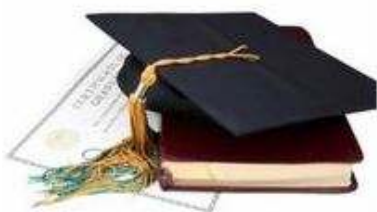


We welcome our newest member, Fleming College, Canada

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EDU COLUMN:

**Common curriculum
for Maths and Science**

BS Reporter, Chennai, March 2011

By 2013, possibility of having the same curriculum for Mathematics, Science and Commerce in schools across the country is fairly high. According to Dr D. Purandeswari, Union Minister of State for Human Resources Development, such an idea has been agreed upon by the council of all the State educational departments. The success solely depends on the support from state governments who control over a million schools, in comparison with 11,000 schools under Central Board of Secondary Education. To make the quality of education both affordable and accessible, the government is going to enforce a number of regulatory bills including the Prohibition of Unfair Practices in Technical; Medical Educational Institutions and Universities Bill; and Foreign Universities Bill. As of 2011, the government has allocated 3.8% of the annual public expenditure on education.

Canada and India build closer educational ties

India is focusing on giving their students a global experience, and a new bill being passed by the Indian Parliament would bring vast progress and easier access for international universities.

Mr Pawan Agarwal, author of *Indian Higher Education: Envisioning the future* and a West Bengal Government member of staff addressed a conference in Ottawa held by the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada to promote India-Canada ties in higher education. He stated that with the right foundation, appropriate student recruitment, joint research project ventures and Government support, closer ties can be achieved.

The main reason towards this collaboration is to lessen the unfamiliarity of Canadian Universities and their reputation in India. Raising awareness is critical in overseas development work. Mr Agarwal mentioned that there were about 28,000 Indian students studying in Australia in comparison to a meager 2800 in Canada. Development of offshore campuses, collaborating with Indian institutes and extensive marketing are the ways to go for establishing strong presence in India. In the lines of Virginia tech and Georgia University, US opening off shore campuses in

Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, Schulich School of business, York University, Canada has already taken a step forward to offer collaborative programs with SP Jain School of Management, Mumbai, India.

According to Mr Shashishekar Gavai, Indian High Commissioner to Canada, research collaboration was another option of consideration. He mentioned that McGill and Carleton universities are interested in setting up Canada-India centres to address the Indian immigrants in Canada.

On India's part, India has 26,200 educational institutions with over 15 million students which is expected to grow twice as much in the next few years due to the increased growth of middle and upper classes. Mr Agarwal would like to increase the number of mature students enrolling for post graduate programs, something that Canada has been successful at. He is expecting Canada to diversify growth in areas in addition to Management and Engineering.

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper hosted a roundtable discussion with 15 presidents from Indian universities. With premiers of Canadian provinces Ontario and Quebec visiting India and expressing interest in



pursuing closer ties with the Indian higher education system, 15 Canadian university presidents met in India in November to make progress. India has become a global giant that without considering Indian market there is no real global experience. These programs will also provide tremendous opportunities for Indian students looking to acquire world-class

management training and prepare them for global careers in India and around the world.

This Indo-Canadian collaboration will provide students a diverse international perspective and an opportunity to synthesize Western efficiency and Eastern ethos. ▽

- *UniversityWorldNews, Issue 128, 2010*

Higher education drives economic growth

The second annual convention for Higher Education Forum (HEF) was held at ITM Business School, Kharghar. Two technical sessions were organized in partnership with DNA for educationists to share their thoughts and understanding on the topic “Towards Excellence in Higher Education”. A common consensus was reached that excellence mattered more to people who are in the process of learning rather than the learned ones.

The first session was based on panel discussions from a corporate perspective while the other was more inclined towards building excellence in institutions.

Dr. A K Sengupta, founder and convener of HEF, addressed the audience by stating that “Higher education is the catalyst for bringing about economic change and thereby its transition from efficiency to effectiveness and finally to excellence would bring about startling results”.

Among the speakers were Dr Anil Kakodkar, former chairman of Atomic Energy Commission & chairman of the High Power Committee for Reforms of Higher and Professional Education in the state of Maharashtra; Mr. Ashank Desai, founding director of Mastek; and Dr. PV Ramanna, chairman of ITM Group of Institutions.

Most of the speakers at the convention emphasized on bringing about excellence within faculty and institutions, based on the whooping financial figure of \$7.5 billion released by USA earned purely from Indian students.

Mr Caputo mentioned that “A good faculty coupled with proper access to education that's affordable eventually instilling a sense of accountability and enables students to measure their cognitive gains will be the driving force for acquiring excellence in higher education. In USA, average graduates reel under debts in the process of studies thereby prompting them to seek alternative options instead of opting for higher studies”.

