

Merry Christmas to all!



EnhanceEdu Bulletin

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ITRA Meeting

Tuesday 13 December, 2011

The meeting began with opening remarks from Ms. Sandhya Kode, Director, EnhanceEdu, IIIT-Hyderabad. Ms. Sandhya Kode in her opening comments introduced Prof Narendra Ahuja Coordinator & Member - Program Steering & Implementation Group, ITRA (Donald Biggar Willet Professor - Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Beckman Institute and Coordinated Science Laboratory, University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign).

Prof Narendra Ahuja in his presentation introduced the Information Technology Research Academy (ITRA) which aims to build and link research groups across the country, with the objective that the activities of each group are characterized by the several features like state-of-the-art basic IT research, sensitivity to societal problems, research targeted at creative problem solving, leading to new technologies, technology transfer capabilities, self-esteem and teamwork in all activities, effective dissemination of the know-how of successful features of ITRA for replication by other institutions, and as a consequence of the above features, a major increase in the national capacity of producing advanced IT researchers, e.g., PhDs, including those capable and inclined to become faculty in Indian institutions.

This Request for Proposals (RFP) is aimed at seeding ITRA activities in one IT focus area of national importance, that of Mobile Computing, Networking and Applications (MNA). ITRA seeks competitive, collaborative proposals to initiate the MNA sub-pyramid. With the tremendous advancement and growing coverage of cellular and wireless access networks, decreasing costs and increasing capabilities of mobile phones, it is becoming clear that mobile phones are likely the interface of choice for access to many services over the Internet. MNA is expected to have an impact in numerous problem domains, ranging from the general areas of governance to agriculture, transportation, health, education, infrastructure monitoring, energy and sustainability, emergency preparedness, supply chain management and entertainment, illustrated by the following

More than 55 participants including Principals, Dean (R&D), HODs from 20 engineering colleges and faculty from IIIT-H participated in the meeting.

Prof. Rajeev Sangal, Director, IIIT-Hyderabad in his remarks reminded participants that mobiles will play a key role in delivery of services like Health care, transportations, bill payments to the remotely located citizen in the country. Prof. Sangal affirmed that one of ITRA wider aims is to strengthen R&D activity by taking domestic issues and provide the solutions, products.

Prof. Koteswar Rao from VR Siddhartha, Prof. Balaji from VNR Vignan Jyothi, Prof. V.V Rao from Sreenidhi Institute presented their work in the areas of computer vision and mobile communications and followed by presentations from 15 more colleges.

Participants discussed actively among themselves over lunch and resumed the meeting at 3:00 PM.

Prof. P.J Narayanan, Dean (R & D), IIIT-Hyderabad gave a presentation about IIIT-H's cutting edge research work in various areas and gave statistics of number of enrollments in to PhD and MS programs in various centres and domains.

In response to a question from Mr. Neil Gogte, how to go forward in taking up this initiative, Prof. Narendar Ahuja suggested that ITRA would particularly welcome colleges which are of similarity in their strengths, areas of interest. Prof. Ahuja provided several insights into strategies of having large number of college come together, 2-3 colleges come together to take up this initiative.



Following are the areas of interest of each college.

Name	Image Processing	Information Security	Artificial Intelligence	Transportation & Energy	Computer vision	Mobile computing	Others
SNIST	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Multimedia, Bio-Metrics
MITS							Database Security
VR	✓			✓	✓	✓	Embedded Systems
VNR VJIET	✓	✓			✓	✓	Cloud Computing, Data mining
SVCE							Software Engineering
MLRIT							Distributed Databases
Vasavi							Embedded Systems, Data Mining
JBIET							Neural networks, Fuzzy Logic
CBIT	✓	✓			✓		
BEC							Language Technologies
BVRIT						✓	Wireless Networks
PEC				✓		✓	Cloud Computing, DBMS, Web Tech.
CVR	✓						Language Technologies
MVSR	✓	✓					Data mining
GNITS	✓	✓				✓	Data bases
KMIT						✓	Education, cloud computing
EnhanceEdu							Multimedia, games, outreach education, education technology

About the Art of Teaching workshop

Attended a purposeful and focus oriented content and instruction development workshop on Dec 16 at EnhanceEdu, Hyderabad. The workshop was useful in orienting towards the student-centered learning requirement by instructors to incorporate in their teaching methods to develop content so that in a short duration focus of content and learning objectives are achieved. The workshop was useful in making the instructor come down to student level. The use of media-wiki for development of content was useful for successful transfer of knowledge and concepts, and for knowledge alignment.

Thank you for conducting the workshop.

- **Mr. Anil Kumar,**
Associate Professor of Dept of Informatics,
Alluri Institute of Mangement Sciences

It is my pleasure to share a few words about "Art of Teaching" workshop organized by EnhanceEdu cell of IIIT-Hyderabad.

1. It was a great platform to share ideas of new ways of delivering lecture.
2. It also focussed on how to improve the relationship between student and teacher.
3. It focussed on content management and how to organize it effectively.
4. It explored different teaching methodologies and learning styles."

- **Mr. K. Sekar,**
Associate Professor, Dept of CSE,
S.V. College of Engineering, Tirupati

I am Prathima from CBIT and was privileged to be part of a 2-day workshop on "Art of Teaching" conducted by our very own EnhanceEdu, Hyderabad. The resource person Shuchita Ma'am made us go through different methods of teaching such as teacher-centric and student-centric approaches. As our workshop batch consisted of teachers with varied experience ranging from 6 months to 13 years, it was like a brainstorming session wherein all our views, ideas, strategies that we have implemented in our classrooms were shared and gaps identified. The proposed solution was "personalized mentoring" as opposed to addressing the class as a whole which results in losing attention of almost 40 to 50% students. With personalized mentoring, we can reduce that ratio to 5-10%. I personally learned a more scientific approach to understanding different types of students in class."

- **Ms. Prathima,**
Associate Professor (IT)
CBIT