Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Inside This Issue

Message from the Dean

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As many of you know, Center for Innovation (CFI) was started with funding from Class of '81 in 2007, and is now the most popular hangout for techies on campus. But many of you may not know that Center for Social Innovation & Entrepreneurship (CSIE) was launched just 4 years later with funding from the Class of '84, and has been serving students & faculty since in many ways. This Newsletter is our attempt to reach out and spread the message regarding CSIE's mission and initiatives.

CSIE coordinates education, training and research activities related to social entrepreneurship. Four key focus areas for the Center are:

- Facilitation of Minor stream in Innovation & Social Entrepreneurship
- Liaisoning with external organizations involved in social entrepreneurship
- Conducting & coordinating research into social enterprises
- Outreach to colleges and schools in the realm of social entrepreneurship

We have a 3-member Staff - Joseph Thomas and James Rajanayagam and K. Vijayalakshmi - who drive these activities with exemplary zeal. With your involvement, we can bring CSIE on par with CFI in terms of its impact on the incubation ecosystem on campus.

Prof. R. Nagarajan

Dean, International and Alumni Relations

About CSIE

IIT Madras has been involved in the field of social entrepreneurship since 2004, when it partnered with the Lemelson Foundation's RAMP program for social entrepreneurs, as well as with Villgro Innovations Foundation.

In August 2010, recognizing the need to build a full-fledged centre focusing on social entrepreneurship within the Institution, Center for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship was established, with support from the Lemelson Foundation, the IITM Alumni Batch of 1984, and Villgro Innovations Foundation.

CSIE, aims to bring together the technological and management strengths of IIT Madras to contribute in the areas of Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship by creating knowledge and understanding that will be of relevance to the problems that the poor in India face.

Mission

To build an environment that will facilitate the creation of social enterprise knowledge through research and empower students to apply their entrepreneurship abilities to develop solutions for greater social impact through academia.

Team Members

Shri. Joseph Thomas

Project Consultant

Research and Fund raising, overall program guidance of CSIE

Shri. James Rajanayagam

Project Consultant

Out Reach programs to other colleges and schools in the field of social entrepreneurship

Ms. K. Vijayalakshmi

Project Officer

Coordinating with faculty of various departments and students of IITM for the Minor in social innovation and entrepreneurship

Summer Camp on Social Innovation through Technology for Government School Students

Class room session by Prof. L S Ganesh

CSIE conducted a 5-day Summer Camp for Rural Government school students on **'Social Innovation through Technology'** in association with TVS Srinivasan Services Trust, Chennai on 12-16, May 2014 at IIT Madras. It was designed to create awareness about the role of technology and entrepreneurship to solve socially relevant issues. About 40 students from three villages in Thiruvallur District attended the camp.

Prof. R. Nagarajan, Dean IAR inaugurated the programme and dwelt on the objectives and nature of the camp. Faculty from IIT Madras and social entrepreneurs gave talks on topics like social issues, relevant technologies for solving those issues and about social businesses & enterprises. On the final day of valedictory programme, certificates were given to all the students by Prof. R. Nagarajan. At the end, students presented their learning's, feedback about the programme and also ideas of their future course of actions.

Seminar on Innovation and Entrepreneurship

In association with CSIE and Deshpande Foundation, the Centre for Entrepreneurship Development from Karnataka Law Society's Institute of Management Education & Research (KLSIMER) conducted a seminar on **'Innovation & Entrepreneurship'** along with a business plan competition. About 200 students attended the seminar and CSIE played the role of knowledge partner. The event was organised for two days (8 and 9th, May 2014) at KLSIMER, Belgaum.

Prof. L.S. Ganesh, IIT Madras delivered the keynote address on *'Basic Concepts of Social Entrepreneurship'* and Aswin Mahalingam, Assistant Professor, IIT Madras gave a speech on *'Business Plan writing'*.

Inaugurated by Asst. Prof. Aswin Mahalingam

Micro Entrepreneurship Expo

The Puthiya Thalaimurai foundation organized the **'Micro Entrepreneurship Expo'** at Government ITI, Guindy on 12 and 13th August, 2014. It was inaugurated by Kyungsoo Kim, Consul General of the Republic of Korea.

CSIE played the role of knowledge partner to the event. About forty companies presented their services. Public briefing about CSIE was done and pamphlets were issued.

Brainstorming session
Tamil Nadu State Rural Livelihood Mission (TNSRLM) and
Rural Technology and Business Incubator (RTBI)

Brain storming workshop in progress

CSIE, organized a brainstorming session for the companies incubated under RTBI with TNSRLM on 18th, July 2014. The meeting was presided by Smt. Mythili K. Rajendran, IAS, Managing Director, TNSRLM.

The program was organized to create understanding about the activities undertaken by TNSRLM and the incubated companies of RTBI in the non-farm products domain and to explore the opportunities for collaboration. The incubated companies described the uniqueness of their products and services, and benefits rural communities experienced. The meeting ended with Shri. Joseph Thomas, Project Consultant, CSIE giving the valedictory address and a commitment by TNSRLM and RTBI to meet again for more detailed discussions in September, 2014.

MoU signed between CSIE - Tagore Engineering College (TEC)

CSIE signed an agreement with Tagore Engineering College, Chennai for collaboration in research and consultancy on 20th, August 2014. The objective is to provide modular certificate courses, conferences, and hand holding services for the incubated companies of TEC.

CSIE will design, develop and deliver specialized modular courses in areas like Social Entrepreneurship, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Product Innovation, and other relevant areas.

The MoU was signed by Prof. R. Nagarajan, Dean IAR, on behalf of CSIE and Dr. P. Kasinatha Pandian, Principal on behalf of TEC.

MoU Exchanged by Prof. R. Nagarajan and Dr. P. Kasinatha Pandian

MoU signed between IITM - Swinburne University

MoU Exchanged by Shri. Joseph Thomas and Australian Prime minister Tony Abbot

IIT Madras signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Swinburne University, Australia under the New Colombo Plan, an Initiative by Australian Government.

In an event held at Mumbai University on 4th, September 2014. Shri. Joseph Thomas represented IIT-Madras during the exchange of MoUs between Swinburne University and IIT Madras in the presence of the Australian Prime Minister, Tony Abbott.

The Australia - India Council has approved a grant for a study tour between students at Swinburne and CSIE, IIT Madras.

