The Office of International Relations has been working on multiple initiatives to enhance the mobility of students going outbound from and coming inbound to IIT Bombay. Many of these include research activities that impact the faculty as well. In this newsletter we summarize the activities and also highlight the outcomes of key initiatives. We hope that the initiatives that have led to mobility and new collaborative degrees will continue to attract good participation from the campus community.

International Visitors

Meeting people is the stepping stone for building relationships. IIT Bombay attracts distinguished visitors from round the world and attaches great importance to the contribution that these visits make. The past six months we met many international delegates and a few key international visitors are listed below:

January 2019

- Dr. Pratim Biswas, Assistant Vice Chancellor, International Programs at Washington University in St. Louis visited on 3rd January, 2019.
- Dr. Michel Hockx, Professor of Chinese literature and Director of the Liu Institute for Asia and Asian Studies, University of Notre Dame visited on 4th January, 2019.
- Prof. Cen Huang, Interim Vice-Provost & Associate Vice President International and Prof. Amit Kumar, Department of Mechanical Engineering from University of Alberta visited on 15th January, 2019.
- A delegation from Tsinghua University led by Prof. Wang Xiqin, Executive Vice President along with Prof. Wang Youqiang, Tsinghua Library Director, Dr. Zhang Chuanjie, AUA Secretary and Ms. Wang Yaqian, Administrator Policy & Programs visited on 21st January, 2019.
- A delegation from University of Adelaide led by Professor Nancy Cromar, Pro Vice-Chancellor International along with Associate Professor Murat Karakus, Associate Dean International, School of Civil, Environmental and Mining Engineering, Associate Professor Kapil Chousalkar, School of Animal and Veterinary Sciences in the Faculty of Sciences and their International Relations Office staff members visited on 28th January, 2019.
- A delegation from Simon Fraser University led by Prof. Andrew Petter, President and Vice-Chancellor along with Prof. Joy Johnson, Vice-President, Research & International, Prof. Tania Bubela, Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, Prof. Maureen Maloney, Professor, School of Public Policy, Mr. Ian Hand, Executive Director, VentureLabs, Mr. Darren Schemmer, Executive Director, SFU International, Mr. Yusuf Varachia, Director, International Strategic Initiatives, SFU International visited on 30th January, 2019.
A delegation from University of Sydney led by Dr. Michael Spence, Vice-Chancellor along with Professor Richard Miles, Pro Vice-Chancellor Education Enterprise and Engagement, Dr. Elizabeth Hill, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences, Dr. M.D Mahbub Hassan, Faculty of Engineering and IT, Associate Professor Vincent Gomes, Faculty of Engineering and IT, Ms. Miriam Waters, Manager International and Emerging Constituencies, Ms. Tania Rhodes Taylor, Vice Principal External Relations, Ms. Amanda Sayan, Director Partnerships, Office of Global Engagement, Mr. Kirsten Andrews, Chief of Staff, Office of the Vice-Chancellor visited on 5th February, 2019.

Prof. Colin Grant, Vice Principal International from University of Queensland visited on 5th February, 2019.

A delegation from Nara Women’s University (NWU) and Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)-Japan headed by Mr. Haruki Imaoka, President, NWU and Mr. Yoji Yamamoto, Industry Head, Education business unit, TCS Japan visited on 7th February, 2019.

Dr. Ann Ledwith, Dean Graduate & Professional Studies, Dr. David Corcoran, Head Physics & School of Natural Sciences and Dr. Fergal O’Brien, Director of Postgraduate Studies at the Kemmy Business School from University of Limerick visited on 11th February, 2019.

A delegation from Saudi Arabia including Dr. Abdullah Mohammed Alshehry, Director of Human Resources, Mr. Abdullah Yazeed Alfaifi, Director of IT Dept., Human Resources Agency, Mr. Abdulhadi Abdullah Alanazi, Head of Networks Section in the General Directorate of Communications and Information Technology and Mr. Faisal Mohammed Alotaibi, Assistant Manager of Systems and Programs at the General Directorate of Communications and Information Technology from Presidency of State Security, Saudi Arabia visited on 13th February, 2019.

A delegation from University of Victoria including Prof. Robert Lipson, Dean, Faculty of Science, Prof. Peter Wild, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Prof. Catherine Krull, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences and Ms. Carolyn Russell, Director Student Recruitment and Global Engagement visited on 14th February, 2019.

