



## **Director's Report**

**Eleventh Convocation**

**Friday, 29 May 2009**

**Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati**



Distinguished Chief Guest of the Convocation and member of the Planning Commission, Govt. of India, Dr. Kirit S. Parikh; Chairman, Board of Governors, Dr. M.K. Bhan; members of the Board of Governors; members of the Senate; invited guests; graduating students; faculty and staff of the Institute; parents and guardians; ladies and gentlemen – I, on behalf of the Institute, welcome all of you to the Eleventh Convocation of Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati.

I take this opportunity to thank Dr. Kirit S. Parikh for accepting our invitation to be the Chief Guest of this Convocation and for kindly agreeing to deliver the Convocation Address.

Today, BTech, BDes, MTech, MDes, MSc and PhD degrees are going to be awarded to 533 students. I would like to mention here that the MDes degree is being awarded to the 1<sup>st</sup> batch of MDes students today. I extend my heartiest congratulations to all the degree recipients.

Now I am going to present a report on the activities and achievements of the Institute during the year 2008-2009.

## **THE BOARD**

Prof. Alika Khare, Department of Physics, IIT Guwahati, Mr. H.M. Cairae, Principal Secretary, Public Enterprises and Higher Education Departments, Govt. of Assam, have joined as new members of the Board of Governors. I would like to thank the outgoing members, Mr. Alok Kumar, Commissioner & Secretary, Department of Secondary & Higher Education, Govt. of Assam, and Prof. P.K. Bora, Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, IIT Guwahati, for their contributions to the development and administration of the Institute as members of the Board.

## **ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES**

The Institute has 11 academic departments, 3 inter-disciplinary academic centres and 4 service centres. No additions were made this year. These are:

### *The Departments are*

Biotechnology (BT), Chemical Engineering (CL), Chemistry (CH), Civil Engineering (CE), Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), Design (DE), Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE), Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS), Mathematics (MA), Mechanical Engineering (ME), and Physics (PH)

### *The Academic Centres are*

Centre for Energy, Centre for the Environment, Centre for Nanotechnology

### *The Service Centres are*

Computer and Communication Centre, Central Instruments Facility, Centre for Educational Technology, Centre for Mass Media Communication

The Institute offers academic programmes covering a wide range of science, engineering, and humanities disciplines. Two new programmes have been started from this academic session – BTech in Electronics and Electrical Engineering and MTech in Biotechnology. We are starting a new programme - MA in Development Studies in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences from the coming academic session.

The number of students on the rolls in the academic year 2008-2009 at the undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD levels was 2357. About 36% are post-graduate students. The detailed break up is given below:

**BTech/BDes: 1362**

4<sup>th</sup> Year (2005 Batch): 249 (BT-23, CE-27, CL-25, CSE-53, CST-6, DD-15, ECE-52, ME-48)

3<sup>rd</sup> Year (2006 Batch): 345 (BT-30, CE-45, CL-36, CSE-57, CST-8, DD-22, ECE-53, EPH-15, MA&C-22, ME-57)

2<sup>nd</sup> Year (2007 Batch): 353 (BT-29, CE-40, CL-35, CSE-53, CST-19, DD-19, ECE-53, EPH-21, MA&C-28, ME-56)

1<sup>st</sup> Year (2008 Batch): 390 (BT-29, CE-48, CL-39, CSE-53, CST-22, DD-24, ECE-47, EEE-30, EPH-22, MA&C-23, ME-53)

From Earlier Batches: 25

**Two Year MSc: 146**

2<sup>nd</sup> Year (2007 Batch): 66 (CH-20, MA&C-25, PH-21)

1<sup>st</sup> Year (2008 Batch): 76 (CH-28, MA&C-27, PH-21)

From Earlier Batches: 4

**MTech: 413**

2<sup>nd</sup> Year (2007 Batch): 189 (CE-44, CL-24, CSE-39, ECE-40, ME-42)

1<sup>st</sup> Year (2008 Batch): 214 (BT-12, CE-50, CL-31, CSE-36, ECE-39, ME-46)

From Earlier Batches: 10

**MDes: 29**

2<sup>nd</sup> Year (2007 Batch): 14

1<sup>st</sup> Year (2008 Batch): 15

**PhD: 407**

(BT-46, CE-33, CH-69, CL-23, CSE-28, DD-6, ECE-45, ENERGY-13, ENVIRONMENT-15, HSS-31, MA-23, ME-35, NANO-6, PH-34)

The numbers of successful candidates who are to receive their BTech, BDes, MSc, MTech and PhD degrees today are as follows:

**BTech/BDes**

Biotechnology: 23

Chemical Engineering: 22

Civil Engineering: 28

Computer Science and Engineering: 52

Design: 15  
Electronics and Communication Engineering: 49  
Mechanical Engineering: 49  
Total: **238**

#### **MSc**

Chemistry: 20  
Mathematics and Computing: 17  
Physics: 22  
Total: **59**

#### **MTech/MDes**

Chemical Engineering: 22  
Civil Engineering: 41  
Computer Science and Engineering: 40  
Design: 13  
Electronics and Communication Engineering: 40  
Mechanical Engineering: 43  
Total: **199**

#### **PhD**

Biotechnology: 4  
Chemistry: 5  
Chemical Engineering: 4  
Civil Engineering: 1  
Computer Science and Engineering: 3  
Design: 2  
Electronics and Communication Engineering: 2  
Humanities and Social Sciences: 5  
Mechanical Engineering: 6  
Mathematics: 2  
Physics: 3  
Total: **37**

**Grand Total: 533**

#### **ACADEMIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT**

The Computer and Communication Centre is the central computing resource pool for the Institute. To meet the ever growing demand for Internet access, the total Internet Bandwidth of the Institute was enhanced to 58 million bits per second (Mbps) from 46 Mbps. The Central Library has purchased books worth about Rs. 1.5 crores. In addition to the existing subscriptions of about 177 printed and online journals, two more online packages were added, namely ACS Web-Edition for Chemical Sciences, and JSTOR for Humanities and Social Sciences. A number of new equipment has been added to the laboratories of all the Departments and Centres. Some of the major equipment and facilities acquired by the Institute during the last year are:

- A Magnetic Property Measurement System at a cost of Rs. 2 crores.
- A Laser Micro Raman System at a cost of Rs. 1.3 crores.
- A Vibrating Sample Magnetometer at a cost Rs. 1.2 Crores
- An Atomic Force Microscope at a cost of Rs. 80 lakhs.
- A Fluorescence Activated Cell Sorter at a cost of Rs. 66 lakhs
- Gas Chromatograph Mass Spectrometer at a cost of Rs. 40 lakhs
- A Magnetic Suspension Balance at a cost of Rs. 29 lakhs
- A Multimode Micro Plate Reader at a cost of Rs. 25 lakhs

## RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

A special thrust to increase the quantum and level of R&D has been given this year. The number of PhD students in the institute and number graduating is one measure of the success and growth of R&D. There has been an increase in the number of PhD students from 366 to 407 and in the number graduating from 27 to 38. The ratio of the number of students to faculty is close to 2 now, and the aim is to increase it to 3 over the next few years.

The institute introduced a start-up grant scheme this year for newly joined faculty. Under this, every joining faculty is supported with a grant of up to Rs. 5 lakhs against a specific project which the faculty has to propose and submit. Currently, 22 faculty members are being supported by this scheme.

In 2008-2009, the Institute obtained sponsored research and consultancy projects worth Rs. 27.75 crores as compared to Rs. 15.40 crores last year. Over 208 ongoing and new projects were in progress during this year, out of which 11 projects have been completed. The R&D projects were mainly sponsored by government Departments and Ministries with major support coming from Departments of Science and Technology (DST), Biotechnology (DBT), Atomic Energy (DAE), Environment (MoE), Information Technology (DIT), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Defence Research Labs (DRL) and BRNS.

A comparison between last year and this year is shown in tabular form in the written version of this report.

Particulars	2007-08	2008-09
Total Number of Sponsored Projects received	55	65
Total Number of Consultancy Projects received	214	200
Total value of the above sanctioned Sponsored Projects	Rs. 12.40 crore	Rs. 25.75 crore
Total value of the above sanctioned Consultancy	Rs. 3.00 crore	Rs. 2.00 crore
Total amount received for all Projects (new and continuing)	Rs. 10.93 crore	Rs. 18.96 crore
Total amount received for all Consultancy (new and continuing)	Rs. 1.78 crore	Rs. 2.60 crore

The Department of Biotechnology has received funding from DBT for Fundamental Molecular Investigations in Biotechnology. The funding is Rs. 11.34 crores, spread over the next five years. The institute is providing space and infrastructure. There is a great responsibility on the department to use this opportunity to take their research activities to a new level. Another significant project is on research into Ultra Wide Band transmission, funded by Department of Information Technology. Some of the research projects received during the year are:

<b>Project Title</b>	<b>Funding Agency</b>	<b>Discipline</b>	<b>Amount Sanctioned (In Rs. lakhs)</b>
Fundamental Molecular Investigations in Biotechnology	DBT	Biotechnology	1133.68
DNAB (DNA Barcoding) based Biodiversity Inventory in Zingiberaceae (ginger) of Northeast India	DIT	Biotechnology	71.16
Development and Evaluation of Transgenic Mungbean over expressing AtNHX1 and AVP1 salt tolerance	DBT	Biotechnology	78.75
Design Bank (GIS based Digital Information System) of Traditional Handicrafts of the Northeast for their Conservation and Sustainability Focusing on Green Design	MoT	Civil Engineering	56.35
Water Energy and Sediment Budgeting (WESB) of Subtropical Humid Hilly Watersheds with Altitudinal Variation	ISRO	Civil Engineering	77.93
Chiral Main Chain Polymer Catalysts for Asymmetric Catalysts	DST	Chemistry	38.76
Research in UWB (Ultra Wide Band) Radio Technology and its Application	DIT	Electronics and Communication Engineering	228.00
Studies of Ion Dynamics in Laser produced Plasma and its effect on PLD thin films using Conventional and Novel Diagnostic	DST	Physics	39.37
Design Development and Commercialisation of Pilot Scale Circulating Fluidized Bed	MNRE	Centre for Energy	53.03

### **Projects for the North East**

A number of initiatives have been taken for expanding research in the North East. Many of them are due to the lead taken by our Chairman Dr. Bhan. As the Secretary of DBT, he has coaxed, cajoled and prodded our faculty to take up a number of schemes for the North East.

First of all, it was reported last year that talks were on with the Guwahati Biotech Park (GBP) for providing space to them to set up an incubation centre. This has progressed and the institute has signed an MOU with GBP under which 1500 sqm of space has been leased out to them to establish their incubation centre. DBT has also sanctioned a sum of Rs. 24 crores to GBP for the purpose. Funds are to be disbursed through IIT Guwahati and the institute has also committed to provide technical and other support.

Secondly, IIT Guwahati is assisting DBT to disburse funds for projects in institutions in the North-East. The institute will also assist in monitoring the progress of these projects and in ensuring timely utilisation of funds.

Finally, DBT has floated a scheme to provide financial support to researchers in the North East to present papers in international conferences and to also organise such conferences in their institutions. IIT Guwahati is the nodal agency for this scheme.

Last year, a plan for setting up an Incubation centre in the institute was reported. This has moved forward. A Society has been registered for the purpose. The process of hiring manpower to manage the centre has been initiated. About 1600 sqm of area in the Technology Complex has been earmarked. The Department of Information Technology has awarded a scheme under which entrepreneurs will get loans under easy terms. It is hoped that in the coming year a few entrepreneurs will occupy the centre.

The Learning Centre of Tata Consultancy Services started operations and it was inaugurated by the Prime Minister. The centre is functioning well. It is hoped that once the current downturn is over, TCS will find the atmosphere conducive to invest in a development centre in Guwahati and thereby fulfill our goal.

In addition to the sponsored Research Projects, IIT Guwahati undertakes consultancy assignments to solve real problems, thus helping faculty members to enrich their professional experience and to augment their income. Businesses and Society are able to utilise the knowledge base of the Institute. The Institute considers consultancy projects an important tool to achieve one of its objectives, namely contributing to the industrial, economic and social growth of the country, as well as the North East of India. Some of the major clients are from State Government Departments, particularly the Government of Assam, N.F. Railways, National Highways Authority of India, Oil and Gas Sector, Construction and Infrastructure Companies, Power Sector, Education Institutes, Health and Pharmaceutical Industries and Financial Institutions.

A total of 200 consultancy projects (including the testing and recommendation jobs) were carried out in the year. The total value of the consultancy projects undertaken during the year is approximately Rs. 2.50 crores.



## **FACULTY AND STAFF**

The faculty strength at the end of March 2009 was 220. This is an increase of 23 from 197 at the end of last year. The current student to faculty ratio is a healthy 11.6. The non-faculty staff strength was 295 with an increase of 12 from 283 last year.

The salary of staff has seen a major increase with the implementation of the 6<sup>th</sup> pay commission awards. Increases in salary imply a greater sense of responsibility towards the institute and its workings. Faculty are eagerly waiting for their salary increases.

