It has been a surreal experience for us to put together this newsletter during the nation-wide lockdown due to COVID-19. As we look back on the activities of the past year, one cannot help but wonder how the upcoming year will shape up for the institute’s international relations. We will certainly find new ways of continuing our collaborations with our international partners, based perhaps on technology and virtual meetings. For the students, we will have to find new ways of working out exchange visits and research activities. Until then, we hope you enjoy the good memories of the past year’s international activities. Stay safe!

**Key International Visitors**

IIT Bombay being the most sought after institute in India, we get visits by many international delegations throughout the year. These visits serve as one of the ways to initiate dialogues between the institutes and further explore possibilities of collaboration. Many of them led to signing of agreements which strengthens the relations between the institutes. A few of them further strengthened the collaboration by signing mobility and doctoral agreements. The following are the key international visitors in the past nine months at IIT Bombay:

**July, 2019 to September, 2019**

- Prof. Cillian Ryan, Pro Vice Chancellor International of Nottingham Trent University, UK visited on 31st July, 2019.
- Prof. Jennifer Dixon, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Strategic Engagement), Dr. Caroline Daley, Dean Graduate Studies, Mr. Brett Berquist, Director International Office and Mr. Vinayak Rao, India Recruitment Advisor from University of Auckland visited on 1st August, 2019.
- Prof. Dr. Mohammed Abdullah Al Baeli, Vice Chancellor, Dr. Atiq Jekka Al Mansouri, Deputy Vice Chancellor Student Affairs, Prof. Dr. Ali Hamid Al Marzooqi, Dean of the Post Graduate Faculty from United Arab Emirates University visited on 5th August, 2019.
- Ms. Sandra Kalidien, Liaison for Innovation, Technology, and Science from Consulate General of The Kingdom of the Netherlands and Mr. Freek Jan Frerichs, Embassy of Netherlands, New Delhi visited on 19th August, 2019.
- Prof. Adèle Martial - Gros, Deputy Director of the French Institute in India and Mr. Philippe Guillian, Attache for Cooperation in French Language visited on 21st August, 2019.
- Prof. Derrick Bolton, Dean of Knight-Hennessy Scholars Admission and Dr. Rati Godrej, MD Godrej Industries visited on 21st August, 2019.
- Dr. Issa Al-Ansari, Rector, Dr. Ali Chamkha, Dean Research & Graduate Studies, Mr. Abdullah Boughannoom, Manager Human Resources, Ms. Rania Sinno, Director Global Engagement and Ms. Shazia Syed, International Faculty Recruitment/Coordinator Global Engagement from Prince
Mohammad Bin Fahd University (PMU), Saudi Arabia visited on 29th August, 2019.

- Delegation from Shenzhen comprising of Mr. Yang Hong, Member of the Standing Committee, CPC Shenzhen Municipal Committee and Vice Mayor of Shenzhen People's Republic of China, Mr. Zhang Xuefang, Director General, Housing and Construction Bureau of Shenzhen Municipality, Mr. Wang Youpeng, Director General, Urban Planning, Natural Resources Bureau of Shenzhen Municipality, Mr. Yao Liang, Party Secretary, Bureau of Public Works of Shenzhen Municipality, Mr. He Xiaofeng, Principal Staff Member, General Office of Shenzhen Municipal People's Government, Ms. Liu Huiqin, Principal Staff Member, Foreign Affairs Office of Shenzhen Municipal People's Government, Ms. Gloria Gong, Secretary General, China India Exchange Center (CIEC), Mr. Liu Peng, Vice President, China India Exchange Center (CIEC) and Mr. Salil Narang, Chairman, China India Exchange Center (CIEC) visited on 11th September, 2019.


- Dr. Subhas Chandra Mukhopadhyay, Director of International Engagement from School of Engineering, Macquarie University visited on 19th September, 2019.

- Delegation from Welsh Government comprising of Mr. Alun Cairns Secretary of State for Wales, Mr. Crispin Simon, Deputy High Commissioner, Mr. Geraint Islwyn Evans (Special Adviser to the Secretary of State for Wales), Ms. Charlotte Louise Cantle (Principle Private Secretary to the Secretary of State for Wales) and Ms. Asiya Ashraff, Country Manager India visited on 24th September, 2019.

