



# Newsletter

*Office of International Relations, IIT Bombay*  
*January, 2022 – June, 2022*



Prof. Amit Agrawal, Dean International Relations

The objective of the Office of International Relations is to develop and coordinate the international relations and international activities of IIT Bombay. Our office works towards promoting and enhancing the global visibility and profile of IIT Bombay; develop, coordinate and strengthen international linkages and facilitate, assist and help international students in all their academic pursuits. Through this newsletter, we are sharing the activities that have taken place in the last six months. Hope you enjoy reading!

## *International Visitors/Meetings*

We host international delegations or individual colleagues for short-term campus visits to develop educational partnerships, explore research collaborations or sometimes to provide an introduction to the institute. These meetings help enhance the educational or research capacity of the institute, explore new opportunities and to exchange knowledge or ideas around topics of mutual interest. Of course, the pandemic did not create virtual meetings, but it raised their popularity drastically and this seems to stay for some more time as is convenient in many ways for all involved. In the past six months we had meetings as follows and most of them still in virtual mode:

- The Federal University Wukari, Nigeria - 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022 - Dr. Emmanuel Etim, Director of International Programmes
- Asian Universities Alliance (AUA), China - 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022 - Dr. ZHANG Chuanjie, the AUA Secretary and Ms. Yaqain Wang, Administrator (Policy & Programs)
- University of Genoa, Italy - 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022 - Prof. Fulvio Mastrogiovanni & Vice-Rector for International Affairs & Coordinator of the MSc in Robotics Engineering
- Riga Technical University, Latvia - 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022 - Prof. Mr. Igors Tipans, Director of the International Cooperation and Foreign Student Department; Ms. Zane Purlaura, Deputy Director and Ms. Laura Stale, Head of International Cooperation Unit
- Netherlands Consulate in Mumbai - 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022 - Dr. Dhoya Snijders, Innovation Counsellor and Ms. Sandra Kalidien, Innovation Attache
- Sigma Clermont, France - 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022 - David Turner, Director International Relations
- Flinders University, Australia - 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 - Prof. Bill Damachis, Director, International Partnerships and Ms. Sadhana Lalla, Manager, Recruitment and Partnerships (India)
- Urgench Branch of Tashkent University of Information Technologies, Uzbekistan - 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022 - Dr. Maksud Baydjanov, Director of Urgench branch of TUIT; Dr. Omonboy Khalmuratov, Vice-director for Academic Affairs; Dr. Shukurullokh Ismoilov,

Vice-director for Scientific Affairs and Innovation; Dr. Otabek Khujayev, Head of Department of Information Technologies; San`atbek Masharipov, Head of Software Engineering Department and Nafisa Erimmetova, Head of International Relations Department

- Embassy of Finland in New Delhi - 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022 - Dr. Mika Tirronen, the Counsellor for Science and Education
- KOMINFO (Ministry of Communication and Information Technology in Indonesia) and Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia in Mumbai - 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022
- India Brazil Chamber of Commerce (IBCC) Delegation - 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022



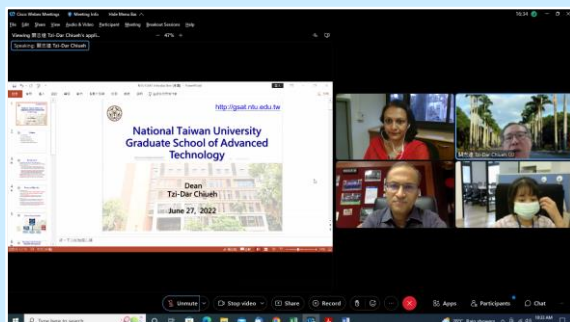
**India Brazil Chamber of Commerce (IBCC) Delegation**



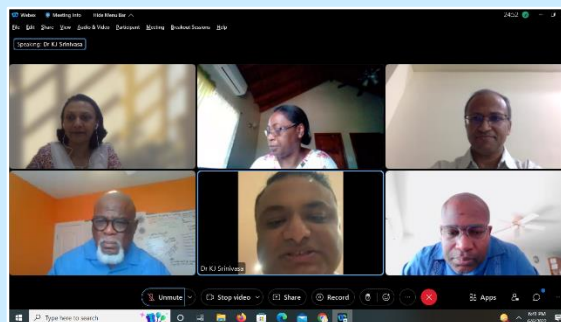
**Consulate General of Malaysia in Mumbai Delegation**