There are issues relating to career progression avenues for staff, particularly the officers of the institute. The IIT Directors are working together to put in place adequate processes that will have the Govt's approval. With a new pay commission regime, and with a new government, the time, it seems is right for a change and we are very hopeful of success.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

The faculty of the Institute has been actively publishing research papers in international and national journals as well as in conference proceedings. The publications during the past one year include:

**Journal Papers: 395**

**Conference Papers: 371**

The average per capita faculty output, as compared to last year, has increased from 1.64 to 1.80 for journal papers, and from 1.39 to 1.69 for conference papers. Thus there is a steady upward trend.

## **CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS/SYMPOSIA/COURSES**

Various conferences, seminars, workshops, and courses were organised by the Departments and Centres of the Institute during the year. A few of them are:

- National Conference on Communication (NCC 2009), 16-19 January
- International Workshop cum Symposium on Visual Content Coding Techniques in Usability Research, 9-17 February 2008
- Winter School in Philosophy, 30 December 2008 – 10 January 2009
- Problems in Border Areas in Northeast: Implications for Thirteenth Finance Commission, 13 September 2008
- Ceramics and Lithics in Technology in Archaeology, 10-14 November 2008
- Advanced Training School in Mathematics (Arithmetic Geometry), 22-30 September 2008
- Mathematics Training and Talent Search Programme 2008 (MTTS 2008), 26 May – 21 June 2008
- Aerospace Propulsion for Beginners, 8-12 December 2008

- Theory and Practice of Rotor Dynamics by FEM and Signal Processing, 15-19 December 2008
- SERC School on Computational Statistical Physics, 1-21 December 2008
- XXIV SERC THEP Main School, 2-21 March 2009

A number of short-term courses were organised. These are:

- Surfactants and Interfacial Phenomena in Process Technology, Department of Chemical Engineering
- Molecular Simulations in Chemical Engineering, Department of Chemical Engineering
- Recent Advances in Fluorescence and other Spectroscopic Techniques, Department of Chemistry
- Computer aided Traffic Engineering Analysis and Design, Department of Civil Engineering
- Product Innovation, Department of Design
- Advanced Wireless Communication, Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering
- Nanomaterials for Nanoengineering, Department of Physics
- Nonlinear Phenomena in Physics and Engineering, Department of Physics
- Hydrogen Fuel and its Applications, Centre for Energy

## **FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS**

Dr. A. Goyal, Department of Biotechnology has been elected as FABAP (Fellow, Association of Biotechnology and Pharmacy) and FBRs (Fellow, Biotech Research Society) of India for distinguished and dedicated service to the Profession of Biotechnology and Pharmacy. Dr. K. Pakshirajan from the same department has been awarded the Young Scientist Award for the Year 2008 in the area of biological sciences by the National Academy of Sciences, India. Dr. V.K. Dubey, Department of Biotechnology has received 'B.S. Narasinga Rao Best Poster presentation Award' during seventy-seventh Annual Meeting of Society of Biological Chemists, India.

Dr. S.K. Majumder, Department of Chemical Engineering received the 'IIME Best Paper Award on Beneficiation' for the year 2008 from Indian Institute of Mineral Engineers (IIME).

Dr. P.K. Ghosh, Department of Civil Engineering has been selected for BOYSCAST 2008-09 fellowship.

The painting '*A Butterfly was passing by*' submitted by Dr. U. Barua, Department of Design was selected by the Olympics committee, Beijing, for display in an exhibition of works of art from across the globe. The tricycle rickshaw *Dipbahan* designed by Prof. A.K. Das, Department of Design has won for IIT Guwahati the National Award instituted by the Ministry of Labour, Govt. of India during the conference on Urban Mobility India 2008.

Prof. B.K. Patel, Department of Chemistry was awarded the JSPS Invitation Fellowship (Post of Visiting Professor) by University of Kyoto, Japan. Dr. B. Mandal and Dr. P.K. Iyer, Department of Chemistry have won the DAE-Young Scientist Research Award 2008-2009 by Basic science committee, BRNS, Govt. of India., and the INSA Young Scientist Award 2008-2009 by Indian National Science Academy, Govt. of India respectively.

Dr. A. Mitra and Dr. A.K. Mishra from the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering have won the URSI Young Scientist Award (Chicago, USA) 2008 and the IETE Young Scientist Award, 2008 respectively.

Our congratulations to all of them.

## **CONSTRUCTION AND CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT**

The construction activity in the campus is continuing to cater to the increase in the number of students. There are now seven boys' hostels with a total capacity of 2700. The eighth hostel with a capacity of 500 is under construction, and tender processing for the ninth hostel with a capacity of 1