- Prof. Katsunori Nagano, STSI Program Director and Professor Human Environmental Systems and Associate Prof. Masatoshi Sakairi, Materials Science and Engineering from Hokkaido University, Japan visited on 27th September, 2019.

October, 2019 to December, 2019

- Ms. Sarah Fallon, Head of UK Science and Innovation Network for India, Middle East and Africa visited on 1st October, 2019.

- Representatives from Diku - Norwegian Agency for International Cooperation and Quality Enhancement in Higher Education, which is a Directorate under our Ministry of Education Ms. Unni Mjelde Birkeland, adviser and programme manager for UTFORSK Programme and Ms. Camilla
Krebs Tetler, adviser and coordinator for Indo-Norwegian cooperation in education along with Ms. Merethe Sandberg Moe, senior adviser from the Research Council of Norway visited on 4th November, 2019.

- Prof. Tom Finholt, Dean of School of Information and Ms. Rebecca Pagels, Director of Development and Alumni Relations from University of Michigan visited on 6th November, 2019.
- Prof. Jeongyun Heo from Graduate School of Design, Kookmin University visited on 6th November, 2019.
- Prof. Robert Allison, Vice Chancellor & President, Prof. Steve Rothberg, Pro Vice Chancellor, Prof. Andy Dainty, Dean School Architecture, Building & Civil Engineering, Mr. Charlie Carter, Director International Office, Mr. Rob Reeves, Regional Manager International Office and Mr. Musa Yusuff, Graduate Management Trainee from Loughborough University visited on 8th November, 2019.
- Mr. Yukihiko Kazao, Director General & Ms. Kaori Watanabe, Administrative Officer from STS Forum, Japan visited on 25th November, 2019.
- Prof. Yves H. Berthelot Vice-Provost for International Initiatives, Dr. Sivakumar Raghupathy, Executive Director of CREATE-X from Georgia Institute of Technology along with Mr. Ani Agnihotri, Co-Founder and CEO, Marshall Automation America, Inc. (MAAI) & Managing Partner, USA International Business and Research Center (USIBRC) LLC visited on 16th December, 2019.

### January, 2020 to March, 2020

- Dr. Bruce McPheron, Executive Vice President & Provost, Dr. Gil Latz, Vice Provost - Global Strategies and International Affairs, Mr. Gates Garrity-Rokous, Chief Compliance Officer, Ms. Padmini Roy-Dixon, Executive Director Global Gateways from Ohio State University visited on 6th January, 2020.
- Dr. Katja Lasch, Regional Director, Ms. Marja Einig, Deputy Consul, German Consulate Mumbai, Ms. Shubhada Choudhury, Information and Office Manager, Mumbai, Ms. Pooja Midha, Programme Officer, Delhi from DAAD visited on 13th January 2020.
- Prof. Vasu Reddy, Dean and Prof. Schoeman, Professor of International Relations and Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Humanities from University of Pretoria visited on 20th January, 2020.
- Prof. Yoshii Masahiko, Executive Vice President in Charge of International Exchange and Evaluation, Kobe University, Japan visited on 22nd January, 2020.
- French Minister of Culture Mr. Frank Reister and his associates visited on 27th January, 2020. Mr. Frank Riester gave a talk on business opportunities while promoting culture titled "How the
economy of culture is reshaping the world”.

- A delegation from University of Illinois delegation led by Prof. Timothy Killeen, President accompanied by Prof. Edward Seidel, Vice President for Economic Development and Innovation, Prof. Pradeep Khanna, Associate Vice President for Corporate and International Engagement, Prof. Narendra Ahuja, Research Professor and Donald Biggar Willet Professor Emeritus, Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Prof. T. Kesavadas, Professor, Dept. of Industrial and Enterprise Systems Engineering, Prof. Rohit Bhargava, Professor, Dept. of Bioengineering and Director, Cancer Center at Illinois, Prof. Bellur Prabhakar, Associate Dean for Technological Innovation and Training, College of Medicine and Prof. Ken Mullikan, Associate Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Education visited on 28th January 2020.

- Prof. Paul Pettersson, Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Helena Jerregard, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Thomas Wahl, Dean of the School of Business, Society and Engineering and Mr. Christer Nygren, Lecture at the School of Innovation, Design and Engineering from Malardalen University visited on 30th January, 2020.