Conferences

IID fellow program in Manila, Philippines Shri. Joseph Thomas (middle) with Shri. Thiruselvam (right)

UNIID -SEA PAC Members: Shri. Joseph Thomas (First row, left side—second)

Universities and Councils Network on Innovation for Inclusive development in South East Asia (UNIID-SEA) Project Advisory Committee Meeting

UNIID-SEA organised its Project Advisory committee (PAC) meeting on 25 – 26th, July 2014 at Manila, Philippines. The Project Advisory Committee is an international group of academics and policy makers acting as principal ambassadors for the IID project. As a PAC member, Shri. Joseph Thomas attended the meeting and gave his valuable inputs.

UNIID - SEA IID Fellow Program

UNIID-SEA launched the IID Fellows Program. Under this research program, UNIID-SEA will be targeting applicants from the ten ASEAN Member States: Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Selected IID Fellows from the participating countries will be awarded small grants ranging from US $1,500 to US $2,500. It aims to champion IID advocates in the region, by incentivizing them to share their existing courses and modules that demonstrate inclusive innovation. Shri. Joseph Thomas from CSIE was selected as an IID Module/Course reviewer for the IID fellowship program.

Assistive and Rehabilitation Technologies

Tamil Nadu Technology Development and Promotion Centre of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organized a conference on "Assistive and Rehabilitation Technologies" with the theme of **'Inclusive technologies for an improved quality of life'** on 22nd, August 2014 in Chennai. Shri. Joseph Thomas participated in the conference representing CSIE, IIT-Madras.

Artha Venture Challenge 2014

The Artha Venture Challenge 2014 was conducted by Rianta Philanthropy Ltd. Their mandate is to find and support ambitious Indian social entrepreneurs. They help them with access to finance and powerful connections to raise investment, get past the pain of due diligence and scale their ventures. The selected finalists will be provided with up to Rupees 30 lakhs of financial support (co-funding) and eight months of capacity building. Shri. Joseph Thomas served as a jury member on one of the panels for this challenge. The winners of the challenge can be seen at http://www.arthaventurechallenge.com/avcfinalists/.

Meeting with Chilasa Venture Philanthropy Ltd.

Shri. Nigel Majakari, CEO, Chilasa Venture Philanthropy Ltd met Prof. R. Nagarajan at Geneva on 6th, September 2014.

Research Papers

Gavin Melles, Joseph Thomas, Blair Kuys, Charles Ranscombe. *'Social Entrepreneurship with design in Southern India - Lesson for Australia'.* Indo - Dutch International Conference on Design, Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, July 2014

Joseph Thomas, Gavin Melles. *'Taking Appropriate Technology to the Market'.* submitted for 6th International Conference on Appropriate Technology (6th ICAT), Kenya

Upcoming Events

1. **Idea Spark 2014**

   Idea Spark is a contest for students to recognize and nurture the technological ideas that will solve the problems of society. The objective is to create awareness among students, bring out their ideas, and help their ideas to develop into a business plan. CSIE will support the selected ideas with mentoring to develop into business plans. The finalists will be provided with cash award and mentoring support.

2. **CSR workshop at KLSIMER, Belgaum**

   CSIE joins hand with KLSIMER, Belgaum to conduct a one day workshop on Corporate Social Responsibility. Shri. Joseph Thomas will be giving a talk on *'Role of Academic Institutions in supporting CSR initiatives'* on 27th, September 2014. Dr. M.P. Ganesh, Department of Management Studies, IIT Madras will speak about *'CSR as stakeholder management'.*

3. **UK-India University dialogue on Social Enterprise in New Delhi on 25-26th , September 2014**

   Shri. Joseph Thomas will be one of the panel speaker in the session on '*Learning Approaches : in and outside classroom leading to innovation and stronger social economy'.*

4. **UNIID-SEA in Jakarta, Indonesia on 4-6th , November 2014**

5. **R&D Affordable Healthcare Committee meeting in New Delhi on 12th, November 2014.**

6. **6th International Conference on Appropriate Technology in Nairobi, Kenya on 25-29th, November 2014**

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Message from the Dean

International and Alumni Affairs

CSIE continues to evolve into a multi-faceted organization with measurable impact on the campus and on society. "Idea Spark" is a contest that gets college students involved. The first Faculty Development Program (in creative pedagogy) was organized in late November. A winter camp for school students is planned in Jan 2015. These activities demonstrate the scope and variety in CSIE outreach beyond the campus.

Closer to home, the Minor Stream on "Innovation & Social Entrepreneurship" continues to benefit from association with CSIE, with the lab and field courses receiving significant support from CSIE staffers. The many Workshops and Conferences attended and organized by CSIE are an indicator of its growing visibility among the social enterprise community. CSIE continues to build its collaboration with incubators on campus and elsewhere, such as RuTAG, RTBI and the IITM Incubation Cell.

Faculty are now being assisted by CSIE when it comes to writing and presenting proposals for funding of projects in the social entrepreneurship sector. We have had a few big wins lately, and look forward to more as CSR spending by companies becomes mandatory. CSIE is an alumni-funded initiative that has taken on a life of its own. While CFI has quickly caught the imagination of the campus community, the impact of CSIE has been more subtle, but starting to scale. As student start-up's continue to rise in number, CSIE will have its work cut out to ensure that these students do consider social enterprises as a legitimate career option. With the strong and committed staff we have in place, I'm sure that will be accomplished.

Prof. R. Nagarajan

Dean, International and Alumni Relations

New Team Member

Ms. Vidhiya Saravanan

Project Associate

Documentation of the Incubated companies in IIT-M

Faculty Development Program on Creative Pedagogy

CSIE and Tagore Engineering College jointly organised a 1-day faculty development program on *"Creative Pedagogy: Fostering Student Creativity and Innovation"* at IIT Madras on 28th, November 2014. 55 faculty from 19 different colleges participated. The program was inaugurated by Prof. R. Nagarajan, Dean I&AR, IIT Madras.

The morning session was covered by Prof. L.S Ganesh and Prof. Mahesh Panchagnula, from IIT-Madras, who gave talks on "Understanding technological innovation and creativity" and "My experiences with student innovations" respectively. In the afternoon, "Workshop on Nurturing Creativity" was conducted by Shri. Sivasubramanian, Founder, Paperclip. This was followed by a visit to Center for Innovation (CFI) Lab at IIT-Madras.

Speakers and Participants of FDP on Creative Pedagogy

The valedictory session was presided by Dr. P. Kasinatha Pandian, Principal, Tagore Engineering College. Finally, certificates were issued to the participants

Workshop on Corporate Social Responsibility

Inauguration by Shri. R.S. Balasubramanyam

CSIE and Karnataka Law Society's Institute of Management Education & Research (KLSIMER) in association with TiE, Hubli conducted a 1-day workshop on **'Corporate Social Responsibility'** for entrepreneurs, teachers and students on 27th, September 2014 at KLSIMER, Belgaum. Around 100 entrepreneurs from North Karnataka participated.

