

Annual Global Conference on Entrepreneurship and Technology Innovation (AGCETI 2010)

16 – 18th January 2010

Entrepreneurship and innovation are critical to wealth creation in any economy. They are important for geo-political economy in that they foster the reduction of income disparity at national and global levels. Technology is often a primary driver for both entrepreneurship and innovation. In the current global context technology innovation and management are inherently linked to the fostering and sustaining of competitive advantage. With the aim of threading together these separate themes an Annual Global Conference on Entrepreneurship and Technology Innovation was organized at IITK. The intention was to highlight the criticality of developing entrepreneurial talent in boosting technology innovation.

There were 160 participants from India, Africa, Italy and the US. The general plan of each day's session for the three days of the conference was aimed at bringing together the diverse perspectives of the various stakeholders in entrepreneurship and technology innovation. There was one keynote address each day from the three critical stakeholders i.e. the government, the non-governmental organizations and the financial institutions, followed by four research presentations, two in the morning and two in the afternoon session. This was interspersed with panel discussions by industry experts in the areas of innovation, entrepreneurship and finance. Each panel comprised 4 - 6 candidates. The featured topics were – Commercializing emerging technology, Entrepreneurship education, Financing new ventures and Corporate Entrepreneurship. Participants in panel discussions comprised people with considerable experience who shared their views and perspectives and provided a critical analysis of the success and failure of specific models in the above four areas. Each day's session ended with a ten-minute presentation by entrepreneurs sharing their experiences and around 10 entrepreneurs from diverse areas participated. Addresses of the keynote speakers provided a macro perspective of the ways of nurturing entrepreneurial talent and identifying the key drivers for creating and sustaining a knowledge economy.

There was an assortment of good quality research papers and working papers on innovation and entrepreneurship. These papers were made available in the form of CD-ROM and a conference proceeding was also published to disseminate them to a wider audience.

The participants had the opportunity to engage in dialogue with entrepreneurs, corporate executives from India and academicians from across the world. The conference provided opportunities for collaborative research and also highlighted the need of promoting research in the field. This was to be achieved through a capacity building exercise by conducting research workshops and provide funding for research in specific areas.

To this end, the Asian Entrepreneurship Association (AEA), a global forum, has been established with IIT Kanpur (India), NSTEDB, DIT, RPI (US), McMaster University (Canada), National Entrepreneurship Network (NEN), IIMA, IIMB, ISB, IITB, VIT, Montclair university (US), ICICI Knowledge park and **Università Politecnicadelle Marche** as the founding members to focus on entrepreneurship in the Asian context with a global focus. A proposal for funding has been developed and put forward to DST and other funding agencies. AGCETI is currently an annual event and AGCETI 2011 is proposed to be hosted at IIT Bombay during the first week of December, 2011. An announcement regarding the program for encouraging research in entrepreneurship is expected during AGCETI 2011 subject to the receipt of funding commitment from the funding agencies.

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