



A Proposal for setting up

GTU Graduate School of Smart Cities Development

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Gujarat Technological University (GTU) is the largest technological University in western India with 4,50,000 students including foreign students from 31 countries, spread over 450 colleges in Gujarat. It is a state University with 17,500 Faculty Members in Engineering, Architecture, Pharmacy, Management, Computer Sciences, and Hotel Management. The University has focuses on Innovation, learning and research.

The Innovation Council of GTU is well known in the country for its initiatives in grass root innovation work by its engineering students for solving problems of SME industrial units located throughout Gujarat. Intensive innovation efforts have resulted in many patentable outcomes.

In the issue of Plexus¹ of 1st August 2014, the Vice-Chancellor gave a call to every College to take up one area of national interest and to study its various aspects in all the departments of the College. Accordingly a College at Rajkot has taken up the study of Smart Cities as its area of interest. GTU had organised its first seminar **Smart Cities-Quo Vadis?** on August 30, 2014 at its campus to create awareness and sensitise on the subject amongst academicians, researchers, businessman, and government officials in the context of 100 new smart cities announced by the government of India for development.

At the 61st Foundation Day of the Institution of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineers on 2nd November 2014 at Ahmedabad, GTU's Vice-Chancellor called upon the electronic engineers to help develop technologies and products for smart cities jointly with GTU's students and researchers.

2.0 FUTURE SCOPE OF DEVELOPMENT

Smart city development assumes a greater importance in India due to;

1. GIFT city near Ahmedabad is the first smart city of India.
2. Dholera in Gujarat is being planned as the second smart city in Gujarat.
3. 100 smart cities are being planned by GOI, New Delhi.
4. USA has recently signed three MOUs with GOI for partnering with India in developing three

¹Plexus is the e-newsletter of GTU and it reports the activities of the Colleges.



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smart cities in Allahabad, Ajmer, and Visakhapatnam. As per the pacts, the U.S. will assist the cities in project planning, infrastructure development, feasibility studies and capacity building. The State Governments for their part will provide resources like technical information and data related to smart cities planning; staff, logistical and travel support and budgetary resources.

5. Similarly Kyoto, Japan is assisting Varanasi in UP to develop it as a smart city.

6. The city of Surat has tied up with Microsoft India for developing smart applications for Surat.

Other similar partnership are under progress in India.

Such potential smart cities development calls for leading academic Universities/institutes to get involved for Studies, Capacity Building, Training. Courses, Research, Consultancy etc to act as effective resource centres for Smart Cities development.

3.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

EU definition (2014) of smart city is

'A smart city is a city seeking to address public issues via ICT based solutions on the basis of a municipality based multi-stakeholder partnerships'

This clearly indicates that development of smart city will need integrated multi-disciplinary approach combining various disciplines like engineering , architectural, management of financial resources, Information technology, management etc,

In view of the above context, Gujarat Technological University has decided to establish the ***Graduate School of Smart Cities Development***. The broad objectives are:

- a. conducting research and studies on Smart Cities and related areas.
- b. Capacity building and training
- c. Organising Seminars workshops /symposium in India
- d. Techno management consultancy
- e. Advisory functions to government and industry.
- f. Conducting short certificate courses on related topics and One year full time diploma course on smart cities
- g. e-courses on various aspects of organization of and life in smart cities

4.0 KNOWLEDGE PARTNERS

GTU seeks to involve industries and the society in all its Post-graduate research centers and schools in order to ensure that its studies and research have a relevance to the needs of the society and the



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industries. Accordingly it is planned to have knowledge partners from industry and from cities to avail of their real life experience.

The following partners are being contemplated.

1. GIFT city, Gandhinagar
2. Gujarat Industrial Development Board (GIDB), Gandhinagar
3. Gujarat Energy Research and Management Institute, (GERMI)

The above three partners have appreciated the proposal and their formal consent will be obtained shortly.

In addition GTU is planning to request the following global companies and experts in Smart Cities to join as Knowledge Partners.

1. CISCO INDIA LTD, Bangalore
2. AECOM, Udyog Bhavan, Gandhinagar
3. National and International academician and university departments dealing in Smart Cities.

5.0 ADMINISTRATION

Administration of the Graduate School will be at two distinct level

a. Board of Management (for administration of the Graduate School)

There will be a separate Board of Management headed by GTU Vice Chancellor as Chairman. Other members of the Board may include Advisor (RCSC), Registrar, Chief Account Officer, and GTU Deans of Engineering, Research, Management, Pharmacy, Directors/ Principals of Colleges, Financial Expert and other industry experts as selected by the Vice Chancellor, so that the total number does not exceed 12. Except GTU officials, all members will have tenure of two years and eligible for reappointment. The Board will meet at least once in each quarter. The Director/ Honorary Director of the School may be appointed by the Vice-Chancellor as the Secretary of the BOM. Till this is done, a Research Associate/ Assistant may assist the BOM in its work.

Shri Rajnikant Patel, GTU Advisor (RCSC) will act as first Hon Director of the Graduate School until regular full time appointment is made.

b. Board of Advisors (for advising as expert resource person)

This board will be headed by GTU Vice Chancellor as the Chairman. Each Knowledge Partner will have one representative as permanent member. Expert Faculty Members in Smart Cities from GTU and from other reputed institutions may be invited to join the Advisory Board. In addition other experts from business, industry, research and academia will be appointed by the GTU Vice



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Chancellor as member on the Board. The total number not exceed 16. The Board will meet once every two months.

The Director/ Honorary Director of the School may be appointed by the Vice-Chancellor as the Secretary of the BOA. Till this is done, a Research Associate/ Assistant may assist the BOA in its work.

Shri Rajnikant Patel, GTU Advisor (RCSC) will act as first Hon Director of the Graduate School until regular full time appointment is made.

6.0 FACILITIES AND STAFF

The School may be located in GTU main campus, In future certain development and research activities can be located in GTU's Gandhinagar campus. Initially GTU staff will be loaned to the School till regular staff of the Graduate School is recruited. For research, consultancy, training, teaching etc, external experts may be taken as consultants on contact basis.

7.0 ACTION PLAN

- a. Formation of the Graduate School-----March 2015
- b. Finalising with Knowledge Partners.-----April 2015
- c. Inaugural session with workshop -----April 2015

(Inauguration by Urban Development Minister Hon'ble Shri M Venkaiah Naidu, if possible)

- d. e-courses to be started online ----- August 2015
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