- Mr. Stephen Williams, Director Global, Dr. Clare Newstead, College International Manager, Science and Technology, Prof. Phil Breedon, Professor of Smart Technologies and Ms. Vidhi Sahae, Senior Global Partnerships Manager from Nottingham Trent University visited on 5th February, 2020.

- Prof. Eilis Ferran, Pro-Vice Chancellor for International Relations and Prof. Howard Griffiths, Professor of Plant Ecology, Dept. of Plant Sciences from Cambridge University visited on 17th February, 2020.

- Professor David Gray, Head of School, Professor Peter Doerner, Director of Internationalisation, Ms. Anne Payne, Director of Professional Services - all School of Biological Sciences, Professor Pankaj, Dean South Asia, Ms. Amrita Sadarangani, Regional Director, India & South Asia Liaison Office from University of Edinburgh visited on 6th March, 2020.


**New Partnerships**

Agreements are viewed as a starting point for international partnership development. These official agreements set out opportunities for collaboration and positive academic engagement between universities to mutual benefit. And few agreements signed with strategic partners also provide financial support for researchers and students mobility. IIT Bombay has signed agreements with following universities in past nine months:

- Loughborough University, UK
- **Curtin University of Technology, Australia – Dual Doctoral Degree Program**
- **National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan - Dual Doctoral Degree Program**
- The Royal University of Bhutan, Bhutan
- The Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology, Republic of Korea
- Politecnico di Milano, Italy
- Institut National des Sciences Appliquées Lyon, France
Workshops

In order to encourage conversations and to foster collaborations faculty research workshops are conducted with our strategic international partner universities. Few of the workshops are theme based whereas as others are generic. During these workshops faculty members participate from both the universities, present their research and explore the possibilities of collaboration. These workshops led to many successful collaborations, joint students and joint projects. We also conduct multilateral workshops involving corporate or industries. The following workshops are conducted in past nine months:

At IIT Bombay:
(1) Hiroshima University, Japan – 12th September, 2019
(2) IIT Bombay-National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan - Delta Electronics, Taiwan - MediaTek Electronics, Taiwan – 7th November, 2019
(3) University of Sydney, Australia – 18th & 19th November, 2019
(4) IIT Bombay-Sun Pharma-Tel Aviv University, Israel – 25th & 26th November, 2019
(5) Leibnitz University of Hannover, Germany – 3rd December, 2019
(6) Newcastle University, UK – 9th December, 2019
Visiting Contingents

**From Netherlands:** A group of 15 students studying the Transport Engineering and Logistic track of the Mechanical Engineering, master’s program at Delft University visited IIT Bombay on 22nd July, 2019. As a part of their program they were in India visiting institutes and companies and doing study related activities. At IIT Bombay Prof. Bhalchandra Puranik, Head of Mechanical Engineering department brief them on the various activities and research taking place in their department. They also visited Refrigeration and Cryogenics Lab, Machine Tools Lab and BeTiC.

**From Tajikistan:** As part of International Youth Exchange Programme between India and Tajikistan, a 10-member Youth Delegation visited IIT Bombay on 23rd October, 2019. This delegation comprised of young university students, entrepreneurs and officials from Ministry and Federations from Tajikistan. There was a vibrant interactive session between this delegation and IIT Bombay students, besides a visit to Central Library and entrepreneurship display by Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE).
Asian Universities Alliance (AUA) is a consortia of Asian universities. AUA is a regional organization established with the aim of jointly addressing regional and global challenges, specifically related to higher education and economic, scientific and technological development by strengthening collaboration among member institutions. The Alliance was established with a core of 15 Founding Members, with the intention of gradual expansion with IIT Bombay being a founding member university of AUA. There are many activities happening under this consortium:

**Overseas Study Program - Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (I2E):** The AUA Overseas Study Program "Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship" (I2E) was hosted at IIT Bombay from the 1st to 7th July, 2019 in Mumbai. The week long program was designed to not only provide firsthand exposure of the Indian business context, but also to introduce the students to the concepts of Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship through a series of interactive sessions, activities and field trips. A diverse set of 18 student participants from nine universities across Asia took part in the program.

**Online Education Conference in China:** The 2019 AUA Online Education Conference was held at Tsinghua University, China on 5th and 6th July, 2019. More than 20 delegates from AUA member universities participated. Prof. Sridhar Iyer and Prof. Sahana Murthy represented IIT Bombay. This conference had keynote speeches and roundtable discussions on current situations of online education platforms in their respective countries. During the conference, the delegates had the opportunity to visit xuetangX and aixuetang online education platforms, as well as to listen to talks from experts of enterprises related to online education. Attendees increased their knowledge of the latest developments in Chinese online education and education innovation.

