 126 engineering colleges and technical institutes under its fold.

According to Joy Roy Choudhury, spokesperson of Assessment Tomorrow, the programme will showcase details of e-Assessment and how IT can be leveraged to measure skills, knowledge and understanding and can be used to support learning and teaching and provide a robust and reliable method of measuring and raising students' attainment.

The objectives of the workshop are: to initiate debate on the use of IT and ICT to support learning and development among professionals in the education domain; to explore ways in which new technologies can be used to enhance assessment of students and learners, and hence, their learning and qualifications; to demonstrate how IT can provide information to teaching and administrative staff and learners about students' progression and achievement; and to provide an

Stories in this Section
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[Assessment time](#)

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Front Page
Columns
Index
Archives

Features

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eWorld
Brand Line
Mentor
Life
Brand Quest
The New
Manager

Stocks

Quotes
SE Diary
Scoreboard
Open-End Mutual
Fund

Cross Currency

Rates

Shipping

Ports

Archives

Yesterday
Datewise
Resources
In Focus
In Depth
Events 2007

Google™

Search

Group Sites

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Business Line

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ePaper
Sportstar
Frontline
The Hindu
eBooks
The Hindu
Images

overview of the value and benefits of the new techniques of e-Assessment.

The workshop will also showcase designs and project management competencies in e-Assessment.

Says Roy Choudhury: "Along with creating awareness about e-Assessment in education, we need to focus on the implementation aspects of e-Assessment modules.

This will necessitate a shift from the traditional paper-based learning system to a blended learning system where teachers are able to spend more time in teaching and the subjective element in the assessment process is reduced to the minimum".

He says an e-Assessment-centric blended learning system has been found to be especially useful in areas such as teacher training, vocational and professional courses, licensing and accreditation tests. "e-Assessment started in the US and has now moved to the UK as well.

In India, after WBUT, we hope to showcase the potential and benefits of e-Assessment in other educational institutes across the country", he says.

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