



VIT TBI

Vellore Institute of Technology
Technology Business Incubator
VIT UNIVERSITY
Vellore - 632 014, Tamil Nadu, India

EVENT

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BUSINESS INCUBATION

VIT-TBI, an *infoDev* grantee organized an "International Conference on Business Incubation" with the support of *infoDev*, The World Bank Group and Department of Science and Technology, Govt.of India at VIT University in Vellore.



This conference with the theme "Creating a knowledge platform through partnerships and alliances among incubators" was held from 21st May 2007 to 23rd May 2007. The conference was inaugurated by **Dr.K.Ponmudi**, the Minister for Higher Education, State Government of Tamilnadu. **Mr.G.Viswanathan**, Chancellor, VIT University presided over the program. **Mr.Julian Webb**, *infoDev* Facilitator in the Asia Region and **Mr.H.K.Mittal**, Advisor & Member Secretary, NSTEDB- DST, Govt.of India delivered keynote addresses.

The program had international delegates from Australia, China, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and Indian Business Incubation professionals and other stakeholders in the Business Incubation process. Several important topics like Internationalisation of Business Incubation, Different Models of Incubation in Asia, Building Linkages with Support network for Incubation, Assessing the needs of the Incubator clients, Venture Finance: Myths and Realities were discussed. **Mr.Julian Webb** moderated a work shop session on "Creating a Knowledge Platform".



An exhibition on the sidelines of this conference showcased products of Incubatees at VIT-TBI, innovators and their innovative Products supported under TePP Programme and LRAMP. The other exhibitors were BHEL-Ranipet, Indian Bank, and Stratasys Inc.

The exhibition was co- sponsored by TePP Programme of DSIR and TIFAC, Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, LRAMP (Lemelson Recognition and Mentoring Program), Indian Bank and STRATASYS Inc.



The conference helped VIT-TBI to meet many of its objectives:

- Raising the awareness and reaching out to innovators at large
- Creating a close network among a select group of Asian Incubators
- Bringing in other stake holders like Incubator Professionals, Academics, Industrialists and Government officials to enhance their awareness.
- To build managerial capacity of young incubator professionals
- To strengthen the activities of Indian Science Parks and Business Incubators Association (ISBA)

INCUBATION

Seven projects from “**Accelerated Business Coaching Program**” held under **infoDev Project** of **The World Bank Group** were selected for incubation in February 2007 and the details are given below:

S.No	Name	Name of Business /Business Activity
1	Mr.R.Ganesh Ram	Mobile Veda- Mobile Value Added Services
2	Mr.K.Thanigai Arul	NilaSolar- Low Cost Solar Water Heater
3	Mr.Ajmal Hussain	MSi Biotech- Enzymes for Effluents Treatment
4	Mr.R.Srikanth	IFEFL- Software for Language Learning
5	Mr.S.Rajakumar	Acharya Green Peace Silk- Design and Development of Kutni Fabric
6	Dr.Sharmila Thomas	VR Bioremediation Services- Remediation of Polluted Lands
7	Mr.Harisharnam Rastogi & Team	Aarohan Consultancy Services- Career Guidance

INAUGURATION OF SRI SURABHI INDUSTRIES



Chancellor, VIT University, Mr.G.Viswanathan inaugurated the factory premises of **Sri Surabhi Industries** an incubatee company founded by Mr.Vezhavendhan, on 8th March, 2007. Dr.P.Radhakrishnan, Vice Chancellor, VIT University graced the occasion.

This facility to manufacture "Mill Board" employs about **30 persons** and has an investment to the tune of **Rs.3 Million**. It is located in Puthur village, which is about 15 kms from VIT University

INAUGURATION OF PARAM HEALTH FOODS

Mr. **Paramdeep Singh** inaugurated his factory premises of **Param Health Foods**, an incubated company at VIT-TBI.

This facility is to produce "Ready to Serve Beverages" which employs about **27 persons** and has an investment to the tune of **Rs.4 Million**. Param Health Foods is located at Industrial Area, **Mohali**, on a 500 sq. yard plot



SEED FUNDING

Five applications from the incubatees for seed fund support were considered during the Project Management Committee meeting on 31st March, 2007.

Incubatees



MSi Biotech
Ajmal Hussain
Rs 6.08 Lakhs



**Acharya Green
Peace Silks**
S.Rajakumar
Rs 2 Lakhs



Mobile Veda
R.Ganesh Ram
Rs 4.2 Lakhs



Nila Solar
Thanigai Arul
Rs 3.8 Lakhs



**VR Bioremediation
Services**
Sharmila Thomas
Rs 2.52 Lakhs

LRAMP STUDENT PROJECT SUPPORT

VIT-TBI in its efforts to encourage the students of VIT University to innovate solutions on social problems has invited applications from final year students of VIT University. **Ten Innovative final year (UG /PG) projects** were selected for a **funding support of Rs.25, 000/-**. The highlights, so far are

- **Mr.Abhishek Ranjan** B.Tech **Mechanical Engineering** designed and developed a Low Cost Power Chair for Mobility Challenged People for a sum of Rs 25,000/-.
- **Mr.Gideon.V.Praveenkumar** M.Tech **Biomedical Engineering** designed and developed a percutaneous aortic valve stent; the product is under trial tests for approval from renowned cardiac surgeons.

Ms. Jill Tucker, Sr. Program Officer, The Lemelson Foundation and Mr. Anand Krishnaswamy, Program Officer, The Lemelson Foundation, Chennai office visited TBI on 17th February, 2007. Ms. Jill Tucker also interacted with student innovators.

