

Industry, Academic and Cultural exposure to GTU MBA students at University of Alberta, Canada- A Phenomenal Success!!

Gujarat Technological University and University of Alberta (UoA), Canada has jointly organized the six week summer programme for International exposure of the students of MBA at the end of their second semester. “The programme was phenomenally successful and the students of GTU got an exposure of cultural diversity and academic excellence at University of Alberta”, said Prof. Bhavin Pandya of S.V. Institute of management, who was representative of GTU there. Prof. Bhavin Pandya further added that the students were writing a new chapter in the history of higher education in India, since this was the first such effort by any State University in India.

Dr. A. K. Aggarwal, Honourable Vice-Chancellor, GTU to addressed the students remotely from India through a telephonic conference at the first lecture of the Summer Camp on 27th June 2011 at UoA, Canada. He exhorted the students to take full advantage of the program.

Most of the students in the Camp were the first generation University students from their families. GTU’s policy of sending those, who were academically the best from all over Gujarat had brought them to Alberta. The students said that these opportunities would permit them to learn about other cultures and international businesses, which would open paths towards shaping a good career in a powerful way.

The programme was conducted by world class professors. In addition, the University of Alberta invited distinguished speakers from the Industry and Alberta Government. Angela Karwal, who was handling Human Resources at Auditor General of Alberta’s office in Edmonton, Canada discussed how government recruited its employees. She explained the policies and procedures, which they followed. Barry Davis, Vice President, Leger Marketing explained the major trends in social media and the way marketers approached their customer in Canada.

Nora Whitcher, who is an independent researcher in the area of Communications and Research explained how, you can use social media effectively and how marketers come out with innovative methodologies for surveys. She said that Social Networking Sites play a major role in marketing of the products and services.

On the same day the students also visited Human Resource Department of Alberta Government. Liz Kennedy, Executive Director, Human Resources – Corporate Human Resources and Treasury Board, Government of Alberta acquainted all the students with their working style and showed all the floors of the building and their working conditions. Prof. Bhavin Pandya was astonished at the excellent treatment and interest that high government officers took in the students. The government officials spent significant time with the students and gave them all the material so that they could understand the HR systems of Alberta Government properly.

Prof. Bhavin Pandya requested Mr. Anand Kumar, who is Director of Petrotech and former Director (R&D) of IOCL to share his experience with students. He accepted the request and shared his valuable experience with GTU-MBA students as he was at UoA for an official visit for few days.

On Wednesday, Rob Demontarnal, Product Manager, Global Business Division of Intuit Inc delivered the session on strategy in line with global perspective. He also discussed the success story of INTUIT, as it is ranked 44th in the world in list of top 100 best work places.

Prof. Bhavin Pandya requested the Minister and Deputy Minister of Advanced Education and Technology's office for a meeting for support for the collaboration between GTU and UoA. Mr. Dino Roppo-Manager International and Intergovernmental Strategic Direction, Government of Alberta, Edmonton, Canada met him for discussing the prospects of collaboration with GTU. Mr. Dinno Roppo was impressed with the achievements and projects undertaken by GTU for its students in Gujarat. Further he also promised to take concrete actions for further collaboration and exchange of projects with GTU.

GTU office was in continuous touch with the students and Professor Bhavin Pandya. Dr. Akshai Aggarwal sent the necessary material for the meetings and discussed the results of each meeting. He also continued to monitor the progress of the students in their studies.



Group photograph of GTU Students and Dr. Bhavin Pandya with Faculty Members of University of Alberta

Academic Exposure:

All the Faculty members who taught the GTU MBA students were outstanding in teaching and created an exciting learning environment in the classroom. Prof. Dr. Dick Beason, Dr. Edy Wong (Associate Dean- International Business) and Dr. Dev Jennings took the classes. Their well structured session plan and practical orientation gave the students a unique edge in their studies.

Cultural experience (Festivals, Carnivals and celebrations):

Students of MBA also enjoyed festivals, carnivals and sports during the period of their study at University of Alberta.

1st July is celebrated as Canada day and on that day students saw Silly Summer Parade in the morning and spectacular fireworks at night. It was an experience, which all the students will cherish for a long time. At City Hall and Churchill square students enjoyed live concerts and music performed by different troops.

On July 3 Saturday students enjoyed a live Base-ball match which was quite exciting. Many of the students learnt the rules of Base-ball game on that day.

In Canada during the summer, Freewill Shakespeare Festival is celebrated in Hawrelak Park at Edmonton. The students enjoyed the play 'Twelfth Night and You Will', a comedy. It was really amazing and many of the students had seen such a live performance with integrity and intensity for the first time.

On July 17th, students enjoyed street performers in Churchill Square (by City Hall). The acts usually involved comedy, dance, music and juggling.

On Saturday, July 23rd 2011, the students went on a trip to Capital EX, Edmonton's summer carnival where students enjoyed music, dancing, food, carnival rides and carnival games.

From July 30th to August 1st, Canada celebrates its Heritage Days festival. The festival was in Hawrelak Park, Edmonton. Students found that more than 75 countries had their domes and tents where they exposed their food, crafts, culture and dances and their specialties. It was a life time experience which enabled the exposure of 75 countries in a single day.

In a nutshell, the kind of arrangement that Gujarat Technological University had made with University of Alberta, Canada for the students, is remarkable and created a new benchmark in MBA education for the State of Gujarat.