The workshop aimed at helping the companies to perceive CSR and align it to their core business objectives. Shri R.S. Balasubramanyam, Head CSR, Aditya Birla Nuvo Limited, inaugurated the workshop. Dr. M.P. Ganesh, Professor, IIT Madras spoke on 'CSR as Stakeholder Management'. Shri Joseph Thomas, CSIE gave a presentation on 'Role of Academic Institutions' in supporting CSR initiatives.

CSIE and NASE - Impact Metrics

CSIE in partnership with the National Association of Social Enterprises (NASE) conducted a workshop to understand how companies capture and track the change that is occurring or has occurred as a result of their work. As a first step, social entrepreneurs were invited to answer a short questionnaire. The findings were shared at a round table featuring academics, investors and social enterprises on the 1st, December 2014 at Ashoka Office, Bangalore. Shri. Joseph Thomas was a facilitator for the session "Impact Metrics: View from the ground" with a focus on the challenges faces and future course of action. Ms. K. Vijayalakshmi and Ms. Vidhiya Saravanan from CSIE attended the conference.

ebay Inc. Opportunity Hack

Shri. Joseph Thomas interacting with one of the teams

Shri Joseph Thomas was invited as a Social coach for the 'eBay Inc. Opportunity Hack' event conducted by Paypal in Chennai on 11th, October 2014.

This is a 36-hour hackathon where participants will work to come up with solutions to challenges given by non-profit organizations. The Chennai Data Portal, which focused on building attendance system for schools and Team Everest, which worked on e-Receipt Management System secured the first two places. Ms. Vijayalakshmi, CSIE also attended the event.

RuTAG Advisory Committee Meeting

Shri Joseph Thomas attended the Rural Technology Action Group (RuTAG) Advisory Committee Meeting on 18th, November 2014 as External consultant at IIT-M. The meeting started with the discussion about the role of advisory committee and looked at the future direction of RuTAG programme.

Recently completed and ongoing projects and discussion of new projects to be taken up were also reviewed. Ms. Vijayalakshmi and Ms. Vidhiya Saravanan also attended the meeting.

Idea Spark 2014

CSIE launched the second edition of Idea Spark 2014. This is a contest for students to recognize and nurture the technological ideas that will solve the problems of society. The objective is to create awareness among students, bring out their ideas, and help them to develop it into a business plan. This year the event was launched in 7 engineering colleges in Tamil Nadu including IIT-M. The best 3 ideas from each college have been selected and finals will be held on 10th, January 2015 at IIT-M.

Rural Visits for Minor course students of IIT-M

Students at Vishranthi

CSIE organised visits for Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship minor course students to the villages of Annathur, Nathanallur, Kattavakkam, Vandavasi, Vadanemmeli (Irula community) and to Social enterprises Banyan and Vishranthi.

Students looked at the social issues faced by the different communities and suggested feasible solutions as part of their coursework.

Talk on Building Ecosystems

Ms. Nickala Torkington from UnLtd, UK gave a talk on **'Building ecosystems of support for Social Entrepreneurs'** at Loyola Institute of Business Administration (LIBA) on 23rd, September 2014.

The talk focused on UnLtd UK's approach in identifying the Social Entrepreneurs and supporting them with funding and mentorship. Shri Joseph Thomas, Ms. Vijayalakshmi, Ms. Vidhiya Saravanan from CSIE and Mr. Nikhlesh Ranjan, Mr. Anuraag Saini students of IIT Madras attended the talk.

Ms. Nickala Torkington, UnLtd, UK at LIBA

Visitors to RTBI, IIT-M

Ms. Nickala Torkington, UnLtd, UK

CSIE coordinated a visit for Ms. Nickala Torkington, UnLtd, UK and Shri Jayasingh Solomon, British Council to Rural Technology Business Incubator (RTBI) at IITM Research park on 24th, September 2014.

Smt. Suma Prashant, Director of RTBI welcomed the visitors and highlighted the initiatives of RTBI for rural development over the years. She explained RTBI's mission, activities and its achievements. Incubated companies like Desicrew, Skillveri, Edsix Brain Lab, Guvi presented the work being done by their organisations.

Conferences

UK - India Policy Dialogue on Social Enterprises

Shri Joseph Thomas from CSIE was invited as a Panelist and Speaker in the session on 'Learning Approaches: in and outside classroom leading to innovation and stronger social economy' in UK- India University Dialogue on Social Enterprise on 25 and 26th, September 2014 at New Delhi. The session focused on innovations in social enterprise - academic qualifications, together with experiential learning and opportunities for students' right across the campus.

Indian National Association - of the Club of Rome

Shri Joseph Thomas attended the Global conference on "Securing food for all – Critical need for coherence in policies and action" at New Delhi organised by the Club of Rome, India on 30-31st, October 2014. CSIE was one of the knowledge partners. The purpose of the conference was to consider and identify specific policies and actions that can be proposed to government, business, civil society, academic institutions and the media for taking forward and implementing in their respective domains.

Dr. Ashok Khosla, President, Development Alternatives and President Emeritus, Club of Rome (right) with Joseph Thomas at Global Conference

2014 SEA Conference on IID

Shri Joseph Thomas attended the 2014 Southeast Asia Conference on "Innovation for Inclusive Development (IID)" at Jakarta, Indonesia on 5 - 6th, November 2014. This conference was a gathering of the Network's current and potential partners across Southeast Asia. It was a sharing of key project outputs and findings, program implementation experiences and critical learning's of UNIID individual fellows and institutional partners, and the formal launching of the "Inclusive Innovation Hub", an online, open-access knowledge and networking platform that houses resource contributions from UNIID-SEA's partners. Shri Joseph Thomas chaired two sessions on 'Open Education and Open Access as Pathways to Inclusive Development' and on 'IID Teaching and Learning Packages: Water, Sanitation, and Health'. He was also a panelist in the session "What next: UNIID- SEA Project Advisory Committee perspectives". http://uniid-sea.net/program/

Universities and Councils Network on Innovation for Inclusive Development in South East Asia (UNIID-SEA) Project Advisory Committee Meeting

UNIID-SEA organised its Project Advisory committee (PAC) meeting on 7th, November 2014 at Jakarta, Indonesia. The Project Advisory Committee is an international group of academics and policy makers acting as principal ambassadors for the IID project. As a PAC member, Shri Joseph Thomas attended the meeting.

