



## INTERVIEW

*Jeff Ross is an Independent Prince II project manager and consultant supporting clients managing the development and introduction of IT systems to meet business and administrative needs. During a recent visit to Kolkata, BE's Abhijit Ganguly caught up with him to find out more about Assessment Tomorrow and the use of technology to measure, assess and develop skills to bridge the skills gap.*

**Q) Please tell us about Assessment Tomorrow?**

**A)** Assessment Tomorrow is one of the leading international organisers of conferences and seminars, providers of consultancy services in the field of e-Assessment as well as being an acknowledged adviser to education, industry and government on the selection and introduction of e-Assessment.

**Q) What are your specific ideas about e-Assessment and the Skills Gap?**

**A)** Only 30% of IT graduates meet the demands and expectations of India's IT industry. Less than 20% of other graduates are suitable for BPOs and ITES. West Bengal is rapidly being seen as a leader in BPO, KPO and other ITES Industries.

The 2008 NASSCOM/A.T. Kearney report reinforced it. With major governmental and industry investment, the challenge is how to manage the talent already in place in West Bengal and develop the next generation to its full potential.

There are two elements of e-Assessment: *e-testing* to measure skills and knowledge by questions and assignments presented on the computer, and *e-portfolios* to record performance and achievement not only in the workplace but also in

projects and course work.

**Q) The government is taking a lot of initiatives in digitalising education in India. Have you had talks with the government regarding any tie-ups?**

**A)** I had a talk with Dr. Debesh Das, the IT minister of West Bengal. We will be doing a number of projects covering schools, colleges, and universities in terms of skill development.

**Q) What is your opinion on the global economic crisis?**

**A)** Yes, it is true the world is facing a job crisis due to the global economic crisis. Skills will play a major role in getting jobs. People with better skills will have more employability. In fact this crisis situation will create a lot of opportunities for

better skilled persons. It has created a great demand for trained people.

**Q) Does Assessment Tomorrow cater to the high-end work only?**

**A)** Assessment Tomorrow caters to everybody. Its services are given to corporates as well as to small kids. From the school room to workplace and offices of education management and policy makers – all will be radically affected by e-Assessment.

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