

Guest Editorial

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The Indian IT industry has maintained its scorching pace of growth. But the lack of quality talent in large enough numbers to feed the demand threatens to become its choking point. While we produce over 450,000 engineers every year, the IT companies are finding it hard to meet their hiring requirements. A good portion of these engineers are unemployable.

We need to address this situation urgently.

Colleges must be given the freedom to attract quality faculty. Classrooms should be technology-enabled to aid the faculty. Technologies and content exist to make learning more visual and more comprehensible; these must be leveraged. Technologies also exist for learning to be more participative and immersive for greater clarity and higher retention. The last great technology leap in our classroom seems to be the blackboard. We can't allow the situation to continue.

Colleges should also focus on building soft skills in the engineering students. Understanding is important; but equally important is the ability to articulate your understanding. The IT industry is integrated globally, but our students in many colleges fail to communicate themselves in English. Colleges should also include logical analysis, critical reasoning and problem-solving into the curriculum. These are critical competency requirements for the IT industry.

All these require resources. Colleges will increase their fees. Since the students will be employable, credit in the form of loans and scholarships will be available to them. It's similar to the boom in the housing sector or the automobile sector which have been fuelled by credit availability.

The classroom is the shop floor of the knowledge economy. This is where the battle for superiority between economies and nations will be fought. If we want to be a major power, we can't afford to lose in the classrooms

From the Chairman's Desk



Over the past couple of months, BITES is engaging with a number of relevant organizations and institutions in the academic / government / corporate sectors in order to plan and organize a number of activities. We are thankful to several members of our Board for sponsoring Faculty Development Workshops by their organizations. Not only do they provide funding for these workshops, but they offer the services of their staff for delivering the lectures. The venue is commonly an engineering college which looks after the local arrangements.

These Faculty Development Workshops are meant to help the Faculty of our Member Colleges; however, we also accommodate Faculty from other Engineering Colleges, within the available capacity. It is seen that this is a multi-partner initiative with many desirable characteristics.

BITES will be organizing a Workshop to bring awareness to the Faculty of our Member Colleges, as well as Faculty of other Colleges, on the funding opportunities provided by several government agencies, and the formats in which to submit proposals. We are inviting senior officers from these agencies to address the participants and offer advice on submitting potentially successful proposals.

We are very encouraged by the excellent response and assistance being offered to us by those with whom we wish to work in partnership.

Prof. R.Natarajan

Two Distinguished Members join BITES Governing Board

Sri Ravi Venkatesan, Chairman, Microsoft India and Dr. Biswadip Mitra, MD, TI-India have joined BITES Governing Board. BITES extends to them a very hearty welcome.



Ravi Venkatesan, Chairman, Microsoft India is responsible for Microsoft's marketing, operational and business development efforts in the country. In partnership with the leaders of Microsoft's other business units, Venkatesan provides a single point of leadership for the company, playing an integral role in defining Microsoft's relationship with policy makers, customers and business partners across Microsoft's six distinct business units in India, namely: Microsoft Corporation India (Pvt) Ltd, the Marketing Subsidiary, Microsoft India Development Centre, Microsoft Global Technical Support Centre, Microsoft Global Development Centre India, Microsoft Global Services India and Microsoft Research India.

Prior to joining Microsoft, Venkatesan worked for over seventeen years with Cummins Inc, a US-based designer, manufacturer and distributor of engines and related technologies. He served in various leadership capacities at Cummins, including Chairman of Cummins India Limited and Managing Director of Tata Cummins Limited, a joint venture between Cummins Inc. and Tata Motors. Under his leadership, Cummins became the leading provider of power solutions and the largest manufacturer of automotive engines in the country.

Venkatesan has a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (1985), an MS in Industrial Engineering from Purdue University (1986) and an MBA from Harvard University (1992) where he was a Baker Scholar. Ravi was awarded Purdue University's Outstanding Industrial Engineer Award for the year 2000 and the Distinguished Alumnus award by the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay in 2003.

Venkatesan is a member of the Executive Council of NASSCOM, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), a Director on the Board of Thermax Ltd., a member of the Advisory Boards of Harvard Business School and the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay and the Chairman of Junior Achievement India. He has contributed frequently to the Harvard Business Review and some of his articles include, "Strategic Sourcing - to Make or Not to Make" and "The Strategy that Wouldn't Travel."

His interests include reading, classical music and social entrepreneurship.



Dr. Biswadip (Bobby) Mitra has been with Texas Instruments (TI) for 20 years, and is currently Managing Director of TI India. In this role, he leads all of TI's activities in India across multiple product domains (Wireless and Broadband Communications, High Performance Analog, DSP Systems, ASIC, Embedded Systems and Software etc.) and also its Sales & Marketing activities in India.