6th ICAT Conference at Nairobi

Shri Joseph Thomas participated in the the 6th International Conference on Appropriate Technology (6th ICAT) at Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya, from 25th to 29th November 2014. The theme of the conference was "Appropriate Technology for the 21st Century: Technological Innovation to Empower Africa". He presented the paper titled "Taking Appropriate Technology to the Market: Stories of Social Enterprises", in the Green Economy and Innovation paper category, which was selected as the best paper.

Proposals

Prof. Sujatha Srinivasan (in collaboration with Shri. Joseph Thomas of CSIE) submitted a proposal on 'Affordable Standing Wheelchair' under 'Affordable Healthcare', a Wellcome Trust scheme to support R&D in India. They traveled with Shri. Vivek Sarada (Project Associate) to New Delhi for the final grant meeting on 11th - 12th November 2014. The project was approved for a grant of Rs. 3.08 crore over a 3 year period.

Recruitment of JRF / SRF at Anna University

Shri. Joseph Thomas was invited as a member of interview panel for recruiting Junior and Senior Research Fellows (JRF/SRF) for the project titled "Development of Healthy Villages using Eco-WASH Initiatives" which was sanctioned by the Department of Science and Technology - NCSTC. It was held on 9th, December 2014 at Department of Production Technology, MIT Campus, Anna University.

Upcoming Events

1. **Idea Spark 2014 - Grand Finals on 10th, January 2015**

2. **Winter camp on 'Social Innovation through Technology' for School students on January 2015**

3. **Seminar on Social Entrepreneurship in Shaastra event at IIT-M on January 2015**

4. **Memorandum of Understanding between CSIE and KLSIMER, Belgaum**

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Message from the Dean

International and Alumni Relations

The Centre for Social Innovation & Entrepreneurship (CSIE), originally founded by the IITM Class of '84, is now celebrating a decade of service to students, faculty and alumni of IIT Madras, as well as to society at large. While the initial focus of CSIE was internal, current activities indicate a shift in emphasis towards the external world. In particular, capacity-building for innovation and social entrepreneurship at colleges and schools in India is emerging as a key service that CSIE will be providing in future.

IIT Madras now has a well-developed ecosystem that promotes the innovation-incubation culture on campus. The Centre for Innovation (CFI) plants the seeds for prototyping and product development, and the "IITM Incubation Cell" then facilitates the entry of young innovators into the start-up arena. Few academic campuses in the country provide such a systematic framework to enable students and faculty to develop, and then seriously consider taking bright ideas to market. CSIE plays a key role in positioning social entrepreneurship as a viable option for those targeting commercial success while designing products and services for the BOP.

As we learn, we want to impart our learning to neighbouring academic institutions so that they can get off to a fast start in the realm of social entrepreneurship. We want to train faculty to integrate creativity in classroom teaching. We want to sensitize college students to the need to incorporate classroom learning into socially - relevant enterprises. We even want to catch them young — alert school students to the possibilities if they can learn to think outside the box.

CSIE is ramping up efforts on all these fronts through the efforts of a young and dynamic staff. Please support us in our endeavours.

Prof. R. Nagarajan

Dean, International and Alumni Relations

Idea Spark 2014- Grand Finale

Prof. Nagarajan distributing cheque to students from Bannari Amman Institute of Technology who secured 1st place

CSIE conducted the Grand Finale of Idea Spark 2014 on 10th, January 2015 at IIT-Madras. 22 teams from seven engineering colleges in Tamil Nadu including IIT-M participated.

In the morning session, Prof. Ashwin Mahalingam gave a talk on *'How to identify an entrepreneurial opportunity'*. In the afternoon, 22 teams presented their ideas before the jury panel, which included Shri L.Kannan, Founder & CTO of Vortex Engineering Private Ltd, Prof. Devendra Jalihal from IIT-M, and Shri Joseph Thomas, VP, International Development Office, IIT-M. The top 3 ideas were selected. Prof. R.Nagarajan, Dean I&AR, gave the valedictory speech and distributed the certificates and cash prizes.

Winter Camp for School Students

CSIE conducted a 3-day Winter Camp on **'Social Innovation through Technology'** for school students of grade 11 and 12 from 14th to 16th, January 2015 at IIT Madras. It was designed to create awareness about the role of technology and entrepreneurship to solve socially relevant issues. We received around 300 applications and 100 students were selected to attend the program.

Classroom session by Prof. Mahesh Panchagnula on 16th, January 2015

Prof. R. Nagarajan, Dean I&AR, IIT-M and Shri Joseph Thomas, CSIE inaugurated the programme. Faculty from IIT Madras and social entrepreneurs gave talks on topics like Social Issues, Innovation and Technology, Nurturing Creativity, Entrepreneurship and Engineering in everyday life. Prof. T.S.Natarajan, IIT Madras demonstrated scientific facts through experiments. On the final day of valedictory programme, certificates were given to all the students by Prof. R. Nagarajan. At the end, students presented their learning's and feedback.

CSIE Governance Committee Meeting

CSIE organised the Governance Committee meeting on 13th January, 2015. Prof. R. Nagarajan, Prof. Ashwin Mahalingam, Prof. Devandra Jalihal, Prof. John Bosco Lourdusamy, Prof. KN Sathyanarayana, Prof. L. Prakash Sai and CSIE team attended the meeting.

The GC reviewed the progress of last 6 months' activities of CSIE and future course of actions were discussed.

MoU with KLSIMER and Vels University

MoU exchanged by Prof. R. Nagarajan and Dr. B. Krishnamoorthy, Vels University on 6th, March 2015

CSIE made agreements with two more colleges, KLS Institute of Management Education & Research (KLSIMER), Belgaum and Vels University, Chennai for collaboration in research and consultancy. The objective is to provide modular certificate courses, conducting seminars and conferences. CSIE will design, develop and deliver specialized modular courses in areas like Social Entrepreneurship, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Product Innovation, and other relevant areas.

The MoU's were signed by Prof. R. Nagarajan, on behalf of CSIE, Shri Rajendra Belgaumkar, Chairman of Governing Council, on behalf of KLSIMER and Dr. B. Krishnamoorthy, Registrar, on behalf of Vels University.

Talk on Art of Business - Building

CSIE in association with Shaastra 2015 (annual technical festival of IIT Madras) organised a talk on **'Art of Business Building'** on 4th January, 2015 at IIT Madras. Shri Arul Dev, Founder of People First delivered the keynote address on ***'Role of Entrepreneur in Building Thriving Organizations'*** and Shri Kedar Kulkarni, Founder of Hyperverge spoke about his entrepreneurial journey. About 50 people participated and interacted with the speakers.

