

GTU INNOVATION COUNCIL

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GTU Innovation Sankul- Gandhinagar

29th December 2011, EQDC Conference Hall, GIDC, Gandhinagar

Meeting of Gandhinagar Innovation Sankul was held today in the presence of Hon. Vice-chancellor of GTU, Dr. Akshai Aggarwal. UDISHA coordinators and faculty members of various institutes and industry mentors from around Gandhinagar attended the meeting.

The meeting commenced with an address from Mr. Hiranmay Mahanta, Honorary Director of GTU Innovation Council. He presented the current situation of the Sankul and industrial clusters. He brought under consideration the importance of interconnection of the industrial clusters around the state. He also stated the benefits of interconnection of clusters to the students as well as industries. He provided a brief scenario that GTU Innovation Council has linked about 9000 industries, students and faculties. Mr. Mahanta proposed to establish such an environment that can create and test a benchmark here. He also introduced some patenting and copyright workshops for faculty members all around the state. He inspired the members to develop such an ecosystem that can interlink the projects on the basis of resource-need and to establish a virtual linking between the members of the Sankul.

Dr. Akshai Aggarwal, Hon. Vice-chancellor of GTU, began his speech with brief information about the structure and working of a sankul. He discussed about the sufferings to students as well as small industries due to the communication gap and segregation of industry and academia. He also talked about India's downward journey as far as good educational institutes are concerned. He compared our country's performance with other countries and also provided information about the closing SMEs in the country and bad condition of other SMEs in the sector. He shared his belief that innovation and connection between students and SMEs can be the only solution to these problems.

Dr. Aggarwal shared his experiences about how innovative ideas are enhanced through exposure and protected through IPR in western countries, in doing what India is lagging. He said that small industries all around the world innovate, protect and sell their ideas to big industries and improvise further. Small industries in India are not innovation based, that is a major problem in technological development of the country. He recalled the ancient India when the Indian civilization used to be pioneers in inventions and innovations. He said that the objective of Sankul should be to facilitate students such that as many students as possible should be able to identify and solve problems innovatively. He said "Innovative ideas are invented by young people." Dr. Aggarwal advised to focus on producing practice oriented engineers and to develop a vision in them to identify problems from their surroundings and to solve them. He defined engineer as a problem solver for the society.

He asked the Sankul members to work together in order to establish a warm and effective relationship between the industries and colleges in Gandhinagar zone. He also shared the wonderful

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results obtained by proper functioning of Sankuls and UDISHA clubs in some sectors of the state and appreciated them. He discussed some inspirational cases of positive industrial response in Naroda and Baroda Sankuls. Dr. Aggarwal also advised the faculty members also to concentrate on pre-final year students as they will be upcoming project-takers in a few months. He talked about establishment of Sectoral Innovation Councils for all 44 branches of engineering in GTU. These councils shall link all the members including students, faculties and industry mentors as well through an individual Google group for each Sectoral Council.

His speech was followed by Mr. Haresh Shah, the representative from industry. He brought in consideration the generic areas in which projects can be done. He also suggested some points about the format of projects. He proposed to organize IT audits for SMEs. Mr. Shah talked about the commercial aspects of the whole process of these projects and asked the members of the Sankul to focus on originality in the projects.

In reply to Mr. Shah's suggestions, Hon. Vice-chancellor sir suggested an evaluation scheme for projects including continuous evaluation throughout the semester. He also assured that excellent projects done by the students and their guides will be published on the university website. He also directed the academicians to follow the academic calendar announced by the university to the best extent. He said that India has got a 20 years' span to become a superpower after 800 years, if we will miss this chance, the country will be doomed again for several centuries. In order to enhance innovative vision in the students, Dr. Aggarwal suggested that UDISHA clubs at each college should organize events like expert lectures, seminars, STTPs and workshops for each department as much as possible.

In the discussion and questionnaire session, Prof. D.M.Shah from AIT briefly explained the institute's role and efforts in approaching industries, their positive response and backing up the students in their IDPs. Mr. Chaitanya Shukla, representative from industry, expressed dissatisfaction about lack of involvement from some students after getting IDP from industry and their poor presentation and poor interest from faculty side. Hon. Vice-chancellor sir remarked on this and advised the faculty members to play an active role in the process. Mr. Hranmay Mahanta proposed to bring all the mentors and students from different sankuls together for presentation of their projects and sharing of information.

Hon. Vice-chancellor sir expressed his disappointment towards the news that some private institutions are providing paid projects to students and said that this should not be allowed at any cost.

Mr. Amit Patel suggested that the university should establish a relationship with management research organizations in order to provide a better and standardized platform to the MBA students for projects. Mr. Mantavya Gajjar suggested providing such an atmosphere to the students that encourage them and boost their innovative ideas. To which Dr. Aggarwal replied positively and said that we should work together in such a way that each laboratory at the institutions is converted in a research

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laboratory. Mr. Mahanta put forward the thought of working in three phases: to convert an idea to a concept, to transform the concept into a product, and bring the product to the market. Mr. L.S.Sharma, the director of EQDC explained the facilities available at the EQDC for students to do the projects. He also proposed a structure for the industry-academia ecosystem. He welcomed the GTU students for doing projects at EQDC. Prof. J.V.Dave, the co-chairman of the Sankul, addressed the members and said that the concern of the Sankul is to deliver good things which are acceptable to the market. He proposed that if possible, the institutions should provide a continuous time span of several weeks to the students for doing projects. He also suggested to inter connect the sankuls.

Prof. Jitendra Patel, Director of MCA Innovation Sankul, encouraged the members to implement all the suggestions by the dignitaries and take further steps in order to develop a useful and feasible innovative ecosystem. He concluded his speech with a thanksgiving.



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The entire interaction was facilitated by Prof. Jitendra Patel, Mr. Jainil Bhatt, Mr. Harshad Patel, Mr. Tejas Patel and Mr. Pinak Gajjar.

Report prepared by: Mr. Jainil Bhatt.