

***INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE
CONFERENCE 2009 – IMT (NAGPUR)***

Indian Institute of Management Technology (IMT), Nagpur held an international conference, ITBI (Information Technology and Business Intelligence) from 6th November to 8th November 2009 at their college campus. The inaugural function for the event, held on 6th November, started with Prof V Gopal , Dean Academics at IMT, Nagpur welcoming the chief guest Dr. Tapan Chakrabarti, Acting Director of NEERI (National Environmental Engineering Research Institute). Prof V Gopal gave the welcome speech followed by a thought provoking speech by Dr. Chakrabarti. He said the students should consider themselves lucky to be a part of such a renowned international event on something as important and relevant as IT & Business Intelligence which is an integral part of any business.

The 3 day conference is the 2nd International Conference held at IMT. It aimed at providing a common platform for academicians, researchers, practitioners, developers and users to disseminate knowledge, share expertise and experience. It also threw new light on various developments and ways to formulate a strategy for their implementation. There were around 140 technical papers on IT & BI presented at the conference, over the two days. The papers were presented on very interesting topics related to the main subject such as ‘Data mining techniques for Detection of Cardiac problems using various symptoms and to provide Medical prescription’, ‘Role of IT for building a more Inclusive Financial System in India’ and many more.

On the first day of the event, after the inauguration, Prof. Suash Deb from C.V.Raman College of Engineering, Orissa addressed the gathering and shared his insights on IT and its future.

Day two of the conference saw a panel discussion on the ‘different business models to be adopted for companies to come out of recession and return to growth’. The panellists in the discussion were Mr. Dilip Pithadia of Pithadia Foundation, Detroit USA; Mr. Ram Kumar of Insurance Australia Group and Mr. Ravindra Utgaikar of Suzlon group.

The panellists having worked in different countries were able to offer different perspectives on various countries and industries on 'combating the effects of the economic slowdown to get a better view of the current business scenario'. They went on to talk about how cost cutting has become the most common strategy to drive business growth and phase out recessionary trends. Mr. Pithadia pitched in by saying that cost cutting is a temporary way to survive; cost optimization is the way to go wherein optimum allocation of costs in the right areas is important. He then stressed on the importance of targeting Gen Next through social networking. His company in Australia had adopted the same strategy and let the public define business models.

The panellists' advice to the potential student managers was that they should stand on their own feet, be aware of what's happening around them and grow as the company grows. Finally they emphasized on importance of human resources by citing that Human Capital is the most precious capital.

There was a dinner hosted in Chokardhani Restaurant. The dinner was attended by a total of 150 people including 75 delegates who came from various countries to participate in the conference along with the faculty members and the student managers of IMT-Nagpur.

As the curtains came down on the event on Nov 8th, it concluded with the satisfaction of being a huge success and a promise for another scholarly event in the coming period.