Shri Arul Dev (left) and Shri Kedar Kulkarni (right) during the session

Product Design and Business Model course

Prof. Gavin Melles interacting with students during the class

CSIE co-ordinates the minor course ***'Product design and Business model'*** which runs from January - May 2015. Prof. Ashwin Mahalingam is the faculty co-ordinator. Topics such as business plans, entrepreneurial opportunities, case studies in the design of socially relevant projects are handled by Professors, Entrepreneurs from related fields.

Some of the guest lectures that were given during the course are ***'Design Thinking'*** by Prof. Gavin Melles from Swinburne University, ***'Systematic Innovation'*** by Dr. Baladurai, Co-Founder, TRIZIndia.org and ***'Business Models'*** by Shri PR Ganapathy from Villgro Innovation Foundation.

Conferences

Conference on Social Entrepreneurship

A four day, International Conference on '*Social Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Development'* was organized by Centre for Social Entrepreneurship, School of Management and Labour Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, from 4 -7th, February 2015 in Mumbai. Academicians, Social Entrepreneurs, Research Scholars and students participated in the conference.

Various activities and events such as, lectures, paper presentations, and discussion panels were conducted as part of this conference, focused on themes like concepts of Social and Sustainable Development through Social Entrepreneurship. On behalf of CSIE, Shri James Rajanayagam, Ms. Vijayalakshmi and Ms. Vidhiya Saravanan participated in the conference.

UK - India University Dialogue on Social Enterprises

Shri Joseph Thomas was invited for *'UK-India University Dialogue on Social Enterprises'* by British Council from 10-14th, February 2015 in London. This strategic meeting was aimed at scaling up the social Entrepreneurship programme for India. The highlight of the meeting was, the need for a network of social enterprises within India and seeking support for the nascent National Association for Social Enterprises. The second was a plea to work on impact metrics in the Indian context of social enterprises. The third was to improve academic / non-academic collaboration between UK universities and entities like UnLtd and Social Enterprises UK.

Prior to his UK visit, Shri Joseph Thomas was invited for the networking reception organised by British Council on 6th, February 2015 at hotel Le Royal Meridien, Chennai.

Visitors to CSIE

Students from NYU's Stern Business School

NYU Stern Business School

Through the initiative of Prof. Venkat Srivatsan from New York University's Stern School of Business, CSIE organised a visit to RTBI for his students on 8th, January 2015. The incubatees of RTBI - Edsix and Hyperverge had an interactive session with 24 students from NYU. The students also visited Centre for Innovation (CFI) at IIT Madras and interacted with team heads of CFI clubs.

Swinburne University, Australia

Students from University of Swinburne led by Prof.Gavin Melles had a meeting with CSIE to explore possibilities of student teams working on design challenges faced by social enterprises. The meeting was held on 27th, January 2015 at IIT Madras. As an output to the meeting, CSIE has enabled collaboration with a social enterprise for the students to work in their next term.

Networking Event - Ashoka

In follow up to the earlier round table meeting on Impact Metrics (NASE) which was held on 1st, December 2014, Ashoka organised a networking dinner in Chennai on 7th, Feburary 2015. Shri Joseph Thomas was invited to share ideas and work towards creating a common space for learning and growth in Chennai.

Food Processing session

Technology Business Incubator (TBI) of Vellore Institute of Technology - Vellore conducted a Technology based Entrepreneurship Development Program on Food Processing. Shri James Rajanayagam from CSIE was invited to handle a session on *'Opportunities & Challenges in Food Processing'* sector on 19th, February 2015.

Launch of IvyCamp

IvyCap Ventures invited CSIE for the launch of IvyCamp, an entrepreneurship development platform connecting institutes and alumni of premier institutes. They had run a Business Plan competition across all IITs / IIMs / BITS / ISB. The winners of this competition were felicitated at this event by entrepreneurs who have been successful in their ventures.

The function was attended by Directors / Deans / representatives of participating institutes. On behalf of CSIE, Shri James Rajanayam attended the event on 13th, February 2015 at Mumbai.

Upcoming Events

1.   **Summer camp on 'Social Innovation through Technology' for School students in May 2015**

CENTRE FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

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Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Inside This Issue

Message from the Dean

International and Alumni Relations (I&AR)

Dear Readers,

As you will observe from the contents of this edition of the CSIE Newsletter, the scope of the Centre's activities is constantly expanding. While sustaining the outreach programs to schools and colleges for capacity building, there is also a sharper focus now on building mutually-beneficial partnerships with allied Centres at other institutions, such as VIT Vellore. The Governance Committee of CSIE plays a key role in defining the strategic directions for CSIE, and many IITM faculty provide valuable inputs through this mechanism.

Faculty and students of IITM are the key stakeholders in the success of CSIE. In this issue, we have featured one faculty member (Arunn Narasimhan) and one student group (Sahaay) who have undertaken outstanding work with high social impact. We will continue this exercise in future issues as well.

"Corporate social responsibility" is the catch phrase these days, and CSIE needs to leverage this upsurge in interest fully, by attracting funding and undertaking relevant activities. A recent prospectus containing potential CSR-related R&D initiatives has been prepared for this purpose, and may be accessed via this link: http://alumni.iitm.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/IIT-CSR-2015-eBook.pdf. GoI-approved incubators on academic campuses (http://alumni.iitm.ac.in/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/IITM-Incubators_IITMIC_RTBI_CSR-eProspectus-2015.compressed.pdf) are also eligible to receive CSR funding. The recently-launched "Development Office" under the IITM Alumni Charitable Trust is coordinating activities related to approaching corporates for funding to sustain such socially-relevant initiatives on campus. Your help and support are keenly solicited for this purpose.

Prof. R. Nagarajan

Dean, International and Alumni Relations

Summer Camp for School Students

During one of the sessions on "Engineering is Fun" workshop

CSIE conducted its 3rd edition of a 3-day Summer Camp on **'Social Innovation through Technology'** for school students of grade 11 and 12 from 6 to 8th, May 2015 at IIT Madras. The focus of the program is to create awareness about the role of technology and entrepreneurship to solve socially relevant issues. 77 students (52 private and 25 rural government school students) attended the camp.

Prof. R. Nagarajan, Dean I&AR, IIT Madras and Shri Joseph Thomas, VP, Development Office, IIT Madras inaugurated the programme. During the Chief Guest address, Prof. R. Nagarajan said that he hoped this 3-day programme would ignite a passion amongst the students in their future endeavours.

Various faculty from IIT-M gave talks on Innovation, Social Issues, challenges & opportunities, Science & Technology Apps around us, Entrepreneurship and Nurturing Creativity. Prof. T.S.Natarajan, demonstrated scientific facts through experiments. The students were given hands on training in the central workshop. Finally, Certificates of Participation were distributed to students by Shri Joseph Thomas.

