



Grooming Youth of North East for Employability



In addressing the low employability rate of north east youth, the Indian Institute of Management Shillong in collaboration with HCL Infosystems Ltd. organized a **Round Table Discussion with the North East States' Representatives** on the 21st September 2011 at Brahmaputra Ashok Hotel, Guwahati. Bureaucrats, academicians, industrialists, NGOs and other government officials attended the programme. Interestingly, the programme had representatives from all the seven states of north east, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura.

Prof. Ashoke Dutta, the Director of IIM Shillong mentioned in his speech that Price Water House recruiting hundreds of students from different premier schools and finding them to be inadequate to handle the responsibility in the three major areas; accounting, taxation, and consulting. He also informed the participants that IIM Shillong under CEDNER had ran many courses in the recent past in improving the skills of the north east youth. He emphasized that an action plan will be formulated in preparing and grooming youth of north east after the programme. The discussion was presided by **Shri. R.P Agarwal, Chairman, IIT Delhi Board of Governors** and in his opening speech said that ICT can play a major role in connecting N E Region with the mainland. He also mentioned that north east is the rainbow of the country with eight colours and hence its population should be converted from liability to economic and social asset. **Shri. J. V. Ramamurthy, the President and COO, HCL Infosystems Ltd.** revealed HCL's commitment in enabling the youth of north east to be employable. Confidently, he informed the house that HCL can be a catalyst in bringing technology to the youth and be a transforming agent as well with all its technological devices. The **Chairman BOG, IIM Shillong, Shri. R. N. Datta** who was present in the programme addressed the gathering, and emphasizing the need to creating employment facilities, going side by side with enhancing employability

All the states' representatives had put forward their ideas, observations and suggestions in the course of discussion. **Shri. P. K. Chowdhury, Addl. Chief Secretary, Government of Assam** emphasized the need to identify the skill gap and to address it accordingly. **P. C. Bora of IIT Guwahati** expressed his concern over the high drop – out rate in north east and the low quality education imparted. **Shri. K. N. Kumar, IAS, Commissioner & Secretary, Rural Development and Fisheries, Government of Meghalaya** informed the gathering that the state has instituted the Meghalaya State Employment Promotion Council headed by the Chief Minister. He also expressed his concern over the huge loss of water resource flowing to Brahmaputra and Bangladesh. The **Special Secretary, Labour Employment & Industrial Training, Government of Mizoram, Shri. N. Kumar** mentioned in his speech that the present curriculum is outdated and needs redesigning. The confidence level, vocabulary and communication skills are very low in spite of the fact that Mizoram is having the highest literacy rate in the region at 94%. **Ms. Iyreish Khumallambam, Consultant to the Manipur Skill Development Society (MSDS)** expressed the need to identify the areas of interest and the talents that the youths have, and to train them accordingly. She also added that a specific strategy or an approach is required in this regard. She also informed the house that Manipur has its core competencies in hospitality and fashion and that HCL can come forward in contributing to these sectors. **Shri. Yekuto Awami, the Deputy Director, Employment & Craftsmen Training, Government of Nagaland** mentioned that Nagaland is the first state in north east to take up the issue of employability whole - heartedly by the launching of the Korean Nagaland Project under the headship of Chief Minister. Hundreds of youths have been trained so far and many of them have been sent to Korea. He too felt the need to redesign the existing traditional curriculum. **Shri. Debashish Das, Principal, ITI, Government of Tripura** informed the participants that a skill - gap study has been undertaken by Tripura government. He expressed his desire to see the youth of Tripura not only in government sector and agriculture but in other sectors as well. He ended by saying that rubber, tea, and bamboo industries are blooming in Tripura at present. Others who speak in the Session are **Smt. Neeraj Raj Kumar, IAS, Shri. R. Joshi, Shri. Mrinal Talukdar, Fr. Joseph Nellanatt, Shri. Amlan Burauh, Shri. Ratnadip Choudhury, Shri. R. M. Sonawal, and Prof S. Shahjahan**

The **Ex. Secretary, NEC, Shri Falguni Rajkumar, IAS**, had come out with innovative ideas and strategies in enhancing employability. He requested the HCL Infosystems Ltd. to set up bases of BPO and KPO in north east, thereby retaining the youth in the region itself. The programme ended with the concluding remarks from the Chairman, commented the need of an immediate resolution and action plan. **Prof. Natalie West Kharkongor**, the programme coordinator expressed her gratitude to all the participants for the positive response. She also revealed her desire for future cooperation with IIM Shillong and HCL Infosystems Ltd. in increasing the employability rate and in enhancing the growth of the north east states.

Director's Activities



20th September -3rd October, 2011

- Organized & participated in the Round Table discussion on "Grooming Youth of North East for Employability", Guwahati
- Speaker & Chairman of Session at NICT Programme, Session on "Grooming the Next Generation (Education)", Agartala
- Attended the Board Meeting of Viginana Jyothi Institute of Management, Hyderabad
- Visited NMDC, meeting with Chairman Secretariat
- Conducted a session for the Nagaland Civil Service on "Leadership Challenges in Government"
- Member of the panel of judges in the third edition of "Sharadiya Shrestha Sanman" organized by the Times of India, Guwahati.



Mr. Altaf Ahmed, Vice President Emirates NBD receiving Asia's Visionary Leader Award on behalf of Prof Ashoek K Dutta founder Director IIM Shillong from (Left)

Dr. J. R. Gangaramani, President & Executive Chairman, Al Fara'a Group and (Right) Mr. Ashok Venkataramani, CEO, STAR News.



Prof AK Dutta, Director IIM Shillong poses for a photograph with Christian Wulff President of Germany along with other dignitaries as part of the IGCC delegation visiting Germany earlier this year.



Merlvin Jude Mukhim, Corporate & PR Officer (Designate) attended the 38th AIMA National Management Convention at New Delhi held on 28 and 29 September 2011 along with members of the Placement Committee.

Faculty Corner

Prof. Natalie West Kharkongor was the Chairperson of a technical session in a National Seminar on "ICT in Education" on the 14th Sept. 2011 at NEHU Campus, Shillong.



The momentous release of the first issue of TogetHR by Dr. Mukul Sangma, Chief Minister, Meghalaya on September 19, 2011 alongwith Shri R.N.Datta, Chairman RGIIMS and Prof A.K.Dutta, Director RGIIMS



Prof Ashoke K Dutta during the Session on "Grooming the Next Generation (Education)" at NICT Programme in Agartala



Prof Ashoke K Dutta conducting a session on "Leadership Challenges in Government" for the Nagaland Civil Services.



Prof Ashoke K Dutta with the participants of the MDP "Art of Leadership in Urban Governance"