

INFORMATICS

I NEWS :

A. I.I.I. NEWS

SGGS COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY - USICEE MOU

The UNESCO Supported International Centre for Engineering Education (USICEE), the worlds' only such centre for engineering education has been established at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia.

Shri. Guru Gobind Singhji College of Engineering Technology, Vishnupuri, Nanded has signed a M.O.U. with USICEE on 17th April, 1996.

According to this M.O.U. the UNESCO will undertake a number of activities with special emphasis on industry institution interaction. The activities also include exchange of staff, Organisation of Training Courses, Organisation of International Conferences, promotion of scheme for Technology Transfer from Engineering College to Industry and vise-versa, Joint Research Project, Exchange of students for project work. UNESCO is expected to provide funds and guidance for implementation of above mentioned project.

Several Centres in various other countries have been established and all

theses centres are going to be in a network for exchange of experience and participating jointly in projects.

The M.O.U. also includes upgradation of standards of education of the B.E., M.E. courses and research being conducted at this college. Experts are expected to visit the institute and chalk out a programme for action, soon.

FORBES MARSHALL AWARDS :

A concrete positive step towards Industry-Institute-Interaction has been taken by Forbes Marshall, a well known company in Pune, by instituting Forbes Marshall Awards.

To encourage students to work on particular problems and get exposure to industrial practices, Forbes Marshall, Pune have instituted awards, each worth Rs. 10,000 to be given away to the groups of final year engineering students successfully completing the most industrially relevant projects. These awards will be given in mechanical engineering (at College of Engg. Pune [COEP] and Vishwakarma Institute of Technology [VIT], Pune) Instrumentation/Dept. (COEP) and energy related problems (IIT, Bombay). This year the COEP group had won the award for

their project on Design and Fabrication of Vibration Table and VIT group for their project on Dynamic Rubber Testing Machine. The award at IIT, Bombay has been given to the (M.Tech.) project on Heat Transfer in a Cooling Pond in Thermal Power Station.

IGNOU SIGNS MOU WITH IREDA

The Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to co-operate and collaborate regarding information disseminations and human resources development in the area of renewable energy in the country.

CARRIER NEWS ON INTERNATE

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has launched a new service entitled Indian Students professional integration and reentry (Inspire) available on "India world" on internate which will provide information related to career planning and return home from young professional educated in the States.

Eight companies - Ashok Leyland, Citi Corp., Eicher Goodearth, Godrej Soaps, Mahindra & Mahindra, Sona Stearing, Wadia & Wipro have evinced interest in international recruitment and their profiles are being hosted on "Inspire."

B - AICTE NEWS

INFRASTRUCTURAL SUPPORT FOR EXCELLENCE :

AICTE has launched a scheme of "Infrastructural Support for Excellence

in Engineering and Technology (ISEET) where the institution/department having proven record of high quality research performance and strong industrial tie-ups in the identified areas of national priorities will be supported to raise technical equipment used in manufacturing process design and testing in the areas direct industrial relevance.

AICTE AWARDS FOR BEST TECHNICAL BOOKS :

AICTE proposes to award prizes for best technical books in Hindi and other regional languages during last five years for course curricula covering subjects of Engineering, Technology, Architecture, Management, Farmacy, Applied Arts and Crafts for promoting Technical writing in these languages.

PROGRAMME ACCREDITATION IN ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY

The National Board of Accreditation established by the AICTE; has taken conscious decision to focus the accreditation process on the individual degree programme offered by the institution rather than institution as entity for four year undergraduate engineering degree course after 10+2 and three semester M.E./M.Tech. programme after bachelors degree.

The aim and object of the accreditation is to recognise and acknowledge the value addition in transforming the admitted raw students into capable engineer, having a sound knowledge of fundamentals and acceptable levels of professional competence for ready employability for responsible engineering assignment nationally and globally.

As a pre-condition to the accreditation process the AICTE has revised its norms and standards in various sectors of technical education like Architecture, Computer, Pharmacy, Engineering and Technology, Town and Country planning, Technician Education, Catering Technology etc.. These norms provide a set of minimum essential requirements both of academic infrastructure as well as physical and resources essentially for starting a new degree programme. But it is expected that institution desiring and deserving accreditation shall substantially exceed these norms to demonstrable extent and indicate not only the current competence but also an assured capability to retain the competence in future also.

C - GENERAL NEWS

I.I.T. BOMBAY STARTS B. TECH M.TECH PACKAGE :

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay proposes to offer a dual degree package of a five year course of B. Tech., M. Tech. from this academic year. Five year M. Tech. course is a co-operative integrated programme - a joint venture of the I.I.T. & the industry.

This year 30 seats would be available and course would be an integrated one with facility for thesis work in the last 13 months. Students would be entitled to a teaching assistance of upto Rs. 3000 for the last 18 months.

P. G. DIPLOMA IN EDUCATION MANAGEMENT :

SNDT Women's University offers a one year Postgraduate Diploma in Education Management for women college

teachers. The course offers an opportunity to administrators in educational institution (i) to improve their individual performance as managers and to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of their organisations (ii) to upgrade skills in areas such as inter personal communication, leadership and team building, strategic planning and decision making necessary for effective management and (iii) to provide an understanding of basic management concepts and their application in an educational environment.

