



OPJU’S FIRST INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA CONCLAVE (IAC-2018) CONCLUDES ON A POSITIVE NOTE

Leading CEOs, CXOs, Academic leaders and OPJU faculty discuss how Industry-Academia collaboration can Steer Talent & Shape the Workforce

OP Jindal University, Raigarh organized a two-day *Industry-Academia Conclave (IAC-2018)* on “*Realigning Education towards Industry Needs*” at the University Campus during April 12-13, 2018 in association with Jindal Steel and Power Limited, Raigarh. The objective of the Conclave was bridging the gap between the industry needs and the academic community; and provide a common platform for the exchange of ideas and setup a system to increase collaboration between the two. A large number of top echelons of industry, academicians, scholars, engineering and management students from different parts of the country took part in the conclave. About 40 key speakers from different industries and academia delivered their talks on “Realigning Education towards Industry Needs” and interacted in panel discussions with the faculty and students.

During inaugural function on 12th April, Dr Prabhu Aggarwal, Vice Chancellor of the University and Chairman of the Conclave welcomed the key speakers, guests and participants and said, “The Conclave’s objective is not only to bridge the gap between the industry needs and the academic community but also to ensure that the academia keeps updating itself with the changing industrial paradigms. Considering the versatile requirements of the Industry, the Conclave focuses on helping the academia stay abreast with the latest industrial developments, and learn about avenues where there is scope for collaboration.” He encouraged the students to cultivate a more pragmatic outlook regarding the Industries and their expectations. Mr D. K. Saraogi, Executive Director, JSPL, Raigarh mentioned, “Intention of the Conclave to bring closer industry associations, Corporate world, academic institutions, society and most important stake holders- the students, is a great initiative in realigning the education towards industry needs.” He talked about the efforts made by Mr Naveen Jindal, Chairman, JSPL towards providing world class higher education to youth; and showed his optimism in the success of the Conclave in exploring issues relating to reforms and employability of students, upgrading the course structure, to bring excellence in meeting requirements of industry and society.

Mr Kishore Tar, Chief (Steel & Mills), Tata Steel Limited, Jamshedpur and Mr Sandeep Verma, Managing Director, MAAN Aluminium Private Limited, Indore welcomed the initiative of OP Jindal University and stressed on the importance of such Conclaves and collaborations between Industry and Academia. Mr V Kamath, Managing Director, Fronius India Pvt Ltd, Pune spoke about the vital role of Industry-Academia Interaction and stated that it provides an opportunity for the Industry to present areas where they

would seek research assistance from the Academia. The industry could also benefit from the knowledge of the on-going R&D projects, and could then actively participate in those that might interest them. Mr M. P. Singh, Executive Director and CEO, JaiswalNeco, Raipur shared his views on Industry-Academia collaborations and said that the exchange of perspectives between the industry personnel and the academia can provide an impetus for various research and development opportunities; it could later lead to efficient and holistic industrial processes. Dr I Chatteraj, Director, CSIR-NML, Jamshedpur addressed the gathering and shared academia expectations from collaborating with industry and the challenges and opportunities associated with it.

During plenary session, Mr Vaibhav Satpute, Managing Director, Tuls& Corps, Mumbai, Sanjay Aggarwal, CFO, Tata Communications Payment Solutions Ltd, Mumbai, Mr R K Singh, CEO, Abhijit Group, Ranchi, Dr V H RadhaKrishnan, Professor, NITTTR Bhopal and BOG member, OPJU, Raigarh, Mrs Renu Rajani, Vice President and Delivery Head, Infosys, Bangalore, Mr Ashish Swarup Aggarwal, CEO, Skeiron Renewable, Pune and Mr Rajeev Kumar, Managing Director, Simplex Group, Bhilai delivered their talks on various issues related to the Industry-Academia collaborations and how to produce industry-ready workforce. They underlined that industry wants graduates who have strong fundamentals, who can learn whatever is needed, and who have good communication and inter-personal skills. They also mentioned that Industry itself imparts specific skills during induction training and project-specific training.

