Gujarat Technological University

(http://www.gtu.ac.in/)

Student Startup Support System (S4)

REPORT of the 31st August 2013 event**:**

The First Meeting: Creating S4 Extension Centers at Colleges

On 2nd August 2010, GTU established the GTU Innovation Council. (Today it is, 'by a long long shot' the most active Innovation Council in the country.)

On 14th February 2011, GTU students and faculty members undertook the first Shodh Yatra to industries.

On September 3, 2011, GTU started workshops on Intellectual property Rights. (Today it is the most successful program on IPR in the country, in terms of the number of patents filed during 2012-13 from among affiliating-type technology Universities in the country.)

On 25th February 2012, GTU organized the first workshop under Student Start-up Support System (S4).

On May 1, 2013, GTU established for S4, a Co-Creation Center (S4-C3) at its Ahmedabad campus. (2nd floor, ACPC, LDCE Campus, Ahmedabad)

GTU-S4 extends all possible support to young entrepreneurs who are either GTU students or GTU Alumni (Those, who graduated from GTU affiliated colleges during the past 3 years.) GTU's S4-C3 is 1st of its kind to create a conducive environment for converting students innovations into student start ups.

(Please see Ref- http://www.gtu.ac.in/circulars/13Aug/ReportofS4EventsInJune-July-2013.pdf for some of the activities at S4-C3.) Round the clock mentoring and other support has been a huge benefit for every student who has participated in any program at S4.

Now GTU has decided to set up S4 Extension Centers at Colleges, affiliated with GTU, across all the 25 GTU Innovation Sankuls. On 31st August 2013, GTU Innovation Council called for a daylong event to share the progress of S4 and to discuss strategies to set up S4 Extension Centers. 42 colleges participated in the 1st round table meeting to work out pathways for creating ecosystem for helping students convert ideas to start-ups. (Please see http://www.gtu.ac.in/circulars/13Aug/27082013.pdf for the Call for the 31st August meeting.)

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Prof Akshai Aggarwal, VC GTU chaired the event. Mr. Hiranmay Mahanta, MD, Techpedia.in moderated the discussions. All the lead city based incubators were invited to present their approach of creating ecosystem and strategies in their targeted area. Incubators from IIM-Ahmedabad, MICA and NID shared their insights in the 1st half of the event. Mr. Yash Saxena introduced all the existing incubators and proposed contextual ways and possibilities for creating necessary stage for S4 extension centers across GTU. Many GTU Innovation Sankul Co-Chairs and GTU Innovation Club Coordinators participated in the discussion. Dr Aggarwal shared that some major policy interventions are being done to foster innovations and student start-ups. Prof Aggarwal, VC, GTU declared that every Sankul will help create Extension Centers of S4. GIC and S4's central team will help bring mentors and knowledge networks to the Extension Centers. He said that GTU is going to create a structural continuum so that at a student from any S4 Extension Center will be able to get the benefit of the full services of S4.

Mr. Hiranmay Mahanta declared that S4 will support start-ups through a new program, called Start-up Leadership Program (SLP). An SLP will provide real life exposure to all students as well as to the Extension Centers. GTU will do a large scale student start up survey before finalizing all activities under this effort. S4 will also host more Entre Week-end programs. (The first GTU S4 Entre Week-end was scheduled from 13th – 15th September 2013. This 54 hours event simulates the potential student start ups and brings a most viable prototype within the given time by co-creation. During 13th – 15th September , mentors, investors, co-founders, students, professors and entrepreneurs came together to make the Entre Week-end a thrilling effort.)

Mahesh Krovvidi, CEO of the National Design Business Incubator, an initiative of NID , Ahmedabad shared his ideas and operational processes of running a successful incubator. He also extrapolated his ideas and responded to the queries by all participants .

Kavan Solanki (MICA Comcubator) and **Mainak Bhattacharya**, Program Associate at CIIE, IIM Ahmedabad also shared the experiences from the respective incubators. Mr. Mainak shared his experiences about how mentoring and hand holding plays a crucial role in shaping your student start ups. Most of the speakers emphasized that it was the handholding support of an incubator which make a crucial impact if it is provided at the right juncture and trajectory of the concerned start up.

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Each participant from the given list in the annexure contributed to the deliberations. Faculty members nominated for taking care of the S4 Extension Centers at various colleges shared that the role of faculty will help in fetching the faith of all stakeholders. Some participants shared their views on bringing in a compulsury subject based on real life exercise and put the efforts ofS4 into the regular academic system to scale the endeavours. Many participants shared that early stage sensitisation involving all young minds will hold the key. Creating a cultural environment and then supporting the student leads will push the agenda ahead. It was proposed that a university level start up fest can be hosted by the end of this year to give a grand platform to co-create all student start ups across the GTU affiliated colleges.

