Director’s Report

As is customary, let me start by giving a brief report for last year. Since its creation in 2008, IIIT-Delhi has come a long way in a short span of seven years. With this year’s admissions, our student strength is over 1100 with about 800 BTech students, about 200 MTech students, and about 100 PhD students. In this convocation, including students graduating in Dec, we will be giving 4 PhD degrees, 109 MTech degrees, and 109 BTech degress.

Our faculty strength is about 40, all of whom hold PhDs from prestigious institutions from across the world. We also have about 10 visiting faculty, who augment our regular faculty and also provide the much needed diversity of courses.

Research remains the key focus of the institute. Our faculty members and students have published over 175 papers in international journals and conference proceedings last year. Two of these papers have won the best paper awards in International Conferences, and four have received the Best Poster award. Our team of seven faculty member and many students are one of the winners of the Mahindra Driverless Car Challenge. Another team won the Indo-US Grant Challenge for an affordable blood pressure monitor. One faculty member received the DST’s Inspire fellowship, taking the total number of faculty with this Fellowship to six.

About 20 faculty members are involved in collaborations with over 60 external collaborators from across the world. Of these about 10 are with industry, 15 with academics in India, and about 35 with overseas scientists.

This year about 12 research proposals from our faculty were approved for funding by various agencies for a total commitment of over Rs.4 crore. 7 of our PhD students have been selected for the TCS PhD Fellowship, taking the total number of these fellowships to more than 25 – probably the highest in the country. We also received 9 PhD Fellowships under the Vishvesvarya PhD scheme.

We continue with our plan to start research centres in focused areas. This summer, we started our second Research Centre in Computational Biology, which was inaugurated by the DBT secretary, Prof. K. Vijay Raghavan.. We have also launched an MTech program in Computational Biology and have also entered in an MOU with IGIB for collaboration for research and the the MTech program.

In our R&D efforts, we remain committed to developing technologies that can be transferred for commercial exploitation or use by other organizations. This year over two dozen new technologies and tools were developed which were transferred to various organisations. Five start-ups based on technologies and tools developed at IIIT-Delhi have emerged so far.

To further innovation and entrepreneurship, the Institute has also started an Incubation Centre that was formally inaugurated on 6th April 2015 by Mr. R. Chandrashekar, President of NASSCOM.

We earlier had received the UGC 12B accreditation – this year the Institute also got NAAC accreditation at the A level, the highest given.

Due to our rather quick growth, the current campus is already fully utilized with little scope to grow further. In fact, our student intake is now restricted due to space constraints, and we have slowed on our faculty recruitment for the same reason. For further growth, construction for the phase-II of the campus has already started – this will add another 64,000 sqm of building space, approximately two times the current area, which will increase our capacity for faculty and students to three times the current capacity.

In our campus, we continue to focus on effective resource utilization and have installed smart electricity meters which show energy usage in a dashboard. Last year we installed solar panels of 40KW capacity, which generate about 4K units of power every month. While our cost savings are small, this helps us contribute to the environment, and also reduce our energy requirement from the grid, making it available for other uses.

With respect to placements, this year again we kept up with our previous years strong performance with placement in top companies like Microsoft, Xerox Research, Amazon, Adobe, EMC, etc. By most measures for placement– highest domestic salary offered, percentage of students placed, mean and median offers – we are probably amongst the top few in our peer group.

Let me now read a few quotes from the graduating students. This year, we asked you to write your comments on a shared document. When I looked at them to select a few for this report, I was very impressed with the well thought out sentiments expressed, and had a tough time selecting a few. Here are a few from the graduating BTech, MTech, and PhD students:

Sometimes in life, it's difficult to decide what you are meant for and what's good for you. The best we can do is to put our heart into what we choose to do and forget the rest. For me, these four years, have made all the difference.

Place to have fun but only if you have completed your work. Liberal place and liberal attitude of the people here. Best college/institute in Delhi.

The place where boys become men, friends become family, and integrity becomes a part of life.

A place with well defined educational motive cum cultural ethics. A platform to uncover and showcase profound talent. Birthplace to eminent research scientists; budding entrepreneurs and software developers. To summarize “A Place to Be At” – a Proud Alumni.

The best thing about IIITD is the freedom to study what you like, I spent more time studying brains and bacteria than algorithms and automatons.

IIIT-D is a place where I have grown in all respects, my skills, my values, my viewpoint towards academics everything has transformed hugely. The work culture has given me the power of thinking beyond books, thanks to the faculty over here. I am lucky to be a part of this college.

IIIT-D helped me follow my own path, my own journey. I couldn't predict where my path would lead but the journey made me discover and rediscover myself, over and over again.

IIIT-D is work-fun-holic place to be. IIIT-D has shaped us from being Mugging-up-paper Engineers to Work-Industry-ready Engineers. IIIT-D changed us from Insomnia-for-Game to Insomnia-for-Work+Game and has let us manage time (somehow) for each & every work.

I may not have gone where I intended to go, but I think I have ended up where I needed to be. IIITD is quite possibly the best thing that has happened to me.

Thank you all for these wonderful comments. We are clearly well on our path of becoming a globally respected institute. To continue moving towards our vision, we need to further strengthen our research and innovation capabilities, which are hardest to develop and are in acute short supply in our country. We also need to continue improving the teaching and learning processes, introduce interdisciplinarity in education and projects, and strengthen our systems. I am sure with support from the Government, the Board, our faculty colleagues, the administrative staff, and the energy of the students, we will continue moving steadily towards achieving our vision.