According to Mr. Kakodkar, it is crucial for students to gain industrial experience as corporation and education go hand in hand. He mentioned that “higher education needs to be a proper amalgamation of the best of teacher, pleasure in research work, spirit of innovation and practical experience”.

The corporate speakers for the occasion included Mr Rajeev Dubey, President (HR) Mahindra & Mahindra; Dr Uma Ganesh, CEO, Global Talent Track; Mr P A Krishnan, EVP & Head, Emerging Markets; and Dr. Ganesh Natarajan, Global CEO, Zensar Technologies.

Mr. Dubey addressed the group by stating that “Leadership quality governed by trust and openness to emphatically listen and create a win-win situation while striving to make profits is an integral part to achieve excellence”.

To put it in a nutshell, success of higher education depends upon the process of thinking, doing and being. Effective team work along with trust will pave way to educational excellence. ▽

- www.dnaindia.com, Mumbai, March 2011

RECORDS:

IELTS tops the list

PRNewswire, Cairo, March 2011

The International English Language Testing System, commonly known as IELTS, made its way to the top in the list of World's most popular high stakes English Language tests. A record breaking 1.5 million tests were taken around the world in 2010 with the increase in the number of tests taken year-after-year since 1995. North America experienced the largest growth over the year followed by Philippines and Hong Kong. China, Australia and India continue to retain their positions as the largest markets for IELTS.

IELTS provides a reliable measure of a candidate's ability across the four skills of listening, reading, writing and speaking. Candidates mainly take IELTS in pursuit of entry into an academic institution or immigration processes, mainly to Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the UK. IELTS is jointly owned by British Council, IDP: IELTS Australia and the University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations (Cambridge ESOL).

Public- private partnership catalyzes educational excellence

As per the 11th educational budgetary plan, Government of India is working on improving the education sector by increasing the allocation by 19 percent of the gross budgetary support. A conference was held on "Education for Sustainable Development" organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

Dr Purandeswari, Honorable Minister of State of the Human Resources Development, Government of India, addressed the audience at the conference. She stated that the education system should respond to the changing needs of the stakeholders and focus on quality of education and the faculty, in addition to infrastructure and curriculum. She urged the state governments to increase funding to the Universities and also enact the Right to Education Act to ensure a holistic development in the education sector.

The Minister mentioned that it is crucial for the private sector to join hands with the Government to provide on-the-job experience for students to develop their vocational skills and employability.

Mr Arun Maira, Member of Planning Commission, Government of India emphasized on three key elements to make education relevant to current scenario which include "innovation in delivery, new methods of learning and job-oriented education." He stated that it is critical for the education system to align with the emerging economic trends and employment potential.

Mr S Gopalakrishnan, Chairman of CII Southern Region and Managing Director of Infosys Technologies Ltd, stated that "education should be an enabler of sustainable development and aim at developing people with right attitudes, skills and knowledge." He also mentioned that technology delivery systems should be used in education systems, which would pave a way to open learning platforms reaching a large section of people.

Mr C R Swaminathan, Conference Chairman & Chief Executive of PSG Industrial Institute stated that realigning education to promote awareness, attitudes and skills, changes in the work systems and the use of technology will lead to sustainable development.

In her welcome address, Ms Nandini Rangaswamy, Chairperson of CII Tamil Nadu & Managing Director of Chandra Group emphasized the need to strengthen skills training capabilities to meet the ever growing demand for skilled labor. Furthermore, she added that this could only be achieved through partnerships involving academia, industry and government.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Mr N K Ranganath, Vice Chairman of CII Tamil Nadu & Managing Director of Grundfos Pumps India Pvt Ltd. ▽

- www.indiaeducationdiary.in, Chennai, March 2011

DID YOU KNOW?

Political Deadlock:

As of 2009, The Union Government had assigned 10 crore rupees for minority students in Gujarat. Students who have not previously completed Grade 10 and whose parents earn less than 1 lakh annually were eligible for scholarships worth Rs. 800 – 1500 a month. About 52,000 could qualify. However, due to politicking between BJP and Congress, thousands of students are robbed of life-changing opportunities. Let us hope that this issue gets solved in the favor of innocent minority people of Gujarat.

- NDTV News, Ahmedabad, March 2011

JOB MARKET:

Deloitte hires

CyberMediaNews, Mumbai, March 2011

Indian IT Industry is on a hiring spree. IT Consulting firm Deloitte would be hiring an 2.25 lakh candidates in 2011. With this addition, the total number of employees working in the IT/ITeS sector in India would grow to 22.3 lakh in 2011. As per the predictions for 2011, IT outsourcing industry and business processes will reach US \$ 71.7 Billion for 2011, which would account to 5.8% of the country's GDP.