- ENAC, France - 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022 - Mr. Nicolas Cazalis, Vice President International, Dr. Kristy Tan, International Dean, Mr. Dominique Dubourg, International Department
- Daffodils International University, Bangladesh - 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 - Dr. Mohamed Emran Hossain, Director, Administration and Member, Board of Trustees; Mr. Md Ejaj Ur Rahaman, Assistant Professor, Department of Business Administration, Deputy Director, Human Resource Development Institute; Mr. Syed Raihan-Ul-Islam, Senior Assistant Director, International Affairs and Mr. Md. Nazmul Islam, Administrative Officer, International Affairs
- Sechenov University, Russia - 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022 - Prof. Dmitry Enikeev, Head of International Office; Mr. Albert Istomin, Deputy Head of International Office; Mr. Igor Lunkov, International Office and Ms. Liubov Zaytseva, International Office
- Moscow Polytechnic University, Russia - 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022 - Ms. Yulia Davydova, Vice-President for International Affairs and Mr. Pablo Emilio Bakero Iturralde, Head of Centre for Engineering and Development, Dean of Transport Faculty
- Tel Aviv University, Israel – 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022 - Prof. Gary Sussman, Advisor on India, Prof. Milette Shamir, Vice President International Academic collaboration and Ms. Emma Aftermath, Director of Asia Engagement
- Universitas Muhammadiyah Kudus, Indonesia - 18<sup>th</sup> April 2022 - Ms. Anny Rosiana Masithoh, Vice Rector for students and cooperation Affairs; Ms. Amalia Rahmawati, Director of International Office and Ms. Yunita Trimukti Soltani, International Cooperation Consultant
- Technical University of Denmark, Denmark - 21<sup>st</sup> April 2022 - Prof. Philip John Binning, Senior Vice President, Dean of Graduate Studies and International Affairs and Ms. Louise Nolle, Senior International Relations Officer
- Peter the Great St. Petersburg Polytechnic University (SPbPU), Russia – 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022 - Dr. Vladimir Khizhnyak, Head International Office

- Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), Brazil – 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022 - Prof. Claudio Pinheiro, Vice Chancellor of International Relations and Prof. Dr. Leticia Galluzzi, Coordinator of International Relations for the Baltic Sea and Scandinavian regions
- Consulate General of Malaysia in Mumbai – 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 - Mr. Zainal Azlan Mohd. Nadzir, Consul General; Mr. Roswaidin Mohd Zain, Director of Investment, MIDA; Mr. Vivek Kudtarkar, Investment Officer, MIDA; Ms. Risha Rajput, Marketing Officer, MATRADE and Mr. Purushottam Kamble, Admin Asst.
- KTH, Sweden – 9<sup>th</sup> May 2022 – Ms. Pia Schmitt, Project Support IRO; Mr. Jairam Vijayakumar Sujaya, International student recruitment and mobility, IRO and Prof. Shareq Mohd Nazir, Asst. Professor, School of Chemistry, Biotechnology



National Taiwan University  
Taiwan



The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus  
Antigua and Barbuda

- Embassy of Peru in India – 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022 - Mr. Fabio Subia Diaz, Head of the Cultural Section & Ms. Aaina Rehman, Administrative Assistant
- The University of the West Indies Five Islands Campus Antigua and Barbuda – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022 - Prof. Densil A. Williams, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal; Dr. Curtis Charles, Director of Academic Affairs; Ms. Stephanie N. Cain, Executive Assistant and Dr. K J Srinivasa, High Commissioner of India, Georgetown.
- National Chung Hsing University, Taiwan – 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022 - Dr. Chia-Lin Chang, Vice President for International Affairs; Dr. Watson Kuo, Vice Dean, the office of R&D; Dr. Yeong-Kang Lai, Department Chair of Electrical Engineering and Ms. Rei, Office of International Affairs, Coordinator
- Jimmy University, Ethiopia – 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022 - Mr. Efreem Wakjira, Scientific Director of Jimma Institute of Technology (JiT); Mr. Jemal Worku, Vice Scientific Director of JiT, Dr. Worku Jimma, Dean, Faculty of computing and Informatics and Dr. Faiz Akram, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Computing and Informatics, JiT
- National Taiwan University, Taiwan – 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022 - Prof. Tzi-Dar Chiueh, Dean of Graduate School of Advanced Technology (GSAT) & Distinguished Professor, Dept. of Electrical Engineering and Ms. Chun I Wang, Coordinator of GSAT