**Executives Meeting in Sri Lanka:** The third Asian Universities Alliance Executives' Meeting (AUAEM) was successfully hosted by AUA Executive Presidency 2019-2020 at the University of Colombo, in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 21st and 22nd November, 2019. The annual event was attended by over 40 delegates from AUA member institutions. Prof. Prasanna Mujumdar, Deputy Director Finance and External Affairs and Prof. Swati Patankar, Dean International Relations represented IIT Bombay. The two-day event had sessions that consisted a review of all AUA activities and programs which have taken place so far, AUA Executives and senior representatives discussing the proposed revisions to the AUA Framework and AUA representatives presenting proposals for AUA activities to take place in 2020-2021, including student mobility programs and academic conferences.
**Overseas Study Program - Sun, Society and Sustainability (S3):** The AUA Overseas Study Program "Sun, Society and Sustainability" (S3) was successfully hosted at IIT Bombay from 9th to 15th December, 2019 in Mumbai and Madhya Pradesh, India. The 7-day action packed program drew 14 students from 7 AUA member institutions to take part. The program was organized by Solar Urja through Localization for Sustainability or SoULS, a flagship program of IIT Bombay, which has developed interventions, built on the foundation of localization, for providing clean, efficient, affordable and reliable energy access to the most rural households all across India. The visit to Betul village in Madhya Pradesh was covered in the local television news and the project was much appreciated by the participants.

**Program at University of Malaya (UM), Malaysia:** From 15th to 21st January 2020, University of Malaya, a member of AUA hosted the Asian Universities Alliance program for students of the AUA member institutions. The theme of the program was “UM Appreciating Diversity through Art, Malaysia”. A student from IIT Bombay, Raghav Goyal (Chemical Engineering) participated in this program. Raghav is also General Secretary Cultural Affairs 2019-2020. This program gave participants a unique insight into the different facets of arts and culture in Malaysia.

**International / National Visits by IIT Bombay Community**

**Knowledge Summit, France:** The two-day Knowledge Summit was organised by Embassy of France in India in association with Union Ministry of Science and Technology and Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Ministry on 17th and 18th October, 2019 at Lyon, France. Around 300 participants from Indian and French academia, competitive clusters & start-ups, corporate houses, research organisations, and public authorities attended this summit. The summit involved a series of interactive sessions that will launch concrete initiatives as well as will allow participants to deepen academic and scientific cooperation between two countries. The two-day summit is an essential step to develop and structure India-France collaborations in fields of education and research, stimulate connection between research and industry, and encourage the mobility of students and scholars. Prof. Chandra Sekhar Yerramalli (Aerospace Engineering) and Prof. Akshay S (Computer Science and Engineering) attended and represented IIT Bombay at this summit.

**Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI) Summit, New Delhi:** The theme of SICI Summit was ‘Dynamics of Higher Education in India and Canada: Envisaging Greater Collaborations and Opportunities to Network’ and was held on 25th and 26th November 2019 at New Delhi. This summit was attended by about 150 participants from SICI’s member network from Canada and India. About 15 Canadian and 69 Indian Institutions participated in the summit. Emphasis was on promoting and
fostering bilateral partnership in the higher education and research between India and Canada. Prof. Pushpa Trivedi (Head, Humanities and Social Sciences) attended and represented IIT Bombay at this summit.

**International Students**

During the autumn semester 2019 and spring semester 2020, IIT Bombay had 16 and 23 undergraduate students from foreign universities for semester exchange. The orientation program was arranged on 25th July, 2019 for autumn semester and 9th January, 2020 for spring semester under graduate international students. This orientation program introduces them to IIT Bombay functioning, rules and regulations. Also the campus had 26 international students for project work during past nine months. Currently there are 28 international students doing their post-graduation and Ph.D programs. In addition to international students in our campus, there were 45 students in autumn 2019 and 22 students in spring 2020 from IIT Bombay going for semester exchange to our international partner universities. For an initiative towards strengthening of the Africa's Centers of Excellence (ACE's), DST, in collaboration with the World Bank, has nominated IIT Roorkee as the lead Institute, with IIT Bombay (with JNCASR & ARCI) being nominated for co-ordinating the areas of 'Materials Sci. and Renewable Energy'. IIT Bombay had 7 African students (for 6 months) under one of the schemes for collaboration which includes visits of Ph.D and Masters' students from ACEs enrolled in selected programs to relevant Indian Academic and R&D Institutions for training and research.

