

Ninth Convocation

Chief Guest of the day, Dr Madhavan Nair, Chairman, Indian Space Research Organization and Secretary, Department of Space, Government of India; Guest of Honour of the day, Mr. Ashok Soota, Co-founder and Chairman, Mindtree Consulting, Chairman of the Governing Body, Mr. N R Narayana Murthy, other members of the Governing Body, my distinguished faculty colleagues, fellow academics from sister institutions, my dear students, parents of our students, alumni, staff, distinguished guests, members of the media, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome to the Ninth Convocation of IIIT-B. It is a moment of joy when 131 of students graduate. Let me first congratulate our "Class of 2009" students.

I do not want to stand in the way of our students getting their degrees; yet, it is customary to present some highlights of the Institute on this occasion. Please permit me to do so.

This year is very unusual by way of the mood that is prevailing in the industry, where the majority of our students seek employment opportunities. Most companies are not hiring; many have put off their hiring plans; some have even resorted to right-sizing. Yet, nearly two-thirds of our M Tech students, who are graduating today have been placed, though the official placement season started only on July 1, 2009. In all the previous years, all but a handful of our students were placed on the day of the Convocation. IIIT-B will continue to work hard till the last student is placed. Our friends from industry who have supported us all along, more so in this difficult year deserve a big hand.

Our students and alumni continue to win laurels on several fronts. On the professional front, IIITB students won the following awards

- **Google Product Prodigy**, first runner up (Ritesh Nayak, Ashwin, Jayant and Harsha for their "Big Kahuna")
- **Java FX Contest**, 3rd Prize (Shailendra Kumar for his "Dodge the wall")
- IEEE Student Chapter of IIIT-B won the award for its web-site

8KMiles, co-founded by our alumna Padmanabhan Raghavan of the Class of 2004 has started offering its "software development as a service" from May

On the cultural front, IIIT-B students organized "SPANDAN" - the Sports Festival - during April 10-12, 2009

We had a two-way student exchange program with Malmo University with two of our M Tech students () spending six months at Malmo and two of their students (Thor Brink and Hans Bergstrand) spending a term at IIIT-B; in addition, we had one student (Vijaya Simha) spending six months at Univ. of Kaiserslautern, Germany. We are hosting an Irish student doing his PhD at Clark University (Rory Horner) currently; our full time M Tech student from Brazil (Ricardo Lage) is expected to graduate soon. Two of our faculty members (Prof K V Dinesha and Srinath Srinivasa) spent several weeks at Malmo University.

Our faculty members have been active in teaching, research and outreach. They have been invited to present their work in many prestigious conferences. They have been writing books, editing conference proceedings, contributing book chapters, authoring scholarly research papers in premier journals, refereeing papers for conferences & journals and serving on Editorial Boards. Some of the faculty initiated projects attracted funding from

- Ministry of IT, Government of India
- European Commission
- Nokia Research, and,

- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

to name a few.

Professor Ray obtained his US Patent "Test interface for Random Access Memory (RAM) Built-In-Self-Test (BIST)" (Patent No 7490279)

Professor Debabrata Das won the Best Volunteer Award from IEEE Bangalore Section for the year 2008.

IIIT-B hosted two International IEEE conferences during July 2008 to June 2009

1. "Internet Multimedia Systems Applications & Architecture" (IMSAA-2008) during December 2008 (co-coordinated by Professor D Das)
2. "Ramanujan Rediscovered – Mathematics & IT in honor of Professor Vekatachaliengar" during June 1-5, 2009 (co-coordinated by Professor GNS Prasanna)

An international workshop "Information in the Digital Age: Security, Identity and Management" (INDIA-SIM'09) was organized during January 22-23, 2009 (co-coordinated by Professor Srinath Srinivasa)

IIIT-B conducted an unusual eight-day-long event titled "exclTe children" for the high school students during April 27 – May 5, 2009

IIIT-B continues to attract outstanding faculty members and scholars from around the world

- Professor Aruna Ambalavanan, S Rajagopalan, Partha Ray and Jayanta Biswas have joined the Institute as full time faculty
- Professor Julian Bass, Higher Education IT Advisor at the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Ministry of Education, Higher Education Strategy Center, Addis Ababa visited IIIT-B during September 16, 2008 to October 9, 2008
- Professor Bo Peterson of Malmo University in Sweden visited IIIT-B during December 29 to January 30, 2009.
- Professor Arlindo Villaschi from Brazil visited IIIT-B during 6th January to 5th February 2009

The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR) extended IIIT-B status as SIRO (Scientific & Industrial Research Organization) for further 3 years (July 2009 to June 2012); IIIT-B is a Registered Partner with several scientific establishments including

- DAAD
- Indo US S& T Forum
- NSF
- EU
- ETS

A major curricular revision has been initiated in the year 2008-09 with six streams, namely,

1. Computer Science

2. Data and Information Engineering
3. Embedded Systems
4. IT and Society
5. Networking & Communications
6. Software Engineering

All the courses have been revised and re-cast; the core courses and elective courses have been re-designed to align themselves with the new structure. A 3-week long Preparatory Program was designed and executed to the Class of 2010 students in July 2008 at no extra cost to the students. It has been well received and we are continuing the program this year also with some improvements.

