Report on the **'Active Learning – Creating Excitement in the Classroom'**

On Sunday, 13th May 2012, Gujarat Technological University (GTU) organized an interactive session with some of those faculties who were teaching at the first semester of Engineering for its Degree and Diploma programs. The faculty members came from various colleges and institutes across the state to participate at the launching of a revolutionary project known as 'Active Learning – Creating Excitement in the Classroom'. The project has been initiated by the honorable Vice Chancellor, Dr. Akshai Aggarwal for beginning the process of a change in the traditional chalk-talk method of teaching. After conducting a research of various colleges and institutes, four courses each from the Degree program and four from the Diploma program of engineering were identified wherein the engineering students have always been under-performing. The courses that were identified are as follows:

Degree Courses	Diploma Courses
Computer Programming and Utilization	Communication skills
Calculus	Engineering Drawing
Mechanics of Solids	Engineering Mechanics
Engineering Graphics	Mathematics

As it is said, 'Knowledge shared is knowledge increased' and just as one lamp lights another and drives away the darkness; similarly a successful effort was made to invite faculties from such colleges which had obtained better results in the above mentioned courses. The professors and experts from these colleges shared their ideas, views and experience as to what inputs from their end helped them achieve good results. It was indeed a motivating session for the participants with the honorable Vice Chancellor Dr. Akshai Aggarwal interacting with the group comprising 62 participants and sharing his thoughts and ideas about the importance of a teacher and a mentor in shaping the future of our country. The power point presentation during the session clearly emphasized about the objective of this mission which is to educate our students and upgrade their knowledge in sync with the requirements of

the industry. It also provided tricks and tips for the teachers to make learning more interesting and the classrooms more interactive.

It was decided to form five groups based on the subjects selected and a leader and a coordinator was selected for each group. The members of each group will interact among themselves and pool in their ideas, views and opinions as to how each of the five groups of courses should be taught in the class-rooms, laboratories, drawing halls and workshops of GTU institutions so that the students and faculty members start enjoying their experience. In particular the efforts will be made to start talking about applications even when the first basic courses are taken up at the first year. The purpose is to take up the challenge of streamlining and updating the entire courseware for teaching these courses at every GTU institution. It was decided to make creative use of new technologies and to prepare power point slides, with embedded graphics, animation and videos for each lecture session. While updating and making further improvements may be an ongoing process, the first draft of the work is to be completed before the classes for the first semester of the academic year of 2012-13 start in July 2012.

The faculty members will work during the next four weeks jointly and the group leaders will submit the development of strategies and plans of their groups to GTU on a regular basis. Any one, who wants to contribute to the important project may contact at sonal_ar@gtu.edu.in.