A brain storming session on the theme of Conclave, ***Realigning Education towards Industry Needs***, was organised in which Dr Prabhu Aggarwal, Vice Chancellor, OPJU, showcased the strengths of OP Jindal University and set the tone for the discussion to partner the industry, to understand the problems being faced by Industry, Academia and Society at large and bring out their possible solutions. Dr Siddharth Pandey, Group HR, Balasore Alloys commented, “The gap between ‘knowing’ and ‘doing’ is becoming wider as University graduates are becoming unemployable. Innovation is the key to the future and the Universities should prepare the students to become the leaders of tomorrow.” Dr V.H. Radhakrishnan said, “The faculty members should be given opportunity for greater exposure, encouraged to engage in research and publication and interact more with industry and other sectors of the economy.” Dr I. Chatteraj said that there is a need for the University to align education and research to meet the emerging needs of industry and priorities of the nation. At the session, participants opined, ‘Universities, while designing their curriculum and program, should take care to bridge the gap between the student’s ability to learn and deliver on the ground while the academia should delve into problems faced by the industry and provide solutions through research.

At the end of the day, a Memorandum of Understanding between OP Jindal University (OPJU), Raigarh (Chhattisgarh) and Fronius India Pvt. Ltd.. (FIPL), Pune was inked for setting up of "Welding Centre of Excellence" in the campus of OPJU. The purpose of the MOU is to develop and create a ‘Centre of Competence’ for training & research named

‘Advanced Centre of Excellence in Welding, which will help in catering to the growing demand from Engineering and Manufacturing Industries in India.

A large number of delegates from various industries and academic institutions were part of the two-day conclave, and more than 500 people participated in the conclave. The other attractions of the conclave were the parallel sessions and discussion on important key issues of Industry-Academia Needs and Collaboration. After discussions on various topics, it was concluded that the students should be made industry ready by emphasizing more on a practical part, encouraging them to visit industries and providing them minimum a semester internship. They shall also be encouraged to become entrepreneurs.

Over 40 representatives from the industry and academia took part in the deliberations and some of them were- Dr Prabhu Aggarwal, Vice Chancellor, OPJU Raigarh, Dr I Chattoraj, Director, CSIR-NML, Jamshedpur, Dr P. P. Chattopadhyay, Director, NIFFT Ranchi, Dr Pabitra Das, Chairman-Skill India Limited and President-IIW Kolkata, from academia and Mr D. K. Sarogi, Executive Director, JSPL Raigarh, Mr. R. K. Singh, CEO, Abijit Group, Ranchi, Sandeep Verma, Managing Director, MaanAlumunium Indore, Mr Vaibhav Satpute, MD & CEO, Tuls and Corp, Mumbai, Mr Ashish Swarup Agrawal, CEO, Skeiron Renewable Energy Pvt Ltd, Pune, Mr Kishore Tar, Chief (Steel & Mills) Tata Steel Limited, Jamshedpur, Mr V Kamath, Managing Director, Fronius India Pvt Limited, Pune, Mr Pradeep Dhar, Managing Director, Vitasta Consulting, Mumbai, Mr Rajeev Kumar, Director & CEO, Simplex Group, Bhilai, Mr Vivek Agrawal, COO, Godawari Power & Ispat, Raipur, Mr M. P. Singh, Executive Director, JaiswalNeco, Mr N Mohapatra, Director-P, SAIL, New Delhi, Dr Vinod Nowal, Dy Managing Director, JSW Steel Limited, Mumbai, Mr Ratan Shah, Head-HR, Jindal Stainless Limited, Orissa, Mr Vivekananda Mishra, Head-HR, Hindalco Industries, Jharsuguda, Dr Tarapada Das, Head-HR, Tata Refractories, Belpahar, Mr Sanjay Agarwal, CFO, Tata Communications, Mumbai, Dr Siddharth Pandey, Group Head-HR, Alloys Limited, Ballasore, Major P. Das, Head-HR, JSW Coated Steel Products, Mumbai, and etc. Dr R.D. Patidar, Convener-IAC and Registrar, OPJU proposed vote of thanks to all the management, speakers, delegates, participants, sponsors and all the faculty members and student co-ordinators for their co-operation in making the Conclave a grand success.