A delegation from different universities in Nepal visited on 20th February, 2019 including Dr. Basant Giri, Director of International Relations and Dr. Prakash K. Paudel, Executive Director from Kathmandu Institute of Applied Sciences along with Dr. Rashila Deshar, Professor, Central Department of Environmental Science, Dr. Dibas Shrestha, Professor, Central
Department of Hydrology and Meteorology and Professor Dr. Madan Koirala, Central Department of Environmental Science from Tribhuvan University.

- Dr. Michael Pippenger, Vice President and Associate Provost of Internationalization, University of Notre Dame visited on 26th February, 2019.

March 2019
- A delegation from Nottingham Trent University lead by Prof. Mark Biggs, Pro Vice Chancellor and Head of the College of Science and Technology, Dr. Will Rossiter, Associate Professor, Nottingham Business School, Dr. Yvonne Reinwald, Lecturer in Biomedical Engineering, Mr. Christopher Crabot, College International Manager, College of Business, Law and Social Science, Dr. Clare Newstead, College International Manager, College of Science and Technology, Mr. Andrew Plant, College International Manager, College of Art, Architecture, Design and Humanities and Ms. Vidhi Sahae, NTU Global Regional Partnership Coordinator, ASEAN visited on 1st March, 2019.
- Mr. Ranjith G. Rubasinghe, CEO and Dr. Sanjeeva Maithripala, Faculty from Sri Lanka Technological Campus visited on 14th March, 2019.
- Prof. Jeanne Huang and Prof. Ghani Razaqpur from Nankai University visited on 15th March, 2019.

April 2019
- Prof. Vladimir Bermanec, Vice President of Croatian National Council for Science, Higher Education and Technological Development visited on 1st April, 2019.

May 2019
- Prof. Wim de Villiers, Rector & Vice Chancellor and Prof. Hester Klopper, Deputy Vice Chancellor Strategy and Internationalization from Stellenbosch University(SU), South Africa visited on 3rd May, 2019.
- Professor Dr. Reza Asghari, Leader - Entrepreneurship Hub from Technical University of Braunschweig visited on 6th May, 2019.
- Prof. Seigo Nasu, Provost and Ms. Saki Hamamura, International Relations Section from Kochi University of Technology visited on 28th May, 2019.

Outcomes: These visits are for exploring opportunities to collaborate between the universities and many of them have led to signing an agreement with international partner universities. During these visits we have signed generic agreements with University of Victoria, Sri Lanka Technological Campus and co-supervised agreements with University of Sydney and Nottingham Trent University. Tsinghua University had visited under the Asian Universities
Alliance (AUA), consortia of Asian Universities This visit by Tsinghua University was to deepen the relations between the two universities, exchange ideas regarding the development of AUA and discuss collaboration opportunities in the framework of AUA. University of Notre Dame has offered many funded internships for our students through placement cell.

**New Partnerships**

A partnership between universities makes way for students, faculty and staff mobility. Besides signing generic agreements with our international partners, we have strengthened our relationship further with a few strategic partners by signing Co-supervised Ph.D and Cotutelle (Dual Doctoral Degree) agreements.

- Syiah Kuala University, Indonesia
- Ecole Nationale Superieure de Chimie de Lille (Erasmus + Programme), France
- Fontsys University of Applied Sciences, School of ICT, Netherlands
- The University of Tokyo, Japan
- **University of Sydney, Australia** – Co-supervised Ph.D
- University of Strasbourg, France
- **Nottingham Trent University, United Kingdom** – Co-supervised Ph.D
- **Technical University of Braunschweig, Germany** – Co-supervised Ph.D
- Chubu University, Japan
- George Mason University, USA
- Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong
- Ecole Nationale Superieure Des Arts Decoratifs, France
- National Technical University of Athens, Greece
- University of Florence, Italy
- University of the Basque Country, Spain
- University of Saskatchewan
- Sri Lanka Technological Campus (Pvt.) Ltd, Sri Lanka
- University of Victoria, Canada
- Academia Sinica, Taiwan
- The University of Modena and Reggio Emilia
- National Sun Yat-sen University
- Queen Mary University of London
- Universitas Indonesia, The Republic of Indonesia
- Shibaura Institute of Technology, Japan
- **National Taiwan University, Taiwan** – Dual Doctoral Degree Program
- **The Ohio State University, USA** – Inter Institution Agreement
**Outcome:** Signing agreements with universities facilitates student and faculty mobility. The faculty research workshops are conducted with these universities as it gives an opportunity to faculty members to interact and collaborate with their counterparts at international partner universities. The doctoral agreements are signed with strategic partners and these workshops help in identifying joint projects with student mobility. **In the coming months, workshops are lined up with Hiroshima University-Japan, University of Sydney-Australia, Newcastle University-UK and Academic Sinica-Taiwan. Also IIT Bombay-Sun Pharma-Tel Aviv University joint research workshop is scheduled in November 2019.**