Prior to this role, he was the Director of the Americas Wireless Communication Product Development activities, Texas Instruments Incorporated, Dallas - leading all major customer program activities in the region from start-up through product ramp.

Dr Mitra was also the Worldwide Program Manager, based at Dallas, for TI's ultra-low power DSP Cores that was selected by EDN as the 'Best product of 15 years'. Bobby has also been in several leadership roles in TI in the areas of Memory Design, ASIC, Design Automation etc. He also drives several activities in the India semiconductor industry as the President of the VLSI Society of India.

He has a B.Tech degree in Electronics and Electrical Communications Engineering from IIT, a Ph.D. in Computer Science and Engineering from IIT and an MBA from the University of Texas at Austin where he was the recipient of the 'Dean's Award for Excellence'. The Dallas Morning News, a leading Texas daily, named him as a 'Success Story'.

BITES Launches Faculty Development Workshop Series

It is generally agreed that there is a considerable gap between the curricular offerings in our Technical Institutions and IT Industry expectations. In order to bridge this gap, BITES has partnered with the major IT Industries and technical institutions, to take up many activities such as faculty development, support for student projects, creation of online electronic library and learning resource materials.

It is now proposed to complement these efforts by launching a series of Faculty Development Workshops. Each Workshop would deal with the latest technologies that are being deployed in the industry and will be conducted on a monthly basis, essentially for BITES member institutions with the help of IT industries in Karnataka.

Objectives:

1. To foster better Industry - Institute Interaction in member institutions.
2. To make faculty members aware of the emerging technologies and their applications.
3. To encourage faculty members to interact with industry professionals to gain knowledge in advanced technologies and explore opportunities for faculty internships.
4. To enhance the teaching capabilities of the faculty members.

Methodology:

- Each Workshop will be conducted for a day spanning four sessions, preferably on a Saturday.
- The first will be an overview session followed by three other sessions which will cover details like protocols, implementation and case studies.
- The sessions will be followed by a panel discussion to facilitate an interaction between faculty and industry speakers.

BITES Faculty Development Workshops- Calendar of Events

No.	Workshop Topic	Sponsoring Industry	Hosting Institution	Date
1	Independent Software Verification & Validation	TESCO	BNMIT, Bangalore	March 31, 2007
2	Web services and Implementation	INFOSYS	RV College of Engineering, Bangalore	April 28, 2007
3	Service Oriented Architecture	WIPRO	SIT, Tumkur	May 19, 2007
4	Advances in computer networking	CISCO	Ambedkar Inst. of Technology Bangalore	June 2 2007

BITES adopts new Vision and Mission Statements

Dr. R. Natarajan, in a presentation that he made to the BITES Governing Board when he took over as Chairman-BITES, emphasized the need to redefine BITES objectives in the light of the rapid changes in the IT sector over the past five years.

A strategy workshop was held on November 4, 2006 at IIMB lead by Prof.S. Raghunath and Prof. Hrishiksha. Krishnan, of IIMB

Governing Board Members, BITES institutional members .participated in the workshop and gave valuable suggestions in this regard. A subcommittee consisting of Dr. R. Natarajan, Prof. B.S. Sonde, Prof. S. Sadagopan, and Prof. S.S. Prabhu examined the different suggestions and finalized a set of statements reflecting the new Vision, Mission and Key activity areas of BITES. These were deliberated and adopted by the BITES Governing Board Meeting .held on February 17, 2007.

Vision

To establish Karnataka as the acknowledged leader in Information Technology by fostering high-quality industry-relevant IT education

Mission

Mission of BITES is to serve as a catalyst for nurturing Excellence in our IT educational institutions, ensuring employability of our Graduates, promoting Quality of work of our Faculty, strengthening interactions and networking among Stakeholders, and enhancing global competitiveness of our IT industry

Key Activity Areas

*Advice on Policy
Competitions and Awards
Curriculum Development
Databases
Faculty Development
Industry –Institute Interaction
Institutional Development
IT Education Standards
Leadership Development*

Slogan

Helping to keep Karnataka at the forefront of IT

Visitors to BITES

Mr. Arnaud Le Hors, Standards & Emerging Markets, IBM, USA , Mr. Himesh Misra, Country Leader, Global Solutions Acceleration Initiative, IBM-India and Mr. Ashish Gautam, Country Leader, Open Standards Practice, IBM-India visited BITES on March 8. IBM team held discussions with BITES on the issue of students' employability and how their Open Standards knowledge and skills and project work can help them get better jobs. IBM team expressed its desire to work closely with BITES and launch programs aimed at improving students' skills in the area of open standards and computing in BITES member institutions.