Mr. A. Balachandran, Manager-TBI attended annual conference of National Collegiate of Inventors and Innovators Alliance (NCIIA) between 22nd March and 24th March, 2007 held in Tampa, Florida, USA. He also visited Lemelson-MIT Centre at MIT in Boston on 26th March, 2007.

Mr. Mahesh Kumar, Assistant Manager attended India Innovation Summit 2007 on 15-16th June, 2007 an event organised at Nimhans Convention Centre, Bangalore by DSIR, Govt of India, New Delhi, India. The event is targeted at fostering innovative ecosystem in India.

Varsities told to promote agro-based research

Express News Service

Vellore, May 21: Universities in the State should promote agro-based research and innovative ideas among students, said Minister for Higher Education K. Ponmudy.

He was addressing a gathering at the inaugural function of a three-day International Conference on Business Incubation on Business Incubation, organised by the Technology Business Incubator, attached to the Vellore Institute of Technology (VIT) in association with the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India and the IndoDev group of the World Bank.

"With India being an agriculture-based country, innovators should focus on agro-based industries. This will help in attaining self-development in all fronts," he added. He also urged VITU to encourage and provide a platform to innovators to come up with new ideas in agriculture-related activities. He called upon universities in the State to mould students into job-generators.

Engineering students should have hands-on experience like their medical counterparts as it would help them in many ways. "Students should have a pragmatic approach towards their respective fields," he added.

G. Viswanathan, Chancellor of VITU, said, "The Technology Business Incubator (TBI) was established with the support of the Department of Science and Technology of the Government of India in 2003. Infrastructure and facility creation was completed in a record time of 18 months."

So far, five 'companies' had 'graduated' from TBI. This included two students of VITU, who had received guidance and support from the TBI while studying, he noted. "Till date, eight new projects have been induct-

ed for incubation support. Seeds fund to the tune of Rs 1 million for four projects were sanctioned and another two applications for funding to the tune of Rs 1 million are under consideration," he said.

He observed that innovation and entrepreneurship had become the prime movers of the knowledge economy and incubator would serve as a powerful tool to bridge the gap between innovation and entrepreneurship.

Julian Webb, Managing Director, Creeda Projects, and consultant to IndoDev, Australia, and H. K. Mittal, Advisor and Head of DST, Govt. spoke on the occasion.

As many as 21 delegates from Australia, China, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam and around 80 delegates from Business Incubators, entrepreneur parks, academic institutions and government departments took part in the function.



VITU Chancellor G Viswanathan receiving a CD from Minister for Higher Education K Ponmudy at the inauguration of the three-day international conference on 'Business Incubation' in Vellore on Monday - Express

newsplus

CHENNAI 8
THURSDAY 22 MAY 2007

FOCUS | Kumar Chellappan

Chennai 'incubates' ideas, individuals

Chennai: While cynics were scoffing when an Italian Institute of Management (IIM) graduate declared the offer of a pay packet of Rs 1 crore, there was one person who kept smiling through it all. H.K. Mittal, head of the National Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board, envisaged this as further proof of student aptitude for entrepreneurship. "There is a viable correlation towards entrepreneurship and the Technology Business Incubator (TBI) that supports," said Mittal.

"The process of economic liberalisation initiated in 1991 cannot pass off by 1995. The industry was flourishing of knowledge-based and innovation-driven enterprises, Mittal told this newspaper. It was this scenario which made the Department of Science and Technology launch Technology Business Incubators (TBI). The project, which began its operations in 2003, proposed to nurture knowledge-driven start-ups into successful enterprises. It has started paying rich dividends in the form of more work for the talent and entrepreneurs.



Vendhan (right) at his roll board factory near Vellore. His father Rasesekhar (left) can also be seen. A DICC/CIA/Conducta photograph

"We nurture technology ideas as well as incubated. While technology is processed and introduced to the market, the industrial development, the managerial and entrepreneurial capabilities," said Mittal. The incubator graduates get a full-time experience by the end of the second year. Incubation is derived from a French word which means a chamber or camp to bring persons. I was in an incubator for some months. Entrepreneurship needs to be nurtured. Entrepreneurship needs to be nurtured. Entrepreneurship needs to be nurtured.

an incubator for developing dreams and making it come true," said Gopal Srinivasan, a leading entrepreneur.

Mittal said that in knowledge-driven economies the tech constraints were more relaxed than normal ones. They need special protection and that is what the incubator performs. Mittal pointed out.

There are 45 TBI functioning from various incubators of excellence in the country. "There will be all student entrepreneurs," he said.

ten incubators working in various projects at the VIT. "The incubator is capable of generating 100 jobs per year. The incubator will generate 60 jobs and this is the story from VIT. We know that in TBI, the funding of over 1000 Nabs, our engineering graduates alone will generate 600 jobs per year," said Balachandran.

Rakeshkar Venkateshan, a 28-year-old M. Tech from VIT who belongs to the Kanchipuram village has completed 15 villages in his small industrial unit which manufactures roll board. "We are doing well in Vellore and looking for his small unit would have to employ more workers."

After graduating from VIT, he spent nearly two years at the TBI where he developed the idea to manufacture roll board, a heavy material which finds application in packaging and a variety of other industries. "The concept of TBI is not to catch up in India to a big way. We want to mould our students as future entrepreneurs," said G. Viswanathan, Chancellor, VIT Vellore.

Mittal said that TBI are all over the world, in the model incubator in the West. "We have 1000 VITUs in the US and knowledge incubators in the US, as our model. We adapt them to Indian conditions. Why I see right now is that many interesting innovations have been developed through the TBI. They also create wealth and employment. By the end of the 10th plan we have to have 200 TBI all over India," said Mittal. He pointed out that the Union Finance Minister in the 2007-08 Budget, has announced some financial aid for incubators in the TBI.

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