**IIT’s IR Conclave**

The IIT's International Relations Conclave held on 2nd December, 2019 was organized by IIT Bombay and it was held in IIT Bombay campus itself. This conclave was arranged to share experiences on various topics such as scholarships for international students including ICCR and Study in India, common admission portals, membership of international alliances, and other issues on internationalization. This meet was a follow-up of the conclave held at IIT Kharagpur in 2019. Recently MHRD released the common application portal to IITs and IISc for international applicants and 1000 PhD fellowships for the ASEAN countries. All IIT’s representatives of international relations discussed on the operational process of these portals and also had an interactive session on umbrella agreements with consortia of universities in France, Finland and BRICS countries.
As part of the Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility (Erasmus+ ICM) programme, University of Edinburgh (UoE) had funding for their staff visit to IIT Bombay. Under this exchange Ms. Caroline Kier, Publicity and Recruitment Officer, Mr. Alistair Hudson, Global Operations Support Officer and Dr. Conor Snowden, International Development Research Manager visited IIT Bombay in early 2020. Asian Universities Alliance (AUA) promotes faculty and staff mobility by providing financial support. Ms. Saori Mukaimachi from University of Tokyo visited IIT Bombay under AUA Staff Exchange program in September 2019. The purpose of these exchanges is to shadow our administrative staff and through this, get an idea about our processes, functioning, etc. IR Office facilitated interactions with their respective counter parts for the staff who visited under exchange. Also Prof. Nikhat Jamal Siddiqui from King Saud University, Dr. Nuruol Syuhadaa Mohd. from University of Malaya and Dr. Eric Nelson from The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology visited IIT Bombay under AUA faculty exchange 2019-20. Likewise, the faculty members from IITB visited other member universities of AUA. Prof. Parinda Vasa (Physics) visited The University of Tokyo, Prof. Sanjeeva Srivastava (BSBE) visited United Arab Emirates University, Prof. Azizuddin Khan (HSS) visited Nazarbayev University and Prof. Raaj Ramasankaran (Civil) visited Tsinghua University under AUA faculty exchange 2019-20. Similarly, from IIT Bombay Mr. Hrushikesh Nagwekar (Technical Superintendent, BSBE) visited University of Malaya, Mr. Prabhakara Ramasamy (Senior Sports Officer) visited Nazarbayev University and Mr. Sanjay Shah (Assistant Registrar, Main Administration) visited Peking University under AUA Staff Exchange 2019-20.
Student Experiences

Neharika Jali, 4th Year, Dual Degree, Electrical Engineering Department, IIT Bombay:

I wanted to experience a semester abroad as a student and a semester exchange was the perfect opportunity. Being a dual degree student specializing in Communication and Signal Processing meant that I had no more core courses left in my fourth year. This gave me a lot of freedom in choosing the university and courses for my exchange. I wanted to go somewhere in Europe because I wanted to travel and experience the diversity in languages and traditions. I applied to ETH because it is one of the best universities in the world. A critical thinking workshop organized by ETH, it stimulated participants to define problems in the field of Mobility, their topic that year, and find potential solutions. With speakers from the industry, academia, and the government, I gained an interesting perspective on how the challenges of transportation in a developed country like Switzerland are different from a developing country like India where the major struggles are still wider connectivity, capacity, and punctuality. It was a unique opportunity to exchange ideas with bright minds from 34 different countries.

Jingru Ma, student from United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) for AUA program Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (I2E):

It was my honor to represent my university (UAEU) participating in the I2E program. This program is a global forum for innovative ecosystems of collaboration between academia and industry. During the program, I experienced the cultural diversity and studied India’s ecosystems. The courses I took helped me strengthen my own startup idea and developed new ideas in the Gig Economy. There are also immense resources available in IIT Bombay to support local and global startups to grow and succeed. I was amazed at how IIT Bombay incorporated industry issues into the academic experience of universities. The quote the professor shared at the end of the program “Ideas are dime a dozen. Execution is worth its weight in gold, people who can execute are priceless” encourages me to keep moving forward.
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