MoU between CSIE and VIT-TBI

CSIE signed an agreement with TBI, VIT University, Vellore on 28th, April 2015 for promoting Innovation and Entrepreneurship activities with focus on innovation capacity development, skill development and mentoring start-ups.

The objective is to provide faculty development programs & workshops for Engineering, Science, Polytechnic and ITI faculty, consulting & mentoring for establishing innovation cells and business incubators in academic institutes.

The MoU was signed by Prof. R. Nagarajan, Dean I&AR, represented CSIE and Shri TS Thiagarajan, Secretary, on behalf of VIT-TBI.

CSIE Governance Committee Meeting

CSIE organised the Governance Committee meeting on 23th April, 2015. Prof. R. Nagarajan, Prof. LS Ganesh, Prof. Ashwin Mahalingam, Prof. Devendra Jalihal, Prof. K N Sathyanarayanan, Prof. L. Prakash Sai and CSIE team attended the meeting. The GC reviewed the progress of last 3 months' activities of CSIE and future course of actions were discussed.

The committee decided to launch an Online course on" Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship" through NPTEL.

South Asia level Global Impact Masters Initiatives

CSIE participated in the meeting organized by Tata Institute of Social Sciences to discuss the role of South Asia level Global Impact Masters initiative.

GIM is an initiative of UNCTAD to create a worldwide network of academics and impact investment practitioners, help students gain professional experience in low-income countries, and develop teaching material for business schools, including a Global Impact Masters focused on economically effective and socially productive forms of corporate behaviour.

The meeting was hosted by EDI (Entrepreneurship Development Institute) of India at Ahmedabad from 26-27 May 2015. As an outcome of the meeting, it was agreed to create a forum called South Asia Network for Impact Master – a part of Global Impact Master and all the participants are invited to become members.

DBS - NUS SVC Asia 2015

CSIE was invited as a community partner to the National University of Singapore's DBS - NUS 'Social Venture Challenge Asia 2015' competition. This challenge aims to identify and support new social ventures that have the potential to generate positive, scalable and sustainable social impact. More than 680 submissions were received from 30 countries.

Shri Joseph Thomas and Shri James Rajanayagam from CSIE participated as the Judges for the primary round of evaluation to shortlist the semi-finalists.

Water Co - Lab

Centre for Technology and Policy (C-TaP) invited Shri Joseph Thomas from CSIE for lunch discussion on the "Water CoLab", an experiment running at IIM-Ahmedabad and CIIE (The Centre for Innovation, Incubation, and Entrepreneurship). The discussion was held at Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Madras on 18th May, 2015.

Shri Nishesh Mehta, the founder, presented the model and his experience. The participants shared their experience and discussed about the model.

Social facets of IITM - Faculty

Dr. ARUNN NARASIMHAN

DESIGNATION:

Professor, Mechanical Engineering Department, IIT Madras

CORE RESEARCH AREA:

Heat and Fluid Flow in Porous Media and Biological Systems

Dr. Narasimhan's pioneering bio-heat transfer research on the human eye undergoing retinal laser was performed in collaboration with Shankar Nethralaya Research Foundation.

SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION:

Dr. Narasimhan is actively serving the cause of science and engineering outreach within interior India. He is the founder of two prolific blogs, one in English, the other in Tamil, in which he discourses to the Indian student community at large, on a wide range of topics which includes but is not at all limited by those of his research.

He believes that even though English is the preferred language of science, it is important to communicate science to the general people in the local vernacular language for its farther and deeper penetration and appreciation in the society. He has been blogging in Tamil for past 7 years to bridge the growing gap between society and world of science.

One of the major obstacle to science writing is difficulty in translating in local languages. Unlike English, spoken versions of Tamil differs significantly from the written version. He strongly believes in Albert Einstein's quote "Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler. If you can't explain it to your grandmother, you don't understand it well enough". With 3G leading to 4G technology in hand-held devices, he suggests the potential of the internet be tapped by Indian academia for science communication to the younger generation.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Dr. Narasimhan is the author of three popular science books written in Tamil. The book titles are:

1. ஏலியன்கள் இருக்கிறார்களா? (Do Aliens Exist?)
2. நேனோ: ஒர் அறிமுகம் (Nano – an Introduction)
3. உலகே உன் உருவம் என்ன? (Earth, What's Thy Shape - Science Essays)

He has also been described by Asian Scientist as *"one of India's most energetic professors -- both in person and in cyberspace".*

ONGOING PROJECTS:

Planning to publish his books in Kindle Single, Book on Chaos theory - English and Tamil Edition and Story of physics in Twitter sentence.

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Social facets of IITM - Student Group

SAHAAY

Sahaay at Centre for Innovation, as the name suggests, aims to develop technological products and to provide technical solutions to assist specially-abled people in their daily lives.

VISION:

The pleasure one experiences by helping someone in need is invaluable and the level of contentment of such achievements is extremely high.

SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION:

Firstly, Sahaay has collaborated with an NGO named Vidyasagar, which works for the welfare of a set of children with cerebral palsy. After performing detailed case studies on every child, with higher priority for outgoing children, their need for specific devices which can assist as a source of income has been identified.

The vision is to establish a team of enthusiastic students which would collaborate with various NGOs and work towards development of technologies as solutions that greatly impact the society.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Presently, *Sahaay* has successfully developed four products (including two software products) and served a requirement of additional equipment for a wheelchair. The details are as follows:

Block Printing device

This consists of a series of block printers capable of printing a paper of predefined size. A roll of paper would be fed into the machine and the printing action can be achieved through slightest mechanical action affordable by the children. This can be perceived as a good source of income for specially-abled children.

Bill generator software

Most of these children are able to lift or press objects to little extent. A device that converts these actions into mouse-clicks has been developed by a group in team *Sahaay*. The requirements of the NGO were to design and develop a software by just using these mouse-clicks to generate bills based on inputs given from a device.

Leap Motion games

The teachers at the NGO wish to use a Leap motion Controller developed by Leap Motion Inc. to allow these kids to play games. The problem being faced with the existing games is the need of very intricate gestures which are difficult for these students to perform. The aim of this project is to develop games or interfaces which can be part of their recreational activities.

Paper punching machine

The project aims at designing a device that can be used to punch various designs on paper. A roll of paper is fed into the machine which would be capable of continuously punching out designs on paper.

Upcoming Events

1.   **Launch of Idea Spark 2015**

Idea Spark 2015 is a contest for students to recognize and nurture the technological ideas that will solve the problems of society. The objective is to create awareness among students, bring out their ideas, and help their ideas to develop into a business plan. CSIE will support the selected ideas with mentoring to develop into business plans. The finalists will be provided with cash award and mentoring support.

