

## From the Chairman's Desk



This is the second issue of our Newsletter. We hope to use this medium to reach our stakeholders to inform them of our plans and activities, and invite feedback and suggestions for enhancing their effectiveness.

We have just completed an exercise for (re)defining the Vision, Mission and Key Activity Areas of BITES. The draft version has been circulated to our Board Members and other Experts, and their suggestions and comments will be taken into account for finalization.

Faculty competence and expertise are crucial contributors to Excellence in technical education, in general, and IT education in particular. BITES is therefore in the process of organizing a regular series of Seminars / Workshops, essentially for the benefit of the faculty members of the IT departments of our member institutions. The Members on the Board of BITES are all eminent persons from IT industry, Technical institutions ( TIs), and the State Government. We are requesting the IT industry members on our Board to come forward to organize Seminars / Workshops in their areas of expertise.

We believe that we can achieve a lot more by partnering with organizations with similar and complementary aims and interests.

We organized a Panel Discussion last week, involving six Distinguished Academics from the US who had come to Bangalore to participate in an international conference on high – performance computing, in partnership with TEQIP. We expect to work closely with VTU and Edusat for several innovative initiatives. We hope to continue our partnership with IBM for student projects in e-governance. We hope to enter into collaboration with other major players in IT.

One of the major concerns of the IT industry is the considerable gap and mismatch between the curricular offerings and the industry requirements. This is characterized by the “employability quotient”, and the general consensus is that our present graduates lack employability qualities. It is therefore an urgent necessity to address this issue squarely and correct the situation. BITES will be striving to perform a gap analysis as a first step. Another major concern is the lack of a research and consultancy culture in our TIs. A major transformation is required, especially in the mind-set of our TIs and the faculty members.

We are also planning to compile the Best Practices in IT industries and TIs, to learn from each other and to enhance the overall quality of IT education.

We are thankful to all our Board Members and other Stakeholders for their support to our activities, and we hope to continue to receive it.

As we commence our journey through yet another New Year, BITES wishes all its Stakeholders a Very Happy New Year and All the Best in the coming year.

Prof. R.Natarajan

## Activities of BITES

### Project INVITE and the Great Mind Challenge- 2006

Project INVITE (Initiative to Nurture a Vibrant IT Ecosystem), a unique initiative created jointly by BITES, IBM and supported by Government of Karnataka, to fuel academic excellence in the State, was successfully concluded with the top ten teams from different engineering colleges getting handsome awards.

As part of the award package, each winning institution got an IBM e-server; faculty guides were given Rs. 10,000 cash awards and citations; and each student got Rs. 5,000 as cash award and a project completion certificate.

IBM will also consider the students who completed the projects for placement. Congratulations to the following winning teams!

No.	Name of the winning Institution	Project Title
1	BVB College of Engineering & Technology, Hubli	Training Portal
2	BVB College of Engineering & Technology, Hubli	Sports Performance Tracking System
3	MS Ramaiah Institute of Technology, Bangalore	Placement Portal
4	CMR Institute of Technology, Bangalore	Diploma Students Admission Management portal
5	Bapuji Institute of Engineering & Technology , Davanagere	Generic Hospital Management System
6	Basaveshwara Engineering College, Bagalakot	Gram Panchayat Budget Management System.
7	Guru Nanak Dev College of Engineering, Bidar	Placement Portal
8	Sri Venkateshwara College of Engineering, Bangalore	Placement Portal
9	Alpha College of Engineering, Bangalore	Sports Performance Tracking system
10	Golden Valley Institute of Technology, KGF	Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan System

Buoyed by the success of Project INVITE, BITES and IBM are working on the next edition of project INVITE which is known as the **Great Mind Challenge-2006**, which provides opportunities for students to develop software projects and participate in a nation-wide challenge. This program has received an overwhelming response compared to Project INVITE as indicated below.

