

13. NEWS & VIEWS

India

● **Outsourcing:** A new face of outsourcing is emerging in India, as major companies such as Wipro and Infosys outsource their outsourcing operations to other developing regions. Infosys sees itself evolving into global source of expertise in how to carve up project, find the talent to accomplish the component parts, maintain quality checks, and then send finished project back to clients.

AUGC Sponsored National Seminar on "National Knowledge Commission's Report and its implication on Higher Education in India" was organized by PG and Research Department of Commerce, Kanchi Manunivar Centre for PG studies on September 22 and 23, 2007 to create awareness among the Higher for an immediate revamping of Higher Education.

A workshop on "National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) new methodology for Assessment and Accreditation" was organized recently for the benefit of Teachers and Officers of the Universities. Prof. V. S. Prasad, Director, NAAC inaugurated the workshop. He mentioned that quality has been the concern of education from the beginning and elaborated need of quality education and role of NAAC in higher education.

A National Workshop on "Development of Self Learning Materials for Distance and Online Learning" was organized by the staff Training and Research Institute for Distance Education of the Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi, during Oct. 29 – Nov. 3, 2007 at IGNOU headquarter, New Delhi. Emphasize was

given on familiarizing the participants with the principles of adult learning and distance learning.

● National conference on "Students Participation in Quality Enhancement in Higher Education" was organized recently by Shri. Shivaji Education Society's Science College, Nagpur. The College has been accredited by NAAC for five years. The conference was well attended by Principals, IQAC Co-ordinators, students and senior teachers from various colleges from all over the country.

Technical Session covered the following topics:

- Higher Education and Employability.
- Sharing experiences and presentations from delegates on ICT : A tool for Quality Enhancement in Higher Education.

● A two day NAAC sponsored National Seminar on "Students Participation in Quality Enhancement" was organized by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell of Shankarrao Mohite mahavidyalaya, Akhij District. 170 participants for the seminar included Principals, Co-ordinators of IQAC of accredited colleges.

Prof. Arun Nigwekar, Former Chairman, UGC, New Delhi, while inaugurating the seminar opined that while achieving quality, accountability in every activity of higher education must be fixed.

Dr. Janardan Waghmare, Former Vice Chancellor, SRT, Marathwada University, during this speech at Valedictory function emphasized that every activity of an educational institute must be student centered.

Abroad

Leaders of engineering education and engineering business from US and India, along with several government dignitaries met an Action Planning Forum II during 29 – 31 August, 2007 at Washington DC for collaboration in engineering education. This was the second of two such Forums organized by the American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE) and the newly formed Indo-US Collaboration for Engineering Education (IUCEE). Prof. N. R. Shetty President, ISTE and Vice President, IFEES participated in the Forum. The goal was to develop an action plan for improving the quality and global relevance of engineering education in India and in the U.S. of particular concern to the participants was the lack of interest in science and engineering in the US, the inadequate preparation of engineering graduates in India, the shortage of students pursuing Ph. D. programs in engineering in India and the need to encourage and support women and underrepresented minorities in engineering careers in both countries.

Action Planning Forum II emphasized the need for creating several regional Indo-US Engineering Faculty Institutes, rather than one Institute one Institute and provided suggestions for key elements of these Institutes. Potential programs to be offered at these Institutes were proposed and discussed. The states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh have offered to lead the way by hosting the first two pilot Institutes. This could include funding for faculty fellowships and faculty travel, provision for faculty release time and sabbaticals as well as certification and faculty salaries linked to participation. Initial support for the Action

Planning Forums was obtained from Infosys, Deshpande Foundation and the Indo US Science and Technology Forum. Additional support for the Forums was provided by the corporations Hewlett Packard, National Instruments, Dassault Systems, Microsoft, Autodesk, Agilent Technologies, The Math works and UGS. The US Embassy as well as the International Federation for Engineering Education Societies (IFEES), the Indian Society for Technical Education (ISTE) and the World Bank Institute were important partners.

A part of OECD Programme on Institutional Management in Higher Education a general conference on "Outcomes of Higher Education: Quality, Relevance and Impact" is being organized during 8-10 September, 2008, France

IACEE World Congress on Continuing Engineering Education: the 11th WCCEE, Sponsored by International Association for Continuing Engineering Education, will be held visit (www.wcee2008.gatech.edu)

Central Michigan University has offered online Master's and Doctoral Programme.

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