



HP-Sponsored Micro-Enterprise Acceleration Institute Wins Top Prize at iLearning Forum Awards

Accolade recognises MEA-I's innovative IT training for small businesses

GENEVA, February 6, 2009 – HP today announced that the Micro-Enterprise Acceleration Institute (MEA-I), an HP-sponsored organisation, has won the top prize at this year's iLearning Awards. The MEA-I, which helps speed the development of micro-enterprises, enjoyed success in all five available award categories in recognition of its innovative Micro-Enterprise Acceleration Program (MAP).

The MEA-I's MAP training initiative is designed to accelerate economic development in communities around the world. This is achieved by providing small enterprises employing up to ten people with the right training, practical knowledge and IT skills, to successfully run and develop their businesses. Thanks to the MEA-I's initiative, more than 20,000 small businesses benefit from MAP training in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa (EMEA) and Asia-Pacific every year.

In addition to funding, HP provides the MEA-I with equipment for its open learning centre and works with the Institute to develop learning and training tools, including the recently launched "Accelerate Security" virtual business game. This was developed after HP surveys among small business and small office (SBSO) customers showed a lack of awareness and understanding of how to effectively secure their information.

"HP is committed to supporting non-profit organisations, educational institutions and communities to help increase job skills and foster entrepreneurial development through innovative use of IT," says Charl Snyman, vice president and general manager, Commercial Products, Personal Systems Group, HP EMEA. "We are delighted that the tremendous effort and hard work of the MEA-I has been recognised with such a prestigious award and we look forward to continuing our support of the MEA-I's initiatives moving forward."

Organised by the iLearning Forum Ltd and the European Association of eLearning Professionals (EiFEL), the iLearning Awards categories comprise: iLearning Organisation, iLearning Provider, iLearning Futures, iLearning Quality and iLearning Access. The MEA-I was recognised for its use of cutting-edge technology to develop the competencies of individuals, as well as its use of technology to seamlessly integrate individual and organisational, formal and informal learning.

"Accelerate Security" and other learning tools can be found at www.knowledge-city.net

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HP, the world's largest technology company, simplifies the technology experience for consumers and businesses with a portfolio that spans printing, personal computing, software, services and IT infrastructure. More information about HP (NYSE: HPQ) is available at <http://www.hp.com>.

About MEA-I

The Micro-Enterprise Acceleration Institute is an international, non-profit organisation that facilitates access and knowledge of IT by advancing the implementation of digital acceleration centres, student-centred teaching and learning programs through ubiquitous technology.

The Micro-Enterprise Acceleration Institute is sponsored by Hewlett-Packard.

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