2.   **Launch of Gandhi Hazare Award**

A program where students form teams and propose technical solutions to fight corruption in the country. The program provides funding and infrastructure to shortlisted team(s) to work on the idea and deliver a product.

3.   **Launch of Social Entrepreneurship club at IIT Madras**

The Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CSIE) will launch a Social Entrepreneurship club at IIT Madras. Its mission, in alignment with CSIE, is to build an environment conducive to students to learn about social issues and social enterprises and assist them to become social entrepreneurs.

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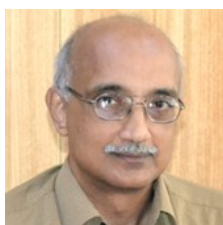
Inside This Issue

Message from the Dean

International and Alumni Relations (I&AR)

Dear Readers,

This issue of the CSIE Newsletter gives a full flavor of the various activities of the Centre. The intent to broaden the scope of CSIE's engagement with various stakeholders is also clearly evident. Strong partnerships are being pursued with like-minded organizations. For example, the Technology Business Incubator at VIT Vellore is working with CSIE to instill the entrepreneurial spirit in polytechnics. CSIE is assisting IIT Tirupathi with one module in its course on "Concepts in Engineering & Design". Tagore Engineering College has associated with CSIE in conducting a Student Development program, and in launching the ideas competition "Idea Spark 2015". An MoU is now in place between CSIE and Vikasa International Centre, Hyderabad to facilitate a joint certificate course. Student interns are being hosted from TISS, and discussions are ongoing to evolve a joint M.A. in Social Entrepreneurship. Visits to CSIE during this period by many other individuals and organizations is another indicator that CSIE's outreach efforts have proved very successful.

From its inception, CSIE has benefited from the stewardship of a Governance Committee composed of faculty who are practitioners of and/or experts in social enterprise. The new members, Profs. Mahesh Panchagnula and Kalyanaraman (retd.), as well as Dr. Tamaswati Ghosh (CEO, IITM Incubation Cell), and Joseph Thomas (VP, Development Office) bring varied perspectives that will prove invaluable in the optimal leveraging of CSIE as a service entity in the campus ecosystem. It is to be noted that Joe was, until recently, a part of CSIE, and has recently taken up a full-time position in the Development Office with a focus on raising CSR funding from corporates to support campus incubators & faculty R&D in socially-relevant thrust areas.

Read on to learn more about CSIE....

Prof. R. Nagarajan

Dean, International and Alumni Relations

Consultation Workshop for Polytechnics & ITI's

Principals/Senior faculty from various institutions sharing their needs to promote Entrepreneurship

CSIE & Vellore Institute of Technology-TBI plan to organize Capacity Building programs for faculty members/teachers of Polytechnics and ITI's to foster an entrepreneurial ecosystem in their institution and thereby, promote a culture of entrepreneurship among their students.

In this regard, CSIE conducted a Consultation Workshop on 'Need Assessment to Promote Entrepreneurship' for the Principal / Senior faculty from polytechnics and ITI's in Chennai region on 3rd September, 2015 at IIT Madras.

The objective of the workshop was to get inputs from participants to understand their requirements, analyse the gap and structure the programme for entrepreneurship promotion in their respective institutions.
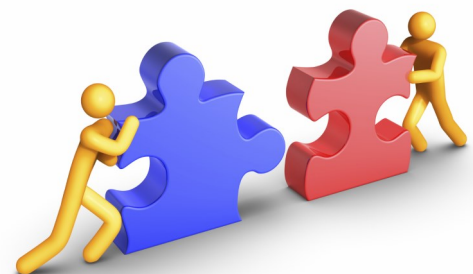
Ms. S. Madumathi, I.A.S, Director of Technical Education, Chennai and Prof. R. Nagarajan, Dean – I&AR, IIT-Madras were invited as Chief guests. 23 members from various institutions participated, and identified their needs and requirements to promote entrepreneurship.

Joint Course Module with IIT Tirupathi

In collaboration with IIT Tirupathi, CSIE will offer some modules of the summer camp on "Social Innovation through Technology" for the first year students as part of their course on 'Concepts in Engineering & Design'. CSIE will facilitate the lectures on the following topics during Sep – Oct 2015.

The modules are 1) Social Entrepreneurship, 2) Definition of Innovation, 3) Engineering in everyday life, 4) Science & Tech applications around us, and 5) Life skills & Creativity.

As part of this module, Prof. L S Ganesh from Department of Management Studies, IIT-M delivered a lecture on Social Entrepreneurship on 27th August, 2015 at IIT Tirupathi.

Capacity Development Program for Student

Session in progress

CSIE, in association with Tagore Engineering College, conducted a one-day Student Development Program on "Developing Life skills for the Winning Edges" on 22nd August, 2015 at IIT-Madras. 101 students from various colleges participated.

Prof. V. Vijayalakshmi, Department of Management Studies, IIT-Madras gave a talk on 'Learning & Unlearning: Growth Mindsets' and Shri Shiva Subramaniam, Founder, Paperclip co-ordinated a session on 'Creativity'.

Launch of Idea Spark 2015 and Gandhi Hazare Award

CSIE launched 'Idea Spark 2015' on 27th August, 2015 at IIT Madras. The objective of this competition is to create awareness among engineering students to bring out their ideas and help them to develop these into business plans. CSIE will support the three best ideas with cash awards and mentoring.

Also in association with Centre for Innovation, CSIE launched the 'Gandhi Hazare Award' on 27th August, 2015 at IIT Madras. The competition is open to all IIT-M students. Student teams can propose technical solutions to fight corruption in the country. The best ideas will be awarded and support provided to develop these into prototype offerings.

Launched by Prof. R. Nagarajan & Shri Joseph Thomas, Development office, IIT-M

CSIE Governance Committee Meeting

CSIE organized its Governance Committee meeting on 11th August, 2015. The Governance Committee has added Prof. Mahesh Panchagnula, Rd. Prof. Kalyanaraman, Dr. Tamaswati Ghosh and Mr. Joseph Thomas as new members.

The GC reviewed the progress of last three months' activities of CSIE, and future course of actions was deliberated.

MoU between CSIE & Vikasa International Centre

MoU Exchanged by Shri Shoury Reddy (Left) and Prof. R. Nagarajan (Right)

CSIE signed an agreement with Vikasa International Centre, Hyderabad on 9th July, 2015 at IIT Madras for promoting Social Entrepreneurship. The objective is to provide a joint certificate course, awareness programs, seminars, work-shops & conferences for students and entrepreneurs.