**Workshops**

Conducting research workshops is the next step to signing agreements. These research workshops are conducted to facilitate the interactions amongst the faculty members at IIT Bombay and partner universities so that they come up with some joint collaborations or projects. With Ph.D students being involved in the projects the collaboration strengthens further. These workshops are conducted either at IIT Bombay or at partner universities. When more than two universities are involved it leads to the joint research symposium. We have conducted workshops with following universities in past six months:

- Nanyang Technological University – 28th January, 2019 at IIT Bombay
- Leibnitz University – 6th March, 2019 at Leibnitz University, Germany
- Technical University of Braunschweig (TUB) – 7th & 8th March, 2019 at TUB, Germany
- Technical University of Denmark – 26th March, 2019 at IIT Bombay
- Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) – 2nd & 3rd April, 2019 at KIST, South Korea
- National Chiao Tung University – 19th April, 2019 at IIT Bombay
- University of New Brunswick (UNB), Canada (Virtual Workshop) – 24th & 25th April, 2019
- IIT Bombay, University of Newcastle, Institute of Chemical Technology Mumbai and Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Bhopal - Joint Symposium – 17th & 18th June, 2019 at IIT Bombay
Outcome: Six students from IIT Bombay are visiting Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore under the Joint Doctoral Degree Programme that was signed last year between IIT Bombay and NTU, Singapore. Likewise, these workshops have helped in student mobility with National Chiao Tung University, Taiwan with whom we have Co-supervised and Dual Doctoral Degree agreement. The workshop with Technical University of Denmark (DTU) was helpful as we have many students going for semester exchange at DTU from IIT Bombay.

Visiting Contingents

From Canada: The Conference Board of Canada (CBoC) is an independent, non-aligned research institution, based in Ottawa, Canada, that conducts research and convenes leaders to address issues affecting Canada’s future prosperity. Under the Conference Board banner, the Quality Network for Universities (QNU), is one of the executive networks of CBoC, bringing together Canadian university leaders to act – proactively, effectively, and with vision – in a period of far-reaching change. A 12-member delegation comprising of Vice Presidents from the Quality Network for Universities (QNU) visited IIT Bombay on 8th February, 2019. The objective of the visit was to learn about the higher education landscape in India, to understand Canada-India engagement in areas relating to academics and innovation, industry interaction and engagement with higher education institutions and to explore opportunities in India for academic and/or research partnerships. Prof. Swati Patankar, Dean International Relations and Prof. P V Balaji, Dean Research and Development had a very strong interaction session and gave them an overview of functioning at IIT Bombay.

From Nepal: As part of International Youth Exchange Programme between India and Nepal, a 50 member Nepalese Youth Delegation visited IIT Bombay on 12th February, 2019. This delegation comprised of young university students, entrepreneurs and officials from Ministry and Federations from China. There was a very 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).

From United States of America: A 14-member delegation from United States - India Educational Foundation (USIEF) visited IIT Bombay on Tuesday, 12th March, 2019. A cohort of fourteen international education administrators from universities in the United States was part of this delegation. These administrators are mostly decision makers in their institutions and were
keen to expand educational ties with India. The objective was to visit IIT Bombay to discuss how the institution has established itself, its current status in the education sector and learn about the Centre for Innovation at IIT Bombay besides global engagement and internationalization of the campus. An interaction session with Desai Sethi Centre for Entrepreneurship and Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship was scheduled wherein Prof. Anand Kusre and Ms. Poyni Bhatt briefed them about the functioning of their respective centres. Lastly Prof. Swati Patankar, Dean International Relations briefed them with different ways to connect with us international level.

From Brazil: The Brazilian delegation comprising of executives in fintech companies, innovation managers and industry association directors visited IIT Bombay on 24th April, 2019. The objective of this delegation was to visit the main institutions and companies that have been contributing to the overwhelming technological advancement of India. As they were keen to interact with the Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) Dept. and the Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE), Prof. Uday Khedkar, Head of Dept. CSE and Ms. Poyni Bhatt, SINE briefed them on CSE and SINE respectively.

International Visits by IIT Bombay Community

Visit to Bangladesh and Nepal: IIT Bombay participated in an educational fair in on 26th & 27th February 2019 in Chittagong - Bangladesh, on 1st & 2nd March 2019 in Dhaka – Bangladesh, on 22nd & 23rd May 2019 in Kathmandu - Nepal and on 25th & 26th May 2019 in Birgunj - Nepal. The educational fair was organized by 'Study in India', an initiative by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), Government of India. The 'Study in India' initiative aims to make India a preferred education hub for students from across the globe, by elevating its position in the global educational landscape. Prof. Kishore Chatterjee from the Department of Electrical Engineering and Mr. Arnab Das, Executive Officer -International Relations represented IIT Bombay in the Bangladesh education fair. At the Nepal education fair, the IIT Bombay team consisted of Prof. Upendra Bhandarkar from Department of Mechanical Engineering, Mr. Arnab Das, Executive Officer - International Relations and Mr. Prasanna Hate, Administrative Superintendent - Academic Office. With participation in these education fairs, there has been an increase in the number of applications from international students for admission to IIT Bombay and we look forward to having more international students in the campus.
Visit to Nepal

Visit to Germany:
IIT Bombay and Technical University Munich (TUM) under the Erasmus+ ICM joint proposal received mobility funding for academic staff, administrative staff and students until 2020. The Erasmus+ mobility funding is aimed to enhance the bilateral cooperation between the two institution. Mr. Sanjay Kumar Shah, Assistant Registrar (Admin I), Ms. Dipti Datye, Sr. Executive Officer (ACR), Mr. Arnab Das, Executive Officer (IR), Dr. Archana Shetty, Technical Superintendent (BSBE) and Ms. Chandrika Naik, Office Assistant (IR) under the "Erasmus+ staff mobility program" visited TUM for one-week training programs. This has helped them to exchange and learn the best practices in their respective areas and implement them for the growth of the institute and themselves.

Activities under Consortia-Asian Universities Alliance (AUA)

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:

Presidents Forum in Hong Kong: The third annual Asian Universities Alliance (AUA) Presidents Forum was held in Hong Kong on 14th April 2019, hosted by The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. Comprising two sessions of panel discussions, this President Forum was attended by more than 150 guests, including students and faculty members. Prof. Swati Patankar - Dean International Relations along with Prof. Devang Khakhar – Director, Prof. Prasanna Mujumdar – Deputy Director Finance and External Affairs and Prof. Amitava De – Dean Academic Programmes attended this forum. Prof. Devang Khakhar was the keynote speaker for the session, themed ‘Innovation & Entrepreneurship Ecosystems: Asian Perspectives on Technological Stewardship and Higher Education’.

Competition at Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan: From 17th to 21st June 2019, Nazarbayev University, a member of AUA hosted the Asian Universities Alliance Student Competition for students of the AUA member institutions. The theme of the Competition was “Good Governance in the 21st Century and its Challenges”. A team of three students from IIT
Bombay (Yatin Diwakar – CTARA, Priyank Jain – CPS and Mausam Kumar – HSS) participated in this competition.

**AUA Faculty and Staff Exchange:** AUA promotes faculty and staff mobility by providing financial support. 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 are visiting IIT Bombay under AUA faculty exchange 2019-20. Likewise, the faculty members from IITB are visiting other member universities of AUA. Prof. Parinda Vasa (Physics) will visit The University of Tokyo, Prof. Sanjeeva Srivastava (BSBE) will visit United Arab Emirates University, Prof. Azizuddin Khan (HSS) will visit Nazarbayev University and Prof. Raaj Ramasankaran (Civil) will visit Tsinghua University under AUA faculty exchange 2019-20. Similarly, Ms. Saori Mukaimachai, staff member from The University of Tokyo will be visiting IITB under AUA staff exchange 2019-20. Likewise, Mr. Hrushikesh Nagwekar (Technical Superintendent, BSBE) will visit University of Malaya, Mr. Prabhakara Ramasamy (Senior Sports Officer) will visit Nazarbayev University and Mr. Sanjay Shah (Assistant Registrar, Main Administration) will visit Peking University. Some of these visits have already taken place.

