

Press Release

Energising Entrepreneurship among University Students & Academicians

Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani, Rajasthan had organised 2nd National Convention on Energising Entrepreneurship through Innovation on 2nd & 3rd November 2007 in BITS, Pilani campus. The convention was primarily meant for introducing youth and young professionals in technical fields to entrepreneurship. The Convention was inaugurated with a bang by Mr. Guljit Singh Kochhar, Director, Precision Moulds & Dies, Pvt. Ltd., Ghaziabad, an ex-Bitsian and a leading entrepreneur. He shared his experiences on how he faced the challenges and adversities during his 30 year tenure of establishing a venture and turned into a profitable and replicable model of business. Prof. L.K. Maheshwari, Vice Chancellor, BITS, Pilani presided over the inaugural ceremony and encouraged budding entrepreneurs to respond to emerging opportunities in Indian economy by coming out with innovative solutions to socio-economic problems. Ms. Usha Manjunath and Dr. Sangeeta Sharma, Convenors, delivered the welcome address and vote of thanks respectively. Prof. Arya Kumar gave the genesis and the theme of the Convention.

The main event 'TechBazaar' which provided space for showcasing the innovative products in different domains like ICT, Electronics, Automobile, Pharmacy, Agriculture, Energy, Civil and Heavy Engineering areas etc was very popular among the budding entrepreneurs. TechBazaar received 50 entries from BITS and outside Institutions across India. After the initial round of screening, 35 entries were selected for final showcasing. They were evaluated at two more stages and five best entries were awarded the Prizes. Project in Civil Engineering called **Ispat** won the First Prize. In this project a mechanism was devised to increase the strength and durability of concrete by replacing a certain percentage of water added to concrete for its setting with a solution rich in nano-fibrils of lingo-cellulose. The next prizes went to Electrical and Electronics project namely,

Intellitech which attempted to solve a common cause for a number of road accidents that happen because driver fails to switch to dipper when riding on a high beam, **Vidyut Shakti**, was based on an idea to manufacture electricity with the help of SVO modified generator set, **LED Lighting Device** was the idea to introduce LED based lighting system for general lighting applications in India and **Electro Vault** which developed a system to reduce the unauthorized use and illegal tapping of electricity and to increase the revenue of electricity board. All the participants of TechBazaar got inspired to take these projects to the logical ends. Many of them were motivated to take entrepreneurship as their career option by starting new ventures and contribute to the economic growth of the country.

The Technology Clinic & Boutique, another main event of the Convention, attracted large number of students across various disciplines. There were galaxy of seasoned entrepreneurs and professional who shared their valuable thoughts in the area of Innovations, Technology driven Entrepreneurship, Venture Team development, Financing, Patenting & IPR and Social Responsibility. The resource persons were Venture Capitalists & Bankers, Academicians, R & D Professionals and Entrepreneurs. An important suggestion that the ideas should be protected by taking appropriate steps was very well received by the young entrepreneurs.

The highlight of the last session of the Convention was a very lively Panel Discussion by young entrepreneurs who are at different stages of their entrepreneurial journey. This included Mr Rahul Chandra, Director-Investment Advisor, Helion Venture Partners,Gurgaon, Mr Phanindra, CEO ,Redbus, Bangalore, Mr Manoj Vasudevan, CEO, Pilani BPO Pvt Ltd, Pilani, Mr Kavikrut, CEO, Mobile Medics, Pilani and Mr Sasi, CEO, Habits, Hyderabad (on-line participation). The students were very interactive and posed a number of questions to quench their curiosity about Start Up ventures.

The sponsors of the event were i-flex solutions, Wipro and Jindal Steel Works and many other Institutions not only contributed generously towards the Convention but also the Senior Managers participated and shared very interesting and practical experiences in managing innovative products and services. Associate partners to the convention were National Entrepreneurship Network (NEN), Mumbai and Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India. Developing intellectual property and proprietary knowledge for products and IT Solution was underscored for the Indian companies.

The Convention was indeed very successful in instilling the spirit of entrepreneurship among young technical students. It is the endeavor of Entrepreneurship Development & IPR Unit, BITS, Pilani to extend requisite support in multiple ways such as networking, incubation, protecting intellectual property etc. to help some of these ideas turn into viable businesses.