

## IITK 1982 Batch Silver Jubilee Reunion 2011 Bangalore Banni 2006 Declaration

We, the alumni of the 1982 Batch, propose to pledge an endowment of INR 5 crores (~USD 1 million) to our alma mater, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur, India, on the Silver Jubilee (in 2011) of our 1986 graduation. This endowment termed the 1982 Batch Endowment will be used to enhance the global reputation of IITK by directing funds into three critical areas described below.

We believe that the reputation of an academic institution is driven primarily by excellence in quality along three dimensions:

1. Graduates,
2. Faculty, and
3. Research

We would like the 1982 Batch Endowment to enhance IITK's excellence along each of these dimensions.

**Graduates:** We believe that IITK delivers to its students a world-class engineering and scientific education. However, given our own experiences post-IITK, we believe that a more well-rounded curriculum that includes courses on business, leadership, and entrepreneurship will further enhance the quality of IITK graduates and better prepare them for the real world. IITK has already recognized this need and decided to set up a School of Management at the campus in Kanpur. We believe we should actively support this effort by creating three prominent Chairs at this new school. The first Chair would be for the Dean / Head of the School. For the School of Management to succeed, its leadership is critical. Thus, we propose to support the School by focusing our resources on the one position that will be critical to its success. In addition, we would like to endow two more Chairs—one in Entrepreneurship and the other in Leadership. These three chairs will allow us to have significant influence on the School of Management's agenda, especially to ensure that aside from offering the standard programs in business, the School offers a healthy offering of courses to B.Tech. students and the opportunity for a more well-rounded education.

**Faculty:** IITK has set itself a goal of creating 100 Chaired positions over the next 10 years. Chairs help attract and retain better quality faculty, typically from abroad, by offering them more attractive compensation and research funding. Today, there are only 6 Chairs among 300 faculty! We would like to support IITK in this endeavour since this is one area that directly impacts all others and, in effect, its overall reputation. Thus, we propose that our Endowment selectively creates several Chairs at IITK in key areas determined by our Endowment Committee.

**Research:** We are keen to help enhance the quality of research carried out at IITK. Clearly, the faculty Chairs described above will help in this regard. However, today the lack of high-quality PhD students is a significant impediment to greater progress in this area. IITK is already taking several steps to attract more and better quality PhD students. We propose to support and enhance their efforts by directing a small part of the

Endowment to fund trips to conferences abroad, awards for research papers accepted in reputed journals, and other such awards and recognitions that create incentives for research and generally make the PhD program more attractive. Supporting the PhD program will also satisfy our desire to leverage the Endowment to have a broader impact on our country. It is now widely believed that India is headed for a talent crunch and one of the biggest barriers to scaling up high-quality education in India is the lack of qualified teachers. By making the PhD program at IITK more attractive, we will therefore be helping further the cause of technical education in our country. Finally, we will also be open to funding a few high-quality research projects such as NICEE that not only enhance IITK's research reputation but also have widespread social and economic impact.

The thrust of our Endowment is proposed to be on creating Chairs at IITK. This will support one of the institute's key priorities and build on their ongoing efforts while at the same time helping drive each of the three dimensions of excellence - students, faculty, and research - in the ways described above. At this point, we are only specifying the three Chairs for the School of Management, with the other Chairs to be determined by the Endowment Committee over the course of the next few years. While this will be the main thrust, we will direct a relatively smaller portion of our funds to attract and retain high-quality PhD students and to fund some high-impact research projects. It may appear that our proposals are not sufficiently focused but it should be recognized that at this point we have deliberately excluded several areas such as infrastructure development, new campus development, online education, etc., after considerable debate. Not only do our choices rank high on both their impact and their feasibility, they also satisfy two other important criteria - alignment with existing priorities at IITK that urgently need support and sufficient diversity to satisfy the varying aspirations of our 200-odd batchmates on where the Endowment funds should be directed.

In order to seed the 1982 Batch Endowment Fund, the 13 attendees at Bangalore Banni 2006 have pledged an initial sum of INR 50 lakhs or 10 per cent of our overall 2011 aspiration of INR 5 crores. We hope this will serve as a motivation to our remaining batch mates to rise to the occasion. We have proposed that we elect Dheeraj Sanghi to lead the Endowment Committee and he be supported by Pramath Raj Sinha and Manoj Nair, who will lead our fund-raising efforts. Volunteers and nominations for the membership of the Endowment Committee are most welcome and may be forwarded to Dheeraj Sanghi.

This proposal of ours is FULLY endorsed by all the 13 batchmates who were present at Bangalore Banni 2006. And we look forward to the total support of the entire batch to help convert this proposal into a declaration which Dheeraj could be authorized to take back to the institute.

**On to 2011!**

**Eagle Ridge Resort, Bangalore  
April 1, 2006**