The MoU was signed by Prof. R. Nagarajan, on behalf of CSIE, and Shri Shoury Reddy, Executive Director, on behalf of Vikasa.

Internship with CSIE

Five students from Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Tuljapur are doing their internship with CSIE from July to September 2015. Their work is to prepare mini case—studies of companies incubated at RTBI (Rural Technology & Business Incubator), IIT-Madras.

During the internship, they visited Kuthambakkam village and Villgro at IIT Madras Research Park, and also attended a few talks by Shri Saravanan Sundaramoorthy, Founder of EdSix Brain Lab; Prof. Muhammed Yunus, Founder of Grameen Bank, and Mrs. Rema Subramaniam, Co-founder of Ankur Capital.

Students from TISS with CSIE staff

Introductory Session on Idea Spark 2015

CSIE took part in an Introductory session to "Idea Spark 2015" at Tagore Engineering College, Chennai and at AMET University, Chennai.

Shri James Rajanayagam spoke about the concept of "Idea Spark 2015" and presented guidelines on how to participate in the competition. He also conducted an awareness session on 'Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation' .

Session by Shri James at AMET University

4

South Asia Network for Impact Masters Meeting

CSIE hosted the second meeting of South Asia Network for Impact Masters (SANIM) on 10th September, 2015. Members from CSIE, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), and Sri Aurobindo Foundation for Integral Management (SAFIM) participated in the meeting.

Prof. R. Nagarajan spoke about the need to streamline the social entrepreneurship curriculum in other educational institutions and briefed about the initiatives taken by CSIE towards this. Members discussed the agenda of the meeting, and agreed on common points of action to strengthen and expand the network.

NABARD – RAG Meeting

CSIE attended the 1st Regional Advisory Group meeting of NABARD on 25th August, 2015 at their regional office, Chennai. The objective of the meeting was to deliberate on issues of farms, farmers and the rural economy.

Visitors to CSIE

- Mr. Sri Ram, Founder of Land to Kitchen – 22nd June, 2015

- Mr. Ramesh Subramaniam from SriCity Foundation – 21st July, 2015

- Mr. Srinivas Krishnaswamy, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Hand in Hand – 20th August, 2015

- 3 Faculty from B S AbdurRahman University, Chennai – 10th August, 2015

- B V Raju Institute of Technology, Telangana

5 Faculty from BVRIT visited CSIE on 14th August, 2015. The objectives of this visit was (1) to understand the various efforts by CSIE and IITM faculty to integrate societal concerns into the mainstream engineering curriculum at IIT Madras, (2) to familiarize the BVRIT faculty with the process by which CSIE's curriculum has been developed and delivered to the students, and (3) to explore the mechanisms by which such initiatives can be taken forward in BVRIT and other colleges of the Sri Vishnu Educational Society (SVES).

- Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development

18 students and 3 faculty visited CSIE on 11th September, 2015. The objective of the visit was to get brief understanding of the course curriculum at IIT–M on 'Innovation & Social Entrepreneurship'. They visited Centre for Innovation and also interacted with Prof. R. Nagarajan, Mr. Joseph Thomas & a few students. Mr. James Rajanayagam briefly explained the activities of CSIE.

Social Facets of IITM – Faculty Profile

V. SRINIVASA CHAKRAVARTHY

DESIGNATION:

Professor, Department of Biotechnology, IIT Madras.

CORE RESEARCH AREA:

Computational Neuroscience

SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION:

Although there is an ocean of modern knowledge in English and other world languages, there is very little of it in Indian languages. Only about 100 million people in India have a reasonable knowledge of English. Those whose access to knowledge is limited to Indian languages are seriously handicapped. There is a need to move knowledge from English to Indian languages on a very, very large scale.

With the above motivation, Prof. Chakravarthy has been involved in popularizing science in Indian languages, particularly Telugu, for the past 10 years.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

Prof. Chakravarthy has been running a science blog in Telugu [http://scienceintelugu.blogspot.in/] for about 6 year. The blog has over 900 posts, over 3 lakh views, and nearly 600 readers/followers.

He has written or translated about 60 books on popular science in Telugu. He has been sending copies of these books to rural schools in Andhra Pradesh for many years on a small scale at personal expense. The same work has been continued on a larger scale over the last two years, thanks to "Socially Relevant Project (SRP)" funds granted by IITM alumni.

The SRP project involves writing/translating science books in Telugu and sending copies of those books in Telugu to more than 300 rural schools in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

As a part of the same project, a set of 16 Tamil science books have also been translated by a team of Tamil translators. 300 sets of those 16 Tamil books have been donated to an NGO called AID India. These books are being used by AID India as part of their educational activities in rural schools of Tamil Nadu.

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Social Facets of IITM – Student Profile

AVISEK BARLA

SOCIAL PROJECT:

Avisek Barla, who is pursing his bachelor's degree in Bio-Technology at IIT-Madras, is currently working on a project called "Micro Life Innovations".

The idea of this project was conceived during the Minor course on "Innovation & Social Entrepreneurship", last year at IIT-M. Currently, he has a team of five members. They use a nascent technology called Microfluidics, which essentially promises to replicate a whole lab on a single chip which is portable and economical.

They are using it to make a Milk Adulteration Detection kit (MAD kit). They are developing 2 devices to detect the presence of Detergent, Urea, Glucose, Starch, Formalin, etc. which are slow poisons and have detrimental effects in the long term. These are:

1) A paper chip which works like a litmus strip. User has to put 2 drops of milk and a total of 6 adulterants can be found out. A mobile app is used to quantify the amount of adulterants. Available for a few rupees, this can be used by anyone and is portable. They are at the prototype stage with this.

2) A polymer chip which will truly do the job of an industrial grade device at a fraction of its cost and with equal precision. They are about to start the work on their first prototype.

From the work done in the past 3 months, they have applied for 2 patents and more applications are expected. They are also working on a pathogen detection system for milk, which happens to be one of the biggest pain points in the dairy industry. Prototypes will be completed by early September.

FUTURE PLANS:

- Development of affordable and easy-to-use products.
- Minimum usage of electricity for deployment in any part of India.
- Automated processes for minimum user interference
- Expanding into blood diagnostics

They believe in disrupting the future with technology in the hands of people, and their work is more about saving lives. It is a culmination of Biotechnology, Microfluidics, Image Processing, Electronics, Mobile applications, Liberal arts and Business Models.

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Upcoming Events

- Launch of "Social Entrepreneurship Club" at IIT Madras – September 2015

- Grand Finale of "Gandhi Hazare Award" – November 2015

- Winter camp for school students on "Social Innovation through Technology" – December 2015

- Grand Finale of "Idea Spark 2015" – December / January 2015

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