

IIT Gandhinagar Foundation

IIT Gandhinagar Foundation, a charitable trust, has now been registered in the USA. This was initiated by three US-based friends of IIT Gandhinagar with the sole aim of supporting the Institute through philanthropic financial contributions from US-based well-wishers. The Foundation will enable them to make US tax-exempt donations to IITGN. The three Directors of the Foundation are:



Shri Raj Mashruwala holds an MS from the University of California, Berkeley (1976) and B.Tech. from IIT Bombay (1975). He has co-founded a number of technology companies: TIBCO Software Inc.; YieldUp International; Media Computer Technology Inc.; and Consilium Inc. Mr Mashruwala is an active angel investor through Mashruwala Investments and is mentor/advisor to several early startup ventures. He is also a Director of IIT Bombay Heritage Fund, Charter Member of The Indus Entrepreneur (TiE), and Commissioner, Public Library, City of Palo Alto in USA.



Shri Bipin Shah holds an MS from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and a BEE (Honours) from Jadavpur University. He has held senior positions in several high-tech companies, and has been founder of some of them. He is currently the CEO and Chairman of Kovair Software based in Milpitas, CA which has a Development Center in Kolkata. He is active with a number of non-profit organizations: The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE); Ahimsa Center at the California Polytechnic University, Pomona; Cupertino Education Endowment Foundation; the Jain Center of Northern California.



Shri Abhay Bhushan is the Former President of IIT Kanpur Alumni Association and was the first President of Pan IIT-USA. An internet pioneer, he developed FTP and the early versions of e-mail standards. A Silicon Valley entrepreneur, he founded several companies, including Portola Communications and Yield UP International, and mentored others. He received his B.Tech. from IIT Kanpur (1965), and Master's degrees in Electrical Engineering and Management from MIT. He is the joint holder of a dozen US patents.

S. C. Mehrotra Scholarships



Shri S. C. Mehrotra, the Managing Director of Mehro Consultants, New Delhi, which is a leading Civil, Structural and Project Management Consultancy firm, has set up three merit-cum-means scholarships each Rs 1500 per month for ten months every year. He received B. Tech. and M. Tech. degrees from IIT Delhi. His 37 years of professional experience includes structural designs for commercial and residential buildings, hospitals, malls, industrial structures and public infrastructures. He has published many technical papers and his designs have won several prestigious awards.

First Major Gift to IIT Gandhinagar

Shri Raj Mashruwala, one of the Founder Directors of the IIT Gandhinagar Foundation in the US, has made a personal gift of US\$ 100,000 to the Institute to support and encourage excellence among the faculty and students. The Institute gratefully acknowledges the gift from Shri Mashruwala. It also acknowledges the support from IIT Bombay Heritage Fund and the IIT Bombay administration for channeling this gift to IITGN.

The Board of Governors Emphasizes Excellence

The Board of Governors, in its very first meeting emphasized excellence among the faculty and the students, and approved several proposals to encourage it. These include Faculty Chairs, Research Fellowships for Outstanding New/Young Faculty, Summer Research Fellowships for Faculty, Pioneer Leadership Programme, International Travel Support to Faculty and Students, Overseas Research Experience for Ph.D. Students and Young Faculty, and the Pioneer Ph.D. Scholars Programme. The Board has desired that the

Institute must immediately initiate fund-raising efforts since some of these programmes are to be supported through the philanthropic contributions and other incomes of the Institute.

Reaching Out

IITGN continuously reaches out to people who could help it in achieving its goal of excellence by helping in recruiting outstanding faculty and in raising funds. Following are the efforts during 2009-10:

Prof. Sudhir K. Jain visited San Francisco to attend two meetings related to Earthquake Safety in September 2009. He used this opportunity to meet potential benefactors and potential faculty for IITGN in San Francisco and Los Angeles. He held a number of one-to-one meetings with several influential persons and two larger meetings. One public meeting was organized by Shri Abhay Bhushan, a Director of IITGN Foundation on September 17, 2009 at TiE Conference Centre in Santa Clara. Shri Bipin Shah, another Director of IITGN Foundation, organized a meeting on September 19, 2009 at his residence in Atherton, CA, with some influential non-resident Indians.

Prof. Jain also visited Stanford University, California Institute of Technology, and University of California, Los Angeles to seek outstanding faculty candidates from the Indian graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. These meetings were facilitated by Gajanana Krishna and Chetan Kalyan (Stanford), Ravi Teja Sukhavasi (Caltech), and Sameer Behere (UCLA).

Prof. Sudhir K. Jain, Prof. S. L. Narayanamurthy and Prof. B. D. Agarwal participated in the Pan-IIT Alumni 2009 Global Conference at Chicago during October 9-11, 2009. IITGN was the only new IIT to have set up a booth for disseminating information about IITGN to the participants of this mega event. Prof. Jain and Prof. Narayanamurthy



visited the Northwestern University on October 12, 2009 to meet potential faculty candidates. Prof. Jain visited University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign on October 8, 2009 and the State University of New York (SUNY) at Buffalo on October 13, 2009 to encourage Indian students and postdoctoral researchers to consider IITGN for a faculty career. He also met with the President and Provost of SUNY Buffalo for possible collaborations.

Prof. Sudhir K. Jain was in Singapore to attend a meeting of the Board of Directors, World Seismic Safety Initiative (WSSI) during February 20-21, 2010. He took this opportunity to visit the National University of Singapore (NUS) and the Nanyang Technological University (NTU), and addressed Indian graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and the faculty to brief them on the vision of IITGN and to encourage them to consider an academic career with the Institute. Prof. Ashwin M. Khambadkone and Prof. Mohan Kankanhalli of NUS, and Prof. T-C Pan, Mr Sonny Lim and Ms Salmaih Subani of NTU facilitated these meetings.

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