The course is one full year with alternate contact cum self instructional phases. Contact phases will be held in Diwali, Christmas and Summer Vacation.

IGNOU'S TELECONVOCATION :

The seventh convocation of the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) was held for the first time as a teleconvocation connecting various centres in the country. Besides Delhi and Madras, simultaneous convocation functions were held at Ahmedabad, Bhopal, Calcutta and Hyderabad. The satellite connectivity from Delhi to the other centres was made possible through INSAT - 1C on which the IGNOU had a transponder. The new system has been started with a view to award degrees and diplomas to students without their having to travel long distances to collect them.

II VIEWS

Dr. K. Kastuvirangan, Chairman Space Commission and Secretary Department of Space GOI at the fourteenth Annual Convocation of the Mangalore University.

The Reward of Knowledge

The reward of knowledge is in practical tangible benefits to be found throughout the world. In Addition to these tangible benefits, are the intangible ones of increased understanding on the part of the humans of their place in the place of things. The battle against ignorance is a never ending one, but each new concept accepted as a result of increased understanding has its beneficial influence on the enlightenment of humankind !

Mr. T. K. Balaji, Industrialist inaugurating the Ann University - TVS centre for Quality Management.

Varsity Industry Linkages

Greater Freedom to Universities to try innovative steps regarding interaction with industry would prove a fillip to developing University industry linkages. University authorities were often constrained by the necessity to seek Government permission for small decisions with regard to industry sponsorship. This could deprive opportunities for furthering the linkage. There is no altruism in the industry's perception behind investing in universities. If the outcome of only interaction with academic institutions were of mutual benefit money will never be a limitation.

Emeritus Professor Dr. M. V. Pylee, former vice chancellor University of Cochin at the annual convocation of Amaravati University.

Are we pennywise and Pound foolish ?

In India, although the population is almost five times larger than Japan, yet the engineers graduating per year are

negligibly small in comparison. The post graduates and doctorate students in engineering are again insignificantly small. Research is almost completely absent and consequently we are importing technologies at much higher cost. Saving one rupee on research leads to spending ten rupees on import. It is the collaboration from abroad who have contributed gratefully for the advancement of industry in India and not the higher education institution. The cost paid in terms of royalty etc. as a consequence is much higher. Is this not like being penny-wise and pound-foolish.

Eminent Historian, Dr. B. Sheik Ali, former vice chancellor university of Goa, at the annual convocation of the Kannada University, Hampy.

Integration of culture with technology

We were hoping science and technology would make us happier and better. In reality it has helped only a small minority of the elite. It has brought in its train moral degradation. People are much humanless today than they were even forty or fifty years ago. Technology has created cleavages between man and man, between the employer and the employee, between the costumer and producer and between the urban and rural folks, who suffer in cities like Bombay, Madras and Calcutta in slums of unspeakable degradation, concentrations of wealth and resources only in the hands of a few has caused great concern to world peace and order. Man has now become money-mad, power-mad, pleasure-mad and status-mad because moral values associated with a finer culture are not integrated with technology.

The right type of university system is supposed to correct this imbalance.

Prof. S. K. Khanna, Chairman AICTE at the XIV Convocation of Shri. Shahn Ji Maharaj, Kanpur University, Kanpur.

Varisity - Industry Nexus

"Industry must get involved in education by helping to update the syllabi according to its needs. On the job training and ultimate absorption in industry are fields, where without the co-operation of industry vocationalisation will be meaningless. One would like to see a day in the 21st century when industry sets up its R & D centres in institution of a higher learning and funds them generally for meaningful research for their own well being."

Padmabhushan Dr. Vavilala Gopalkrishnaya, Chairman, Swamy Ramanand Teerth Rural Institute at the thirteenth convocation of the Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad.

Modernity and Tradition

In keeping with the Gandhian thought, we should preserve the network of productive system of Indian heritage, side by side imbibing the technological advances to make the poorest of the poor, affluent and self reliant. Modernity and tradition should go together to regenerate our village economy under globalisation. It is only then that the Indian economy can be competitive and prosper in the international arena.

NEWS FROM ABROAD

Educational Technology 2000

The Communication of learning

(COL) in collaboration with the Asian Mass Communication Research and Information centre, is organising a conference on Educational Technology 2000 at Singapore on August 17 - 1996.

The main objectives of ET 2000 are to provide :

- i) A forum for dialogue between the educational committees and the educational media / Technology industry.
- ii) An opportunity for the educational community to articulate their needs to the industry in an effort to seek appropriate media / technology solutions;
- iii) An opportunity for industry to demonstrate the capabilities of full range of existing and emerging educational media and
- iv) Demonstration of practical application and case studies from all educational sectors.

The focus of the conference will be on the use of multi-media, mixed media, satellite broad casting, teleconferencing, video-audio, computer mediated communication in higher education, formal education, business and industry; technical / vocational education, primary and secondary education, continuing professional education.

Women in Science and Technology

UNESCO' World Scientific Report - 1996, reveals that although more than 25% of the 20 lakh persons in India who are in science and technology field at the undergraduate level or with master and doctorate degree are women, they tend to drop out of science education at higher levels. Three quarters leave after the first degree out just 1% complete Ph. D. The same is for engineering. Only in medicine women continue advance