

INFORMATICS

I NEWS

Guindy Engineering College Bicentenary :

The College of Engineering Guindy (CEG), Asia's oldest Technical Institution was started as a small survey school in 1794 by the East India Company. Today, it offers 10 undergraduate and 34 post-graduate courses in diverse fields of Engineering and Science, with facilities for advanced research. The student strength is 3200. The college has established linkages with prestigious Universities and organizations like USAID, UNCHS, Ford Foundation, European Economic Community and the Governments of Germany and United Kingdom.

It is celebrating its bicentenary this year. A special postage stamp commemorating the bicentenary is issued by the postal authorities.

Entrepreneurship Development Centre

The Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) proposes to set up an Entrepreneurship Development Centre with an initial corpus of Rs. 5 lakh as seed money given by Canara Bank.

Osmania University - Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL) Collaboration.

Osmania University and DMRL

have recently signed an Mou to facilitate collaborative teaching and enabling DMRL scientists to participate in the course and Ph. D. programmes of Osmania University. This synergises the growth of research and teaching in the field of Materials Science.

Aptitude Test for Architecture Courses

Dr J.R. Bhalla, President of the Council of Architecture, India, announced that AICTE had authorized council of Architecture to formulate a comprehensive entrance test including aptitude test on all India basis and that the council has finalized the proposal for conducting the test from 1995-96.

Quality Management Centre

Anna University (AU) and the TVS Group jointly propose to set up a centre to pursue intensely Total Quality Management (TQM) and help various industrial sectors achieve it. The centre will provide all information about TQM in form of books, audio, video and CD ROMS and organize training programmes for various sections.

Pressman - I.I.T. Kharagpur Joint Venture

I.I.T. Kharagpur and the Pressman Group has set up a joint venture for focussing on corporate and financial re-

search. The intellectual resource of I.I.T. with the marketing and financial resource of the Pressman Group will jointly provide expertise on different industries, develop decision support systems, software, study causes of industrial sickness and carry on research on management system.

Technology Bureau for Small Enterprises

The Small Industries Development Bank (SIDBI) and the Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) have jointly established in New Delhi the Technology Bureau for Small Enterprises (TBSE) for bridging the technology gap existing in the region. It offers, under one roof, assistance to existing and prospective small enterprise in the sphere of technology accession, transfer and fund syndication.

DATA BASE on University Teachers

The Association of Indian Universities (AIU) has initiated a data base on senior teachers (Professors and Readers) in various Universities with particular reference to their specialization, area of research, experience and academic activities. This data base will be an invaluable aid to educational administrators for nominating persons to different University Bodies, Local Regional and National committees and for appointing reviewers/examiners for research projects and doctoral dissertations. More information and detailed proforma can be had from The Secretary General, Association of Indian Universities, 16 Kotla Marg, New Delhi, 110002.

Privatization of Technical Education in UP

The Uttar Pradesh Govt. is reported to have decided to privatise technical education in a big way by permitting engineering colleges to be set under private management. Admissions could be allowed by a prescribed authority. The colleges would have 50% free seats, and an equal number of paid seats.

FIRST SATELLITE-LINKED STAFF TRAINING COURSE

A nationwide Satellite-linked staff development course for polytechnic teachers was conducted recently in which video-taped lessons and live lectures by experts were beamed from New Delhi via the Insat-2 Satellite to remote classrooms located in Madras, Calcutta, Bhopal, Chandigarh and Ahmedabad. The lectures were followed by question-answer sessions in which the experts interacted with the Satellite linked classes. Video taped lessons were produced by the four TTTIs in the country. The experimental course aimed at updating the quality of polytechnic teaching in the area of micro-processor system design.

II VIEWS

Prime Minister Mr P.V. Narasinha Rao at the 82nd Indian Science Congress. ON MORE INVESTMENT IN R & D

'The investment by the Government has to be augmented through parallel investments in R and D by the industrial houses. Industry must respond to the steps the government has

taken by enthusiastically investing in scientific research and by promoting technological innovations.

On Role of Computers and Communication Technology :

The Prime Minister referred to the revolutionary role computers and communications technology were playing in transforming the society and wondered whether this technology could be used for training and retraining the country's work force.

On Training of Technicians

He remarked that while Indian institutes of higher learning had been producing scientists, adequate attention had not been paid to the training of technicians. Pointing out this major distortion in the Indian system, he said it would be the technicians who would translate the scientist's achievement into reality.

Prof. S. K. Khanna, Chairman AICTE at the convocation of South Gujarat University Surat.

"Our future scenario should necessarily include strategies for deacceleration of population growth, increased food production with aid of biotechnology, complete literacy, health and shelter for all, efficient management of energy and transport system, reversal of erosion of ecology. All this would help our masses to come out of poverty and we shall generate opportunities for people."

IN ALL THESE EFFORTS TECHNICAL EDUCATION HAS A PIVOTAL ROLE.

Sardar Beant Singh, Chief Minister Punjab at the Convocation address of the Punjabi University.

"New horizons beckon to the teachers. It is my ardent hope that the teachers will give a lead to society. Their self improvement will be their best contribution to the betterment of the life of the nation. It is my wish that there should be an active interaction between the teachers and the Government so that the nation may benefit by their knowledge, experience, expertise, and specialization in the respective areas. I trust that the teachers will not fail the community that sustains them in this hour of its need."

Mr. S. V. Giri, Union Education Secretary, at the 1st National Conference on Accreditation Procedures in Technical Education

Mr. Giri expressed that absolute transparency in implementing of the Accreditation scheme and openness to criticism was necessary to make it credible. He opined that in principle the NBA should be insulated from the AICTE and the popular perception should not be that it was under the influence or umbrella of the AICTE. The NBA should not only be objective, but also appear to be objective.

III NEWS FROM ABROAD

Chinese Universities to charge Tuition Fees

Till now apart from forty Universities and colleges under a pilot project to study the impact of tuition fees on students, other institutes do not charge any tuition fees. The increasing en-

rollment in the Universities included in the pilot project has prompted Chinese Government to consider fund raising for academic activities through tuition fees, foreign agencies etc. along with the Central Government funding.

Innovations 2020 Symposium

The 3rd International Symposium on Technician Education and Training [Innovation 2020 Symposium] will be held at Vancouver, Canada on June 10-14 1995. The Symposium aims at developing a global approach to technological education and careers for technicians i.e. technologists, incorporated

engineers, engineering technicians, applied engineers of other designations as adopted by countries world wide.

The objective of the Symposium are :

- (i) Identify, Evaluate and promote innovative strategies for enhancing the quality of technician education and training.
- (ii) Create opportunities for advanced continuing education.
- (iii) Facilitate labour mobility.
- (iv) Contribute to the effectiveness of trained technologists and technicians in science, technology and research.

IV FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

Proposed dates	Title	Objective	Name of the Organizing Dept.	Name of the Organizing Secretary / Officer to be contacted
June 10-14 1995	3rd International Symposium on Technical Education and Training.	To identify, evaluate and promote innovative strategies for enhancing the quality of technician education and training.	Applied Science Technologists & Technicians of British Columbia and Canadian Council of Technicians and Technologists.	Innovation 2020, 3rd International symposium on Technician Education and Training 10767 -148 Street-Jersey B.C. Canada V3ROSZI
June 26-30 1995	ICDE's International Conference for Distance Education.	Theme - One World Many Voices - Quality in Open and Distance Learning.	U. K. Open University, Birmingham.	Mr. Alison Forsyth Conference, Planning Manager ICDE Conference office the Open University, 66-68 High Street Harbone, Birmingham. B179 NB, U.K.