An honors list titled "Directors List" was introduced to recognize students with CGPA of 3.75 and above, for the first time.

Campus construction is in full swing; about 35,000 sft of academic space and 40,000 sft of hostel space are getting added to the existing 70,000 sft of academic space and 80,000 sft of hostel space. The construction will be over by mid November 2009.

Our partnership with industry continues to be strong

ABB, Infosys, Intel, NXP, Siemens are continuing their M Tech scholarships this year; Huawei Technologies have instituted their "Best Thesis Award"

Along with TLL (The Learning Lab) and Mindtree, IIIT-B conducted a 4-month long "Design India" initiative, where 36 final year undergraduate students from ten engineering colleges worked on some exciting hardware/ software design centric project.

On a request from Target Corporation India Development Center, IIIT-B offered a 31-day long "induction training" program for their new batch of developers (31 in all) during August and November 2009.

IIIT-B continues to place emphasis on entrepreneurship

The Ministry of Information Technology funded IIIT-B Innovation Center (a Section 25 Company) was registered on March 31, 2009.

QSO Technologies and The Learning Labs that we incubated in 2008 have moved out and growing well; "Tutor Vista" that we incubated in 2005 is making waves; we are currently incubating **RadixLearning** and **MapUnity**.

We had some outstanding individuals visiting the Institute this year; they include

Delegations from

Bavaria (Nov 2008)

Vice Chancellors from Ecuador (Dec 2008)

Danish delegation (Nov 2008)

Delegation from Nagoya Prefecture, Japan (Nov 2008)

Mexican delegation (Dec 2008)

Dutch delegation led by Dr Keith Springford (Feb 2009)

Distinguished academics & researchers

Dr David Naylor, President, University of Toronto, Canada (March 2009)

Dr Dirk Polter, Adviser to the Board of Fraunhofer Institutes (Jan 2009)
Dr Alicia Greated, Director, Research Center UK (Jan 2009)
Professor Joachim Hesse, Chair, International Institute for Comparative Governments and European Policy, Berlin (Mar 2009)
Dr Eric Thomas, Vice Chancellor, University of Bristol, UK (Oct 2008)
Dr Ken Keniston, MIT, USA (Oct 2008)
Dr Tuli Banerjee, MIT (Jan 2009)
Dr Raghu Balakrishnan, Associate Dean, Purdue University (Dec 2008)
Dr Krithi Ramamritham, Dean, IIT Bombay (July 2008)
Dr S Ramakrishnan, DG, CDAC (July 2008)
Dr TC Pong, Associate VP of Research, Hong Kong University of Science & Technology (Dec 2008)
Dr Estur Ishigami, Fukuoka University, Japan (Feb 2009)
Dr Dale Harris, Executive Director, Professional Education, Purdue University (Mar 2009)

Distinguished industry professionals

Dr Rienhold Achatz, Corporate VP, Siemens Research (Aug 2008)
Mr. Sanjeev Sinha, MD, Siemens Software (Aug 2008)
Dr P Gopalakrishnan, VP, India Software Lab, IBM (Aug 2008)
Mr. Vishal Dhupar, MD, Symantec India (Oct 2008)
Mr. Manu Parpia, Founder, Geometric Software (Nov 2008)
Mr. Sanjay Swami, CEO, mChek (June 2009)
Mr. N Krishnan, DG, STPI, Government of India (Mar 2009)
Mr. Gary Wu, Global Operations Director, IET (UK) (June 2009)

Distinguished visitors from Government

Mr. Ajay Kumar, IAS, IT Secretary, Government of Kerala (Oct 2008)
Mr. N Ravishanker, IAS, Joint Secretary, Ministry of IT, Government of India (Aug 2008)

Media

Mr. HS Balram, Resident Editor, Times of India (Sep 2008)
Mr. K R Sreenivas, Editor, Bangalore Mirror (Sep 2008)

"Institution building is an act of faith". But for the trust-based relationship between the Governing Body and the Executive, IIIT-B would not be what it is today. We look forward to such continued support from the management and from all sections, namely, faculty, students, staff, alumni, funding agencies, government and industry.

With this, let me once again thank all of you who have contributed to our short, yet successful journey towards excellence.

Congratulations to the graduating batch, welcome one and all and thanks again.