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**BPO boom: i-Skills joins hands with Akiko Callnet**

Saturday October 8 2005 13:42 IST

**BHUBANESWAR:** City-based i-Skills, a leading call centre training institute, has joined hands with Akiko Callnet, a leader in the field, to train BPO aspirants at its new training institute here.

Taking to mediapersons here recently, chairman of Akiko Callnet Kirti Sharma said Orissa holds immense potential for BPO as it produces a good number of under graduate and graduates with excellent command over English and a fine technical know-how.

Students above 18 years of age are eligible to apply for the training programme.

The programme, he said, will focus on enhancing the skills required for a BPO job like improving vocabulary, communication skills and mastering the British and US English accents. Akiko Callnet specialises imparting training in the voice segment.

With scores of MNCs entering the State, he said, professionals graduating from the centre will have little problem landing jobs. i-Skills also plans to open centres across the State.

Speaking on the occasion, chairman of i-Skills Bijay Sahoo said the aim of the centre will be to create manpower and supplement the requirements of the software sector in the State. However, he felt that the exercise will meet only 15 to 20 per cent of the State's requirements.

i-Skills handles back office service operations of leading banks and telecom service providers in the State and neighbouring

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Today the BPO sector is the largest employment generating industry in the country, registering a compound annual growth rate of 50 per cent.

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According to a recent Nasscom report, the total manpower demand in the BPO sector is estimated to touch 11.2 lakh by 2009.

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**Newindpress on Sunday**

To cash in on the emerging trend, the State Government in recent months has laid special focus on this sector.

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Akiko Callnet is an arm of the New Delhi-based Sherman group and has 94 centres across the country.

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Yes

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