

SPIHER – MSME Business Incubator
St. Peter’s University
Avadi, Chennai 600054.

Report on Academia – Industry Interaction Meet held on 21st July 2017

An Academia – Industry Interaction Meet was conducted on 21st July 2017 with the objective of interacting with industrial experts to identify areas for possible industry interaction in academic and research activities. The occasion was also used to highlight the technologies developed under the MSME incubatee scheme for commercialization. The programme was organised with two sessions – inaugural session and interaction session. Five guest speakers were invited for the interactive session.

Dr.D.S.Ramachandra Murthy, Director (R&D) and Head, SPIHER-MSME Business Incubator, welcomed the Chief Guest, dignitaries, Guest speakers, faculty and students. He briefly mentioned about the incubator facility approved by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and the ten projects completed successfully under this scheme. He thanked the Ministry of MSME for the grant of Rs.51.552 lakhs received for these projects. He requested everyone to see posters containing details of technologies developed. The Meet was inaugurated by Mr.D.Ravi, Vice President (and Incoming President of Ambattur Industrial Estate Manufacturers’ Association, AIEMA) and Managing Director, Classic Moulds and Dies. In his address, the Chief Guest stressed the importance of the interaction between industry and academic institutions which will be beneficial to both. Dr.Francis C.Peter, Vice chancellor, asked students and faculty to utilize this opportunity for practical knowledge from industrial experts, for internship and industry relevant projects. Dr.S.Gunasekaran, Dean (R&D), offered felicitations. Dr.K.Kanharaj, Dean (Biomedical Engineering) gave his experience as incubate/mentor for some of the projects completed by him.

The interactive session was chaired by Dr.L.Mahesh Kumar, Director (Academic). The following Speakers addressed the audience on the various possibilities of interaction.

1. Dr.S.Justin, Chief Engineering Manager, Commercial Buildings & Airports, Larsen & Toubro Ltd.
2. Mr.O.Arivazhagan, CEO, International Institute of Project Management
3. Mr.Mohammed Rafi K., Chief Analytics Officer, VASS Softwares and Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
4. Mr.P.T.Venkatesh, CEO, Director, VASS Softwares and Solutions Pvt. Ltd.
5. Mr. Karimulla, Senior Software Engineer, Verizon
6. Mr.K.Siva Rama Prasad, Assistant Director/Met, MSME Development Institute Chennai

A brief summary of the discussions are given below.

- IoT, data analysis, big data, mechatronics, project management and business analytics are some of the latest topics in which there will be lot of demand for engineers in the industry. Students can develop skills in these topics for better employment prospects. Faculty development programmes can also be conducted.
- AIEMA can facilitate industry visits, internship and projects for students as well as faculty.
- Funding for start-up schemes is available from several Government and private agencies (Reliance, GAIL etc.) for students and faculty to convert their ideas into viable commercial technologies. The Ministry of MSME offers several schemes for promoting new ideas and entrepreneurship.
- Students should have good communication and language (English) skills.
- Speakers expressed that they can help in improving the skills of students and faculty in latest topics.
- Joint certification courses can be organized for the benefit of students and faculty.



Inaugural function



Lighting of Kuthuvilakku - Dr. Francis C. Peters, Vice Chancellor



Audience



Presentation of memento to Vice chancellor



Release of brochure by Mr.D.Ravi, Chief Guest



Interaction session – address by Dr.Justin, L&T –ECC



Discussion with delegates



Interaction – Mr.O.Arivazhagan, IIPM



Mr.P.T.Venkatesh,
VASS Softwares and Solutions Pvt. Ltd.



Delegates