## Partnerships

International collaborations are often formalized through agreements and other mechanisms that document the relationship and expectations of each institution. It declares an intent to explore opportunities to collaborate in areas that would be mutually beneficial to each institution. Meaningful partnerships help knowledge and human expression thrive across borders. Agreements facilitate connections between higher education institutions, faculty and students to cultivate research collaboration, build capacity, exchange ideas and share best practices through staff exchange programs. In the past six months we have signed agreements with the following universities:



- Joint Multi-institutional International Education, Research and Training between University at Buffalo, The State University of New York, and IIT Delhi, IIT Kanpur, IIT Bombay, IIT Jodhpur, IIT BHU, Ashoka Univeristy, Sonipat
- Dalhousie University, Canada
- Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia
- Riga Technical University, Latvia
- Norwegian Geotechnical Institute, Norway
- Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution of Higher Education I.M. Sechenov First Moscow State Medical University of the Ministry of Health of the Russian Federation (Sechenov University), Russia
- The Alliance of 4 Universities (A-4U), Spain
- Training and Training of Specialists in Physical Training and Sports, Uzbekistan
- The Instituto Politecnico Nacional of the United Mexican States, Mexico



Institut Teknologi Bandung, Indonesia



Riga Technical University, Latvia

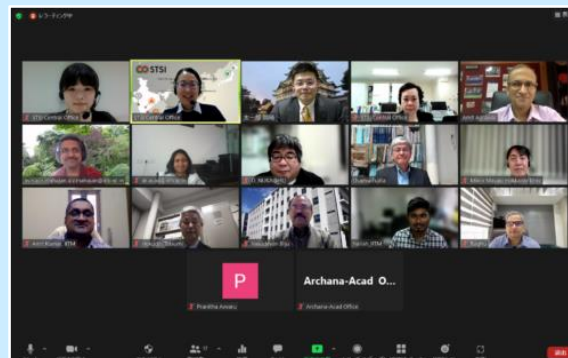
## *Activities under Consortiums*

In higher education, consortiums are formed to foster inter-institutional cooperation among a group of universities for the purpose of enhancing services within a geographic region. Also, it helps gain visibility and increased institutional profile by being member of these global consortiums engaged in higher education. IIT Bombay is part of many consortiums and has been participating in and hosting the activities held under these consortiums. There were some activities carried out under these consortiums all in virtual mode in the past six months:

### *Sustainable Transportation System and Infrastructure (STSI)*

STSI Program is an educational program jointly developed by Hokkaido University, IIT Bombay, IIT Hyderabad and IIT Madras, and aims at contributing to the development of human resources capable of playing roles in the promotion of teamwork research between Japan and India for Developing Sustainable Transportation system and Infrastructures.

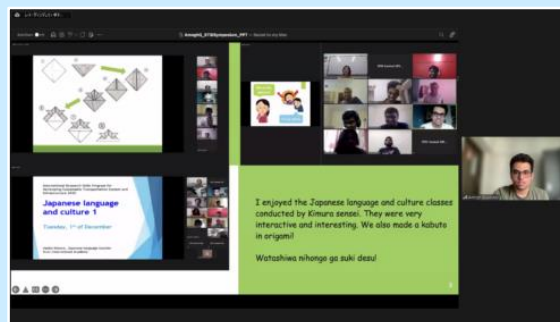
**STSI Steering Committee 2022:** STSI, a Hokkaido University educational program that was adopted in FY 2017 as part of the Inter-University Exchange Project and which receives a grant from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology for five years, was designed to contribute to the development of human resources capable of playing roles in the promotion of teamwork research between Japan & India for Developing Sustainable



STSI Steering Committee 2022

Transportation system and Infrastructures. As the fifth year of the program progresses in a challenging situation with COVID-19, persons involved in STSI Program from Hokkaido University, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Hyderabad and Madras held Steering Committee Meeting 2022 online on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022 to share and acknowledge overall achievements of five years of the program and current situation of participating universities, and discuss enhancement and transformation of the program starting as “One program for Global Goals (OGGs) - STSI Course” from the next fiscal year.

