

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SIAST expands operations overseas

Diploma training offered through brokerage arrangements supports immigration

March 24, 2011 – Post-secondary students in a growing number of countries are learning what has long been familiar to their counterparts in Saskatchewan – SIAST provides practical, career-focused education. Students in three countries can study for a SIAST diploma through brokerage arrangements, and the institute is negotiating with potential partners in two more countries.

In addition to marketable skills, SIAST programming abroad also enables international students to gain a valuable Canadian credential without having to leave their home country.

“SIAST has extensive experience working in more than 30 countries around the globe, primarily in a consulting role,” says David Harvey, director of SIAST Business Development and International Partnership. “Recently, however, we’ve started expanding the brokerage part of our international operations. By September 2012, we expect overseas enrolment in SIAST programs to top 450.”

SIAST has been delivering the Business Administration diploma program in Vietnam since 2006 in partnership with Ho Chi Minh City University of Industry (HUI). Almost 300 students are currently enrolled in the program. This same program is also available in Mauritius (an island nation in the Indian Ocean) through a partnership developed in 2009 with the Mauritius Institute of Training and Development (MITD) and the Canadian International Training and Education Corp (CITREC). Currently, 39 students are enrolled in the program.

These diploma programs are delivered by local instructors at their facilities to fee-paying students. SIAST is responsible for providing curricula, instructor guides, ongoing instructional support and program certification.

An agreement recently signed in India will see SIAST's Business Administration program delivered to students at the Charutar Vidya Mandal (CVM) campus in Vallabh Vidyanagar, India. SIAST's CAD/CAM Engineering Technology program is also being offered through CVM. Now, SIAST is negotiating brokerage arrangements with educational institutions in Malaysia and Jordan.

Graduates from internationally brokered programs receive the same SIAST diploma as graduates in Canada and may therefore qualify to further their education at Canadian institutions with which SIAST has transfer credit agreements. Upon graduation in Canada, international students may also qualify to seek permanent residence in Saskatchewan under the graduate category of the Saskatchewan Immigration Nomination Program (SINP).

SIAST is Saskatchewan's primary public institution for post-secondary technical education and skills training, recognized nationally and internationally for its expertise and innovation. More than 15,000 students were enrolled in SIAST programs in the most recent academic year; additionally, the organization drew almost 25,000 individual course registrations. Through program and course registrations, SIAST served almost 26,000 distinct students with programs that touch every sector of the economy. SIAST operates campuses in Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Regina and Saskatoon, and provides a number of courses and programs through distance education.

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