

Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship

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Message from the Dean

International and Alumni Relations (I&AR)

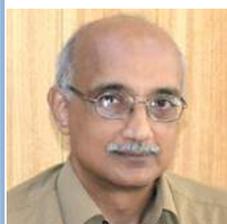
Dear Readers,

Happy New Year to all!

While CSIE has existed on campus in the social entrepreneurship space now for several years, its sustainability as a Centre depends on many factors, including its relevance to the stakeholders it serves. There has been much internal deliberation on this for the past few weeks, and the topic came up for discussion at last week's meeting of the Governing Council as well. The USP of CSIE is the ability to draw upon Institute resources-- faculty, students, alumni-- as well as on the network partner resources established over the years. From its initial focus on research and education regarding social enterprises, CSIE has evolved to the status of capacity-builder.

Student capacity for social innovation is being built up through the Minor Course and the recently-launched "Social Entrepreneurship Club". Entrepreneurial capacity of students and faculty at Tamil Nadu engineering colleges and polytechnics is being enhanced through Faculty Development programs, Idea Spark competitions and Workshops. The capacity of school children to grasp the concept of social entrepreneurship is being groomed through awareness campus in summer and winter. Offering such capacity-building services to budding entrepreneurs and grass-roots incubators is one possible direction of evolution for CSIE. Partnering with other existing entities on campus such as RuTAG and CFI- Nirmaan is another way to grow. Attaining incubator status will add an entirely new dimension to CSIE. All these options are currently being studied, and a decision regarding the sustainable development of CSIE will likely be made in the next few months. I am glad to note CSIE has obtained its first CSR funding, from Tamil Nadu Newsprint & Paper Ltd (TNPL), to conduct capacity development programs for Producer Companies in the State.

We welcome the support and participation of the campus community in the activities of CSIE. Please see us, call us, or write to us.



Prof. R. Nagarajan

Dean, International and Alumni Relations

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP CLUB



Launch of SE Club, from left, Prof. Nagarajan, Prof. Ashwin and Mr. Sridhar

CSIE in association with Centre for Innovation (CFI) launched 'Social Entrepreneurship club' at IIT Madras on 29th September, 2015. 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.

Prof. R. Nagarajan and Prof. Ashwin Mahalingam are the faculty advisors of the club. Mr. Sridhar Lakshmanan, Founder of Eco Login was invited as a Chief Guest.

Prof. Nagarajan congratulated the initiative and encouraged the students to participate in more activities related to social entrepreneurship. Prof. Ashwin expressed that SE club will act as a platform to engage more students to become social entrepreneurs. Mr. Sridhar shared his experiences of entrepreneurship to the students.

MoU with RGNIYD and AMET

CSIE entered into agreement with two institutions, Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD) and Academy of Maritime Education (AMET), Chennai for collaboration in research and consultancy.

The objective is to provide joint certificate courses, sharing resources, internship, seminars, workshops, conferences for students and faculty. It promotes Innovation and Entrepreneurship activities with focus on innovation capacity development, skill development and mentoring start-ups. The other objective is also to provide consulting and mentoring support for establishing innovation cells and business incubators in their academic institutes.

The MoU's were signed by Prof. R. Nagarajan, on behalf of CSIE, Dr. T.R.A. Devakumar, Registrar, on behalf of RGNIYD and Shri S. Karikalan, Trustee, on behalf of AMET.



MoU exchanged by Prof. Nagarajan, CSIE and Dr. Devakumar, RGNIYD

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 Oct - Nov 2015.

As part of this, Prof. Devendra Jalihal from Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT-M and Mr. Shiva Subramaniam, Founder, Paperclip delivered their lectures at IIT Tirupathi on ‘Innovation’ and ‘Life skills & Creativity’ on 29th October and 5th November 2015 respectively.

DICCI Meeting with CSIE

CSIE, along with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and IITM Incubation Cell, held a meeting with Dalit Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DICCI) office bearers on 20th November 2015 at IIT Madras Research Park. About 20 officials of DICCI from different state chapters attended the meeting.

The objective of this meeting is to create awareness about setting up of incubators & how to nurture entrepreneurship among potential members through incubator.



DICCI officials with CII, CSIE and Incubation cell representatives

Talk on My journey to Edge of Space & Zero Gravity



Talk by Mr. TN Sureshkumar, ISRO

Social Entrepreneurship club invited Mr. T.N Suresh Kumar, Senior Scientist, ISRO for its first lecture series.

He is an avid traveller and has become first Indian to visit the Stratosphere. He presented a talk on ‘My Journey to Edge of Space and Zero Gravity’ on 20th October, 2015 at Media Resource Centre, IIT Madras. Around 200 students attended the talk.

