

## Global ECDL Foundation Best Practice Award winners for 2007 announced

# SpringBoard4Asia presented with Best Practice Award



**An ECDL Foundation Best Practice Award was presented to SpringBoard4Asia at the ECDL Foundation Awards ceremony on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2007, in Barcelona, Spain. This Best Practice Award acknowledges SpringBoard4Asia's initiative as a successful example of the implementation of the ICDL programme.**

ECDL Foundation established the Best Practice Awards to recognise and acknowledge initiatives and projects that are considered as successful examples of the implementation of the ECDL Foundation programmes and that help promote and develop the ECDL/ICDL<sup>1</sup> concept in local markets.

This year the ECDL Foundation Awards ceremony was attended by ICT professionals, representing national computer societies and international organisations in 148 countries around the world. Each attendee was invited to vote on their 3 preferred examples of best practice.

The Best Practice Award was presented to SpringBoard4Asia in recognition of its work in providing support for the Blue Dragon Children's Foundation which provides ICDL training for poor Vietnamese children. SpringBoard4Asia approved Blue Dragon Children's Foundation as an ICDL Test Centre and gives them free ICDL packages in order to provide free training and certification for these children. Children that enrol on the ICDL programme with this Foundation are from various backgrounds; many are suffering from poverty or lack of support and care from their families. Enrolment on the ICDL programme helped many of them to develop new social values.

Damien O'Sullivan, CEO of ECDL Foundation, commenting on the SpringBoard4Asia Best Practice award, said, "By providing the ICDL certification for Vietnamese children, SpringBoard4Asia helps these children to achieve a better future. In line with the ECDL Foundation values, we strive to assure that ICDL is accessible to all citizens, irrespective of age, gender, status, ability or race. We support the ECDL Foundation Licensees' acknowledgement and decision to award SpringBoard4Asia's work and vision in order to help these children obtain the ICDL certification and to promote the ICDL programme in the region."

The other two Best Practice Award winners for 2007 are the UNESCO Cairo office and Fundación Chile.

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<sup>1</sup> The International Computer Driving Licence (ICDL) is known as the European Computer Driving Licence (ICDL) in Europe.



The Global ECDL Foundation Best Practice Award 2007 winners in a group photo: (From left) Jim Friars, Chairman of the ECDL Foundation Board; Colin Glass, CEO, SpringBoard4Asia (ICDL in Vietnam); Paulina Soto, ICDL Programme Manager, Fundación Chile (ICDL in Chile); Dr Awad El Hassan, Director, The UNESCO Cairo Office; Shatha Al-Montheri, ICDL Programme Director, The UNESCO Cairo Office; Damien O'Sullivan, CEO, ECDL Foundation.

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## EDITOR'S NOTES

### About SpringBoard4Asia (ICDL in Vietnam)

Vietnam is a fast developing country. The people are hungry for knowledge, and appreciate the value of education and skills in upgrading one's standard of living. It is in this spirit that, within a relatively short period of time ICDL introduced to the country, it had enjoyed quite a success. 18 tests centres have been approved to conduct ICDL testing, and between them, have managed to register close to 300 ICDL test candidates.

### About ECDL Foundation

The ECDL Foundation is the global governing body of the world's leading end-user computer skills certification programme, the European Computer Driving Licence. It is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to helping to raise the general level of computer skills in society and providing access for all to the Information Society. Internationally recognised in 148 countries and attracting over 7 million Candidates to its range of certification programmes, the ECDL Foundation has set the global benchmark in end-user skills certification programmes.

The ECDL Foundation certification programmes have been successfully introduced on every continent, providing an internationally recognised certification for a huge variety of people in many different environments. The strong values of the ECDL Foundation — a social responsibility, vendor independence and commitment to quality — make the ECDL/ICDL the natural choice for governments and international organisations all over the world.

### Mission

The ECDL Foundation mission is to enable proficient use of ICT that empowers individuals, organisations and society, through the development, promotion and delivery of quality certification programmes throughout the world.

### Values

The ECDL Foundation's values are:

**Social Responsibility:** as a not-for-profit organisation, we are committed to improving digital skills proficiency within society. Our certification programmes are designed to be accessible to all citizens, irrespective of age, gender, status, ability or race.

**Vendor Independence:** our certification programmes give Candidates the flexibility and freedom to acquire digital skills and confidently apply them in any software environment that they may be required to use.

**Quality:** we strive for continuous improvements in all that we do and ensure that our programmes are implemented to consistent standards internationally.

### Disability Statement

The European Computer Driving Licence Foundation is committed to ensuring that no one is excluded from pursuing the ECDL/ICDL certification and is actively working towards ensuring accessibility to people with disabilities. To this end, the ECDL Foundation has been working within its network and with disabilities groups for some years. The work has identified and eliminated major barriers to accessibility and will continue on an ongoing basis to enhance the ECDL Foundation programmes.