	Project INVITE	Great Mind Challenge
No. of Participating Colleges	50	83
No. of student teams registered	165	941
No. of students working on projects	562	3054
No. of faculty guides trained / to be trained	100	300
No. of training & Interaction sessions	4	8

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## Panel Discussion on “*Creating Excellence in TEQIP Institutions-Opportunities and Challenges*”

BITES, along with SPFU of TEQIP organized a panel discussion focused on creating excellence in institutions which are covered under the TEQIP program in Karnataka on December 19, 2006 at Taj Residency, Bangalore.

The TEQIP program aims to create an environment in which engineering institutions selected under the Programme can achieve their own set targets for excellence and sustain the same with **autonomy and accountability**.

### Issues Identified for Panel Discussion

1. Road to effective autonomy
2. Curriculum development and changes to be brought about in teaching/learning methodology.
3. Industry-Institute Interaction: Viable Models
4. Knowledge management
5. Research Culture, Innovation and Entrepreneurship

A distinguished panel consisting of the following faculty members from foreign universities and industry professionals deliberated on the issues identified and suggested the best practices that may be adopted by the institutions.

Dr. Sartaj Sahni,	Distinguished Professor and Chair, CISE Dept, University of Florida, USA
Dr. C.S. Raghavendra,	Chairman, Engineering Sciences and Professor, Dept. of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, University of Southern California, USA
Dr. Viktor K. Prasanna,	Charles Lee Powell Professor of Computer Engineering and Professor, Dept. of Computer Science and Electrical Engineering, University of Southern California, USA
Dr. Srinivasa Alur,	Chair, Bio-Informatics, and Professor, Dept. Of Computer Science and Engineering, State University of New Jersey, USA
Dr. Manish Parashar	Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Rutgers University, USA
Dr. M.P. Ravindra	Senior Vice-president and Head, (E&R), Infosys, India

Principals and TEQIP coordinators of fourteen engineering institutions participated in the discussion and interacted with the panelists.

Mr. Kaushik Mukherjee, Principal Secretary, Department of Higher Education, and Mr. M.N Vidyashankar, Secretary, Department of IT&BT and S&T, GOK attended the Panel Discussion and shared their views with the participants.

The Panel Discussion was moderated by Dr. R. Natarajan, Chairman, BITES,

A position paper has been prepared which provides a background of the TEQIP program, issues that need to be addressed and expected outcomes. The position paper can be accessed at [WWW.bites-bangalore.org](http://WWW.bites-bangalore.org)

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## What is new in the world of Information Technology

**Microsoft, Google to work on free speech, privacy rights:** Microsoft and Google, along with Yahoo Inc. and Vodafone Group PLC said that they will develop a code of conduct with a coalition of nongovernmental organizations to promote freedom of expression and privacy rights. Technology companies have come under fire for providing equipment or software that permits governments to censor information or monitor the online or offline activities of their citizens. For example, last year, Google was criticized over its creation of a censored, local version of its search engine for the China market. [www.Idg.net](http://www.Idg.net).

**The Information Technology Workforce: Trends and Implications 2005-2008:** The Society for Information Management (SIM) released the results of its study which focuses on the kind of skills required in future information technology workforce.

Though it is not likely that the tech industry's demand for technical prowess for its workers will ever go away, it's beginning to be supplanted by a desire for more well-rounded employees with better all-around business skills. According to the survey, business skills account for five of the top 10 critical skills that organizations are seeking in employees over the next three years. The other five include project management and technical (but client-facing) skills. According to SIM, senior managers need to keep these requirements in mind as they recruit new IT workers and train their existing employees. The unstated implication is that this could help prevent a drastic scenario in which the entire IT function is outsourced.

## Useful Links

**[National Science and Technology Education Partnership](#)** NSTEP is dedicated to developing tomorrow's technology leaders through a variety of programs and services for students, the educational community and corporations interested in advancing science and technology education.

**[www.wipo.int](http://www.wipo.int):** The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations. It is dedicated to developing a balanced and accessible international intellectual property (IP) system, which rewards creativity, stimulates innovation and contributes to economic development while safeguarding the public interest.

## We need Your Feed back

Please give your suggestions on improving the quality and content of the Newsletter. Your feedback and suggestions may be sent to:

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