"This would be the starting point of active participation between telecom service providers and various industries including IT, Media, Banking, Healthcare and Education in reaching and offering services for the empowerment of rural India", predicts Mr Jolyon Barker, Global Leader Deloitte's TMT,2011.

Quoting a spokesperson from Deloitte, "The advantage for customers from MNP would be better quality of service, lesser call drops, better infrastructures and an increase in loyalty programs and customer retention marketing techniques. Operators offering 3G services would have an edge with the introduction of MNP as not all operators have won the auctioned 3G spectrum."

OPPORTUNITIES:**COU announces new family medicine training opportunities***Toronto, February 2011*

The federal government would be funding \$11.3 million over four years to support a project in Ontario that offers new family medicine positions and training opportunities across Canada from 2011. The funding would cover the entire costs for establishing residency positions. The Council of Ontario Universities (COU) is striving to improve access to healthcare for Ontarians in remote and rural communities. Approximately 60 additional third-year family medicine residency positions will be created at Ontario's six Faculties of Medicine to enhance emergency medicine and enhanced skills, which includes McMaster University, University of Ottawa, Queen's University, University of Toronto, University of Western Ontario, as well as the Northern Ontario School of Medicine at Laurentian University and Lakehead University.

According to Dr. Catharine Whiteside, co-chair person of COU Faculties of Medicine and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto, "focusing on specializations such as anesthesia, obstetrics, care of the elderly, palliative care, rural skills, mental health and additions, will be a starting point to support comprehensive family practice in under-served communities." Hence, with the continuing support from provincial government to improve health care facilities across Ontario, people living in rural communities will be having greater benefits.

Carleton University to host Canada India Education Summit May 16, 17 2011

Both Canada and India share a strong commitment towards education, the environment, health and science. They commonly view technology as a means to bring economic progress to the nation. To celebrate the commonalities and a mutual desire to develop trade and educational partnerships, Carleton University, in collaboration with the India High Commission and community members has established the Canada-India Centre for Excellence in Science, Technology, Trade and Policy.

It has been announced by The Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, in partnership with Carleton University, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada, the High Commission of India, and the Association of Colleges and Universities of Canada (AUCC) that Canada-India Education Summit is to be held at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada on May 16 and 17, 2011.

The summit was initiated by the High Commission of India with the consent of the two prime ministers and support from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada.

25 vice-chancellors from reputed Indian universities will collaborate with their Canadian counterparts in this event which will include major keynote addresses, as well as executive roundtables on the topics of student and faculty exchanges, joint programs and degrees, twinning arrangements, credit transfers, accreditation issues, mutual recognition of degrees, co-tu-telle possibilities for doctoral students, application of technology in education – especially distance learning – and public and private ventures in education.

Dr. Roseann Runte, president of Carleton University, mentioned that the event is a part of the scheduled activities of the Canada-India Centre for Excellence in Science, Technology, Trade and Policy at Carleton and is sponsored by the High Commission of India in Canada. ▽

- www.cou.on.ca, Toronto, Feb 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Canada International Conference on Education (CICE – 2011)

- An international conference dedicated to the advancement of theory and practices in education.
- CICE promotes collaborative excellence between academia and professionals in the education sector.
- CIEC will have events which include guest speaker lectures, various topics of discussion, panel discussions, virtual presentation and video conferencing, and session speakers' participation.

Conference date: **April 4 – 7, 2011**

Venue: **Toronto, Canada**

Website: <http://www.ciceducation.org/>

For inquiries, please contact: info@ciceducation.org

Additional info: *Free pos- conference tour of Toronto available with every session conference registration.*

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Western
University of Regina
Fleming College
Experience · Success**UPCOMING EVENTS:****ICINT 2011****2011 International Conference on Information and Network Technology**

- ICINT aims to provide a platform for researchers, engineers, academicians and industrial professionals from all over the world to present their research results and development activities in Information and Network Technology sector.
- The conference provides opportunities for the delegates to exchange new ideas and application experiences face to face, to establish business or research relations and to find global partners for future collaboration.

Conference Date: **April 29-30, 2011**
 Venue: **Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India**
 Website: <http://www.icint.org/>
 For inquiries, please contact Dr R Sivakumar, rsk.ece@rmkec.ac.in
 Phone: India: (044) 279-253-38 & (044) 279-253-39

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- A non - profit global consortium for Teaching, Research, Learning and Development.

Conference Date: **Ongoing**
 Venue: **Around the world**
 Website: <http://www.facultystudentconference.org/>
 For inquiries, please contact Dr Joe, facultystudentconference@yahoo.com
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www.CanadaIndiaEducation.com
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CANADA: +1-905-699-8011
INDIA: +011-91-976 976 9683