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It was sugested that S4 at central level can build specific strengths which every extension center can leverage in needy cases. GIC(GTU Inovation Council) will bring in resources in due course to move the things ahead. S4 will launch a national level study program for taking insights from every ecosystem available and design agenda and pathways for making such an attempt in large scale in distributed/affiliated type university systems like GTU. Prof Akshai aAggarwal shared that such an contextual mechanims is need of te hour which can be later replicated by other sttae technical universities. GTU Inovation Council has always been a lead actor in creating large scale innovation ecosystem based at distributed university systems and S4 will do so in coming days for start up ecosystem.

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During this event S4 invited the informal networks who have done concrete efforts on creating stages for student startups. Mr. Jatin Chaudhary founder of E-chai community shared their efforts and how a a large community of start-ups has been built in and around Ahmedabad and they are playing a vital role in shaping the next generation student start-ups.

Mr Jatin Chaudhary , founder e-Chai   Mr. Kavan from MICA Comcubator

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Mahesh Krovvidi, CEO of the National Design Business Incubator and Mr. Mainak Bhattacharya , Program Associate at CIIE, IIM Ahmedabad sharing their experiences and insights from on floor learning.

Mr. Mahesh and Mr. Yash Saxena presenting on building entrepreneurial start up ecosystems involving universities and making it more contextual for distributed University system like GTU.

Ms. Purva Ojha, Project officer S4 at GTU Innovation Council, Mr. Uday Kanabar , Mr Harshad Patel and Mr. Jigara Patel coordinated the entire program right from conceptualization till the end. Student volunteers played a crucial role towards arranging the 1st round table for brainstorming on S4 extension center set up and execution to cater to the need of large scale widely distributed students across the state.

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Anexture-1 , participants from various campuses from GTU Affiliated colleges

#	Name	Email
1	Prof. D.D.Zala	ec.zala@gmail.com
2	Prof. Nitin hiranandani	nitinhiranandani@yahoo.com
3	Prof.pratik joshi	pratikjoshi5388@gmail.com
4	Prof M.R.mandli	monalimandli79@gmail.com
5	Prof Rushikesh pandyaa	rushikeshpadya9@gmail.com
6	Dr.d.m.patel	dipesh_ec@yahoo.co.in
7	Anirudha singh	anirudha.singh@djmit.ac.in
8	Prof Harsh thakor	harshthakorit@ucet.in
9	Prof Rakesh bhavsar	rakeshbhavsar.ce@ucet.in
10	Prof Avalik k. Ranpuru	ranpura.avalik.2007@gmail.com
11	Prof Bharat barad	bharatbarad51@gmail.com
12	Prof Mohak vora	mohak.siem@gmail.com
13	Prof.Thomas t. Baby	siem.tpo@gmail.com
14	Prof. V.i.trivedi	vinodraytrivedi@gmail.com
15	Prof Sohil pandya	sohilpandya@gmail.com
16	Prof Vijayendra gupta	vijayendra2010@gmail.com
17	Prof. Sham Sachinwala	sh.sachinwala@gmail.com
18	Prof. Kalpesh pathak	kbpathak@yahoo.co.in
19	Prof.Tilva Vikunj k	tilva_vikunj@yahoo.co.in, bec110owner@gtu.edu.in
20	Prof.Manish dholakia	manish.dholakia@saffrony.ac.in
21	Prof.Vidhu singhal	vidhusinghal4@gmail.com

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22	Prof.Nandish chauhan	nandishchauhan@gmail.com
23	Prof. Ajay R. Tapre	tapreajay@gmail.com
24	Prof. Devang h shah	shah_devang21@yahoo.com
25	Prof. Meghana a. Vaghela	mavaghela@gmail.com
26	Prof.Aesha j mehata	aeshamehta.2007@yahoo.co.in
27	Prof H.G. shah	hg_shah@hotmail.com
28	Prof. Ravi verma	raviverma.vier@gmail.com
29	Prof Dhaval mohoani	dhavalz9@gmail.com
30	Prof Shantanu chakravarty	phdmsu1@yahoo.in
31	Dr. Pawan dwivedi	pawan25117@gmail.com
32	Dr A kulshrestha	amy.sonpal@yahoo.com
33	Prof.R. K. Soni	soni_rakesh@gtu.edu.in
34	Prof B.H.Upadhyay	bhu_2k@yahoo.com
35	Prof. Viral shah	viral_lj@yahoo.com
36	Prof. Chotai nikhil j	nikhilchotai@gmail.com
37	Prof M.A khankot	malhar.dhankot@marwadieducation.edu.in
38	Prof. Vishal jotangiya	vishal.jotangiya@marwadieducation.edu.in
39	Prof Ravi bagree	Bagree.ravi@gmail.com , ravi.bagree@marwadieducation.edu.in
40	Prof Suresh patel	suresh11085@yahoo.co.in
41	Prof jayendra vasani	jayendravasani@gmail.com
42	Prof Abhijeet singh	abhijeetkumarsingh@yahoo.com