Rural Field Study – Field visit



Students visit to Sembalipuram village

CSIE organised two visits for the students of ‘Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship’ minor course to the villages in the Kadapakkam–Alamparai area in Chennai. The students also visited Kuthambakkam village.

Students observed the social issues faced by the different communities and suggested feasible business solutions to increase their livelihood as part of their coursework.

Workshop on Business Model Canvas

In partnership with CSIE, Incubation cell and Pan IIT Reach For India (PARFI), Ennovent conducted a workshop on “Shaping up your business ideas” on 31st October 2015 at IIT Madras Research Park. Mr. Shubho Broto Das, Ennovent and Mr. Shanawaz, PARFI led the workshop which focused at creating business models and profitable ventures among others.

It helped the students, entrepreneurs and other participants with structuring their thoughts and getting clarity on execution on their business ideas especially in the field of skill development.



Workshop on BMC led by Mr. Shubho Broto Das, Ennovent

CSIE Internship



Panel members reviewing the interns presentation

CSIE hosted five interns from TISS (Tata Institute of Social Sciences), Tuljapur for a period of 3 months from August to September 2015. They prepared mini case studies of 14 companies incubated at IIT–Madras.

They also presented their findings before a group of panelists on 29th September 2015. Prof. Nagarajan, Prof. Ashwin Mahalingam, Mr. Joseph Thomas – Development office, and Ms. Suma Prashant – Rural Technology Business Incubator reviewed their reports and presentations.

Social Facets of IITM – Faculty Profile

DR. SUJATHA SRINIVASAN

DESIGNATION

Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, IIT Madras.

CORE RESEARCH AREA

Application of biomechanics and mechanism design to the development of assistive devices for people with disability



SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION

Developing assistive devices for people affected by locomotor impairments is a key focus area of Dr. Sujatha Srinivasan and her students in the Rehabilitation Research and Device Development (R2D2) group of the Machine Design Section in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Their goal is to engineer and develop indigenous solutions that are functional and affordable. Some socially relevant projects in the area of rehabilitation that have been prototyped, undergone some user testing and are in further stages of development are a standing wheelchair, a swimming pool lift, a body-movement wheelchair and a walk-chair for children with cerebral palsy, improved prosthetic and orthotic knees, etc. R2D2's work is motivated by the millions of people in India with locomotor disability who lack access to good quality, functional assistive devices that are also affordable. R2D2 collaborates with NGOs working in the field of disability, rehabilitation centres, hospitals like CMC Vellore, and user-support groups like the Spinal Foundation. R2D2, IIT Madras is a partner of the International Committee of the Red Cross in the organization of the Enable Makeathon 2015, a 60-day challenge for the creation of affordable assistive devices.

ACHIEVEMENTS

She and her students have prototyped and user-tested several assistive devices, have filed for 8 Indian patents so far for such devices. Her students have won more than a dozen awards for the designs in national and international forums. The Wellcome Trust, UK is funding the commercialization of the standing wheelchair and the project is being carried out in association with industry partner, Phoenix Medical Systems, and user-testing partner, the Association of People with Disability (APD). The TTK group has committed support for five years through their CSR programme for R2D2's activities – the lab is now named the TTK Center for R2D2.

CONTACT DETAILS

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Proposals

- ◆ CSIE, in collaboration with University of Southampton & SPJIMR, has been awarded a grant under the UK British Council Social Enterprise Education programme (SEEP) initiative.
- ◆ CSIE is funded by Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Paper Limited (TNPL) under CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) to conduct Capacity development program for Producer Companies in Tamil Nadu.
- ◆ CSIE has been awarded a grant under the DST-NIMAT project managed by EDI - Ahmedabad to conduct Entrepreneurship Awareness Camp.

Visitors to CSIE

- ◆ Prof. Nitin Kulkarni, Director, Centre for Technology Innovation and Entrepreneurship (CTIE), K.L.E. Society's B.V.Bhoomaraddi College of Engineering & Technology visited CSIE on 6th November 2015 to understand more about entrepreneurship ecosystem at IIT Madras.
- ◆ Dr. Pathik Pathak, Faculty Director of Social Entrepreneurship and Director of Social Impact Lab from University of Southampton visited CSIE on 19th November 2015 to discuss about recently awarded UK British Council Social Enterprise Education programme (SEEP) initiative and in particular about International Conference. CSIE team also explained about Social Entrepreneurship curriculum & activities at IIT Madras. Other opportunities to collaborate were also discussed.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Grand Finale of "Idea Spark 2015" - 28th January 2016
- ◆ Grand Finale of "Gandhi Hazare Award" - January 2016
- ◆ Entrepreneurship Awareness Camp - February 2016
- ◆ Capacity Development program for Producer Companies - February 2016



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