

## Microsoft to create opportunities for millions of youth

Written by Administrator

Tuesday, 27 November 2012 18:30

---



### **Microsoft's youth initiative to impact 300 million youth globally in more than 100 countries.**

**New Delhi.** Microsoft Corporation India Pvt Ltd has announced cash grants worth 350,000 USD for Indian NGOs for the year 2012-13 under its newly launched global initiative Microsoft YouthSpark. Two local NGO's, Aide ét Action and Aga Khan Rural Support Program, were allocated 250,000 USD for the year, in support of their work with youth. The company-wide initiative will aim to create opportunities for 300 million youth in more than 100 countries over the next three years.

The announcement also included the launch of the first YouthSpark centre in Delhi, the first of 10 such centres across the country, that will work with underprivileged youth aged 16 to 24, offering training on basic IT skills, spoken English, personality development and job preparedness. Each centre will focus on one trade led enterprise like IT-enabled services, retail, hospitality, automobiles, etc.

Speaking on-site at the first YouthSpark centre, hosted in conjunction with NGO Aide ét Action in New Delhi, Jean-Philippe Courtois, President, Microsoft International, said, "I am very proud to be part of the launch of this first Microsoft YouthSpark Center right here in Delhi. I am even more pleased that this is the first of 10 such centers we plan across this great country over the next 18 months as we continue to find new ways to help empower our youth to change their world: to be the spark of change. We expect this YouthSpark center will allow 80,000 youth to be trained over three years – of which we expect 65,000 to find employment through placement drives and alliances with potential employers - and 15,000 to start their own enterprises. This is the core goal of YouthSpark: helping youth access a wide range of Microsoft programs with the common goal of supporting and serving young people in their quest for opportunity".