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Press release:

The Japan Research Institute, Limited
Docent Japan

JRI and Docent to Combine Forces in the Field of Support for Knowledge Strategy Implementation Offer integrated solutions of eLearning and Knowledge Management

The Japan Research Institute Limited (President: Shunichi Okuyama, Headquarters: Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, hereafter JRI) and Docent Japan (Headquarters: Minato-ku, Tokyo, President: Dave Mandelkern, hereafter Docent) announced that they would combine forces in the field of support for the implementation of knowledge strategies to integrate eLearning and Knowledge Management.

1. Background

In this era of change, a knowledge strategy is, as is well known to many business organizations, an important strategy that determines their growth capability. It is no exaggeration to say that the future of a company depends on how far the knowledge strategy is implemented. To find a way out of this tough deflationary environment to revival, financial and business process restructuring is not enough; it is essential to increase organizational strength.

However, although there have been means of evaluating and enhancing individual workers' skills and competencies such as qualifications and training systems, there have been no means of taking charge of every phase of the implementation of the knowledge strategy to include determining the distribution of competency in an organization, identifying measures to be taken and cost analysis.

JRI, which offers practical consulting services based on its philosophy of "collaborative creation of customer value through knowledge engineering", has teamed up with Docent, which offers business performance management (BPM) applications, in an endeavor to provide Japanese companies with integrated solutions that support the implementation of a knowledge strategy through provision of human resource development models and revitalization of intra-company knowledge.

While education that combines the best forms such as distribution of learning contents and collective education and learning management based on competency (human resource development model) are regarded as "formal learning", provision and creation among employees of best practices and ideas are regarded as "informal learning". To implement a knowledge strategy, it is essential to integrate these two kinds of learning.

JRI and Docent, which have been in collaboration with each other on an informal basis, enter into an official partnership agreement to enhance cooperation, taking advantage of the fact that Docent's software packages have made possible the integration of formal learning and informal learning.

The cooperation has made it possible to offer solutions that are not direct imports from the United States but are optimized in such a way that Japanese companies' strength can be capitalized on.

2. Features of the two partners and future developments

JRI has a long track record of providing consulting services on IT-driven organizational reform. JRI offers support in competency development based on management and organizational strategy, establishment of content development systems and management of communities in which members are encouraged to provide information to one another, and then proposes optimal systems.

Docent has an excellent track record in the field of eLearning platforms. Docent offers Docent Enterprise™, a software package that integrates Docent Learning Management System™ (LMS) and

Docent Learning Content Management System™ (LCMS) for formal learning on the one hand and Docent Exchange™, Knowledge Management system for informal learning on the other.

One of the advantages of learning management systems is visualization of ROI in the implementation of the knowledge strategy. Capitalizing on this advantage, Docent Enterprise™ has made it possible to support the ensuring of compliance. This support function satisfies 21 CFR Part 11, the digital signature and auditing report requirements imposed by FDA (Food and Drug Administration of the United States).

JRI and Docent will actively take part in exhibitions and hold seminars in a joint effort to offer a beacon in the growing Knowledge Management market in Japan and provide knowledge engineering solutions.

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