![AUA President’s Forum in Hong Kong](image1)

![IIT Bombay Students at Nazarbayev University](image2)

**International Students**

During the spring semester 2019, IIT Bombay had 20 undergraduate students from foreign universities for semester exchange. The orientation program was arranged on 2nd January, 2019 for under graduate students. This orientation program introduces them to IIT Bombay functioning, rules and regulations. Also the campus had 19 international undergraduate students for semester project work. Currently there are 47 international students doing their post-graduation and Ph.D programs. In addition to the international students in our campus, we also had 50 students from IIT Bombay going for semester exchange to foreign universities like National University of Singapore, Technical University of Denmark, KOC Turkey and many others. At the middle of the semester, international students had an adventurous experience trekking the Mahuli fort in Thane besides experiencing one day of Mumbai City Tour.

![International Students - Mumbai City Tour](image3)
Student Experiences

Conrad Helminger, Technical University of Munich, Germany, Intern for Spring 2018-19

I made the journey from Munich, Germany to Bombay in February, 2019 to spend two months with Prof. Udayan Ganguly’s nanoelectronics group for a research internship. Upon arrival at Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, I was delighted about the nice campus. I particularly liked the greenery and the lake. Whenever I left on an adventure to explore this busy city, it felt refreshing to come back to the campus. In addition, I liked the large variety of facilities for sports, all the food courts, the mess, the canteen etc. The friendliness and the helpfulness of all the people I came across on and off campus was really amazing. I’d particularly like to thank Ms. Sushma and the IR team for making my stay smooth and helping me with the administrative challenges you have to face as a visitor. The research internship was great. We had weekly team meetings to discuss our progress and Prof. Udayan dedicated a large share of his time to supervise me, guide my research and help me sort out problems. Thank you, and shoutout to the great team! I was immediately included in all activities and was overwhelmed by their friendliness and ingenuity. I didn’t mention all the experiences I made off campus during my stay. But I can say with confidence that all expectations I previously has were not only fulfilled but significantly surpassed. Thank you for having me.

Harsh Chandak, 4th Yr. Dual Degree, Mechanical Engineering Department, IIT Bombay

Going for an exchange to ETH Zurich has been one of the best decisions of my life. Living with 150 other exchange students in one residence, cooking food together, watching movies (I showed them “3 Idiots”), playing games (especially Foosball), going on trips and what not. I always wanted to go for a semester exchange since my 2nd year. ETH Zurich wasn’t a tough choice. It is one of the best universities, situated in Switzerland and well-connected to all the European countries but damn it is expensive. Luckily I got a scholarship which covered almost all of my expenses. The academics at ETH Zurich has been excellent. The professors took a lot of interest in teaching the courses. ETH offers a lot of freedom to the students to choose the courses, and the onus is on you to study. Nothing is compulsory – no attendance, no quizzes or mid-semester exams, only end of semester exams (some of them even oral for 100% weightage). It teaches you to keep yourself on track rather than being forced to study. I went skiing for the first time (fell 50 times, but finally I could ski), went for an Eastern Europe trip during the Easter break, swam in the Limmat river (shivering, so cold!) and so much more to share but I guess I am short of words to explain how exciting my exchange journey has been. I made some lifelong friends and hope to meet them soon again. Thanks to IIT Bombay and ETH Zurich for giving me this opportunity. I will cherish these moments for a lifetime.
Ms. Mary Cook, Director, Education Abroad, Manager of Mobility – Incoming Exchange and Outbound Students, Colorado School of Mines, International Office

Shubham Gupta (Dual Degree, Energy Science and Engineering) and Lokesh Sangabattula (B.Tech, Metallurgical Engineering and Materials Science) were delightful. They were both good students and very nice gentlemen. Lokesh impressed faculty and staff by gaining a research position on campus and earning a 4.0 GPA for the semester. Equally impressive, Shubham secured a summer internship at Berkeley University. It is very rare undergraduate students, especially exchange students, are so highly successful. It is clear your university prepares students well for high academic rigor.

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