**STSI Program Summary Symposium:** This symposium scheduled on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022 aimed at sharing program achievements of five years and plans from April 2022 with faculties and staffs from participating universities, program alumni and consortium partner companies. Hokkaido University and three IITs made summary presentations about their achievements & future expectations about their achievements and future expectations from the collaborations. Program alumni shared their experience with STSI Program and its influence on research and works afterwards.



STSI Program Summary Symposium – IITB Student

### Asian Universities Alliance (AUA)

Asian Universities Alliance (AUA) is a consortium of Asian universities. It 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. AUA was established with a core of 15 universities, with IIT Bombay being one of the founding member university of AUA. There are many activities and interactions that happen under this consortium among its member universities.

**AUA Youth Empowerment Session:** The AUA Youth Empowerment Session (AUAYES) 2022 themed on *Empowering Asian Youth for a Better World*, and held on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2022 had participation from AUA member university students who had participated in past programs of AUA. The students had discussion on the future of short-term student exchange programs and share their hopes and expectations for the next five years to continuously promote the building of a better AUA, and to contribute Asian wisdom to the development of global higher education. Three students from IIT Bombay participated in this session – Yatin Diwakar, Centre for Technology Alternatives for Rural Areas; Parth Laturia, Department of Computer Science and Engineering; Shubham Lohiya, Department of Mechanical Engineering.

**AUA Presidents Forum:** This forum brought together university leaders from across Asia to explore new approaches to higher education in responding to emerging challenges. Prof. Subhasis Chaudhuri, Director, IIT Bombay participated in one of the panel discussion of AUA Presidents Forum themed on “The Networked University for an Integrated Education and Research Ecosystem” held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022. The panelists openly shared their initiatives and experiences in creating an environment for integrated education and research through the optimization of institutional resources and by strengthening connections between academic units.



AUA Presidents Forum 2022

### ***AUA Plenary Session and Board Meeting:***

From IIT Bombay, Prof. Subhasis Chaudhuri, Director, and Prof. Amit Agrawal, Dean International Relations, participated in the Plenary Session and the Board Meeting held on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022. The plenary session was themed on “Embracing Asian Diversity for a Shared Future: Mission of Universities in



**AUA Board Meeting 2022**

Fostering a Community of Life for People and Nature”, and the AUA member university leaders were invited to give thematic speeches on the theme of the plenary session and provide suggestions on the development of AUA, with the aim of integrating individual member's efforts into joint endeavors towards a better and shared future for people and nature. During the AUA Board Meeting, the major decisions related to the next AUA Executive Presidency, Financial Statements and Budget, AUA Program Proposals, AUA Themes 2023-2026 and others were taken. Also, Prof. Chaudhuri chaired one of the sessions on AUA review 2021-22 during the Board Meeting.

***AUA Overseas Study Program on Artificial Intelligence in Education:*** Under the consortia Asian Universities Alliance (AUA), IIT Bombay - Office of International Relations and Interdisciplinary Programme in Education Technology (IDP-ET) hosted a short term program in online mode from 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022 to 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022 on “Artificial Intelligence in Education” for students of AUA member universities. Prof. Ramkumar Rajendran from IDP-ET conducted this program. This program provided an overview of how artificial intelligence techniques and machine learning algorithms can be applied to data from the educational domain to provide better teaching-learning experiences. This program had 23 student participants from 10 AUA member universities.

### ***U7+***

The U7+ Alliance of World Universities is the first coalition of university presidents aimed at defining concrete actions that universities can take to collectively address global challenges in coordination with government leaders in G7 countries and beyond.

***U7+ Presidential Summit:*** The fourth annual U7+ Alliance of World Universities Summit of the Presidents, was held on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022. Pursuing the commitments adopted on the eve of the 26<sup>th</sup> UN Climate Change Conference and in coherence with the multilateral agenda, this forth summit reflected on the role and the position of Universities in the development of smart and sustainable territories. This topic provided the opportunity for Presidents to share their views on the position of Universities within their local, national and global ecosystems while addressing the pressing challenge of training young and talented generations to face the current transitions. From IIT Bombay, Prof. Subhasis Chaudhuri, Director and Prof. Amit Agrawal, Dean International Relations participated in this summit.

### ***Outreach Activities***

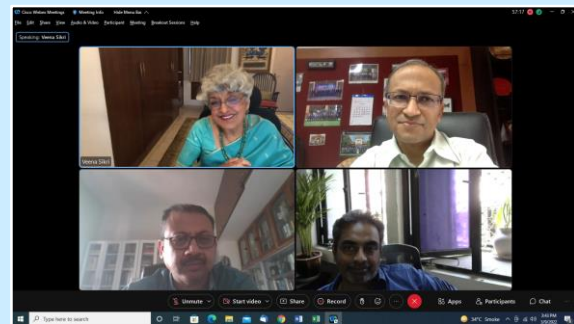
Under this umbrella term many different activities are conducted by the Office of International Relations with the aim of promoting awareness and visibility of IIT Bombay around the globe. These activities showcase the capabilities that exist in IIT Bombay and we are hoping that this will help build our image as a 'world class research institute', and eventually attract good quality foreign students from different parts of the world into our programs at all levels. The following activities were conducted in the past six months and we are grateful for the support provided by IIT Bombay professors and their respective departments in helping us carry out these activities:



**Participated in Japan India Exchange Platform Program (JIEPP):** JIEPP is supported by the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology and has a mission to develop a robust and sustainable platform for Japan-India exchange through the creation of a network to connect universities and companies currently engaged in Japan-India exchange projects. The 4th JIEPP Symposium was held on 24th February 2022 and it featured keynote speeches, presentations of results from each university and an overall discussion under the theme “Achievements and Prospects of the Japan-India Exchange Program by Universities.” This symposium was hosted by The University of Tokyo, Japan and Prof. Amit Agrawal, Dean International Relations, IIT Bombay was invited as a keynote speaker at this symposium. Prof. Agrawal gave a talk on “Japan India Connect” covering the merits, achievements, expectations, and future prospects of the exchange with Japanese universities and IIT Bombay.



*Japan India Exchange Platform Program*



*Guest Lecture by Dr. Veena Sikri*

**Hosting Guest Lecture:** The Ministry of External Affairs of India is organizing a commemorative lecture series titled "India@75: Videsh Niti Distinguished Lecture Series", as part of the celebrations of 75 years of India's Independence. Under this initiative, IIT Bombay - Office of Dean International Relations and Ashank Desai Centre for Policy Studies hosted an online guest lecture by Professor and Ambassador (retd.) Veena Sikri on 9th March 2022. In the lecture, Dr. Sikri shared her insights on 'India in Southasia' which received an overwhelming response.

**Participated in Guest Lecture Series:** Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS) Indonesia conducted a Guest Lecture Series on Sustainable Development Goals in online mode. Based on the necessity for students to understand Sustainable Development Goals established by United Nations, this series aims to fulfill their needs in comprehending and applying Sustainable Development Goals. Prof. Subimal Ghosh, Convener Interdisciplinary Programme IDP in Climate Studies, IIT Bombay gave a talk on "Global and Regional Climate Change: Impacts and Adaptation" in this lecture series on 16th March 2022. This lecture series had student participation from ITS, Indonesia as well as many other countries.



**Hosting Technical University Munich, Germany Staff at IIT Bombay under Staff Exchange Program**

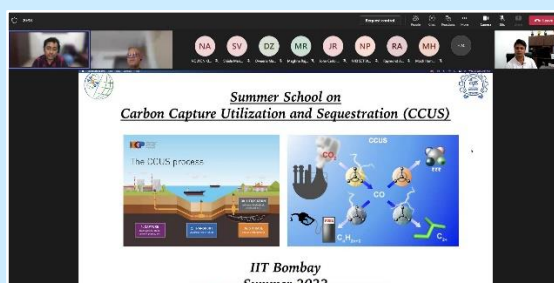


**IIT Bombay Staff visiting Technical University Munich, Germany under Staff Exchange Program**

**Staff Exchange Programme:** The Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility (ICM) with Partner Countries, also known as Erasmus+ Global Mobility and promoted by the European Union, refers to the mobility of students, researchers, and staff between European higher education institutions and non-European (bi-lateral) partners. The Erasmus+ mobility funding is aimed at enhancing the bilateral cooperation between the two institutions. This staff exchange programme allows the staff to exchange and learn the best practices and implement them for the growth of the institute and themselves. Under Erasmus+ ICM, from IIT Bombay – Office of International Relations, Ms. Sushma Jagtap, Administrative Assistant and Ms. Chandrika Naik, Office Assistant visited Aalto University, Finland from 16<sup>th</sup> May 2022 to 20<sup>th</sup> May 2022 and Ms. Tanvi Mehta, Executive Officer and Ms. Sushma Jagtap, Administrative Assistant visited Technical University of Munich, Germany from 30<sup>th</sup> May 2022 to 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022. These exchanges give a good understanding of how various offices in the International Affairs department work in close coordination and under the university framework. Also, Ms. Layla Eberle, Senior International Strategist from Technical University of Munich, Germany visited IIT Bombay from 4<sup>th</sup> April 2022 to 8<sup>th</sup> April, 2022 under Erasmus+ ICM and was hosted by the Office of International Relations.



IIT Bombay Staff visiting Aalto University, Finland under Staff Exchange Program

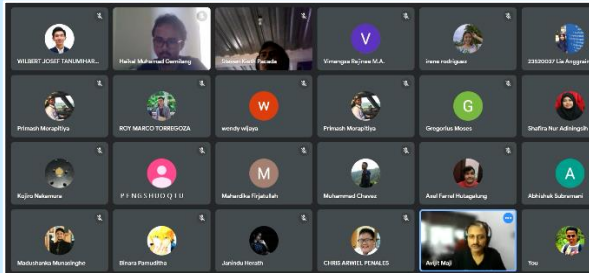


Summer Schools hosted by IIT Bombay on Carbon Capture Utilization and Sequestration

**Summer Schools:** The Office of International Relations feels delighted to share that it has accomplished successful completion of the first ever online Summer Schools in June/July, 2022. The program offered four interesting courses on current hot topics namely: Carbon capture utilization and sequestration, Data flow analysis, Introduction to numerical optimization and Advanced structural geology. The initiative presented the participants with great opportunity, not limited to study material distribution and developing understanding towards the courses but also offered one-on-one interactive and exciting session with globally renowned expert faculties of IIT Bombay. The Summer Schools 2022 contributed significantly to the vision of conducting such programs by showcasing the academic strength of IIT Bombay. The program faculty focused on making the lecture sessions more participatory by conducting quiz and feedbacks at different stages of their respective courses. We acknowledge the faculty of IIT Bombay for their contribution and conveying highly informative and insightful lectures. We are happy to share some of the images from the exciting course lectures conducted. Overwhelming number of applications with a total count of 571 were received from various countries around the globe including Sweden, Russia, Japan, Ethiopia, China, Brunei, Indonesia, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Uganda, Vietnam, Syria, Turkey and Bangladesh. The program was well structured following rigorous screening of applications by the faculty that raised the standards of the program. Noteworthy success of the consecutive program was observed reflecting a five-fold increase in the number of application compared to the first winter school. Encouraging feedback was received from the participants appreciating and looking forward to attending such programs organized by IIT Bombay. A good number of participants showed interest in taking further degree courses at IIT Bombay. Faculty members were also invited to submit feedback on this program with an aim to apply their suggestions for betterment of the program. Overall



the programs under this initiative presents promising outcome further extending the outreach activities of IIT Bombay and share the knowledge and ideas with the global student community. We are excited to prepare for the next winter school, 2022 and offer some of the advanced courses under the program.



Summer Schools hosted by IIT Bombay on Introduction to Numerical Optimization



Summer Schools hosted by IIT Bombay on Advanced Structural Geology

## *Inbound Students*

We were delighted to welcome 10 International exchange students physically to the campus during the spring 2021-22. It was nice to host International exchange students in the campus after 3 semesters. The Office of International Relations also hosted 2 students for doing project/research work physically while 1 student did virtual project work. The PG/Ph.D. programmes currently have 104 students enrolled. Degree students enrolled in 2020 and 2021 who were unable to come to campus due to the COVID 19 pandemic were delighted to return when permitted.

## *Outbound Students*

We had 26 students from IIT Bombay going for semester exchange to foreign universities like Aalto University, Finland; Colorado School of Mines, USA; EPFL, Switzerland; ETH Zurich, Switzerland, INSA LYON, France; Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium; KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden; Loughborough University, UK; Malardalen University, Sweden; Politecnico di Milano, Italy; Sabanci Univ, Turkey; Technical University of Denmark; University of Bologna, Italy; University of Agder, Norway; University of Geneva, Switzerland. These exchange programs provide students an experience of a different education system and practices that are of great advantage.

## *Student Experiences*

***Khoder Alshaar, Dual Degree (M. Tech + Ph. D), IIT Bombay - Department of Aerospace Engineering***

It has been three years since I first arrived at IIT Bombay in 2019 from Syria. What a great journey full of experience. At first, I came to do my M. Tech in the Department of Aerospace Engineering with a scholarship from the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). For me, it was a dream come true to be in India which is the country of colors. My love of IIT Bombay started with the first email I received from the Office of International Relations. They offer assistance in each and every possible way.

Later that year, I met my supervisor Prof. J C Mandal with whom I changed my program to Dual Degree (M. Tech + Ph. D). Like many professors in IIT Bombay, Prof. Mandal supported and guided me not only with research, but with his priceless advice to tackle stress and anxiety in daily life.

When I am asked if I have friends in India, I simply answer: I have sisters and brothers. Words will never be able to describe the bounds that I made with my friends here. In short, at IIT Bombay I feel at home.



Khoder Alshaar



Clémence Costaouec

***Clémence Costaouec, Student @ IMT Atlantique, France, Semester Exchange @ Department of Energy Science and Engineering***

From January 2022 to May 2022, I spent one semester at IIT Bombay as a semester exchange student in the Department of Energy Science and Engineering. I felt at home really quickly on campus. Everybody was really welcoming and it was nice to discover Mumbai with the other international students.

Even if the classes required personal work, I had time to enjoy the sport facilities on campus and to attend a lot of events such as Mood Indigo, TechFest,... I was amazed by the quantity of things to do; it was never boring. In addition, the campus is like heaven in Mumbai. I really enjoyed the proximity of Powai Lake and all the trees which make me feel far from the city.

This semester changed my life. I discovered a wonderful city, met new friends, and learnt a lot about India. I really want to thank all the people who made it possible and I wish all the new semester exchange students to have an unforgettable semester!

***Siddhesh Biyani, Student @ IIT Bombay - Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Semester Exchange @ Loughborough University, UK***

An academic exchange is the closest I've been to understanding cultures other than my own; the more I learnt about the foreign culture, the better I understood myself and my very own culture. Hey there, I'm Siddhesh Biyani and I spent the last semester of my undergraduate degree on a semester-long exchange to Loughborough University (LU), UK. An exchange provides you with opportunities to interact with advanced technology, engage with different curriculum, learn from esteemed professors, and live an exciting life!

LU had many international students and thus I was able to build a network of people from different professional, academic and cultural backgrounds. The courses stressed heavily on practical learning thus it was easy to find real-life application of whatever was being taught.

The classes were particularly exciting as they were full of engaging discussions with new perspectives being presented every time someone spoke. For example, discussing colonialism in a classroom full of British students alongside African and Australian students made me realise how differently countries look at history! I also used this exchange to take as many trips as possible to cover the entire country by road and click thousands of pictures.



Siddhesh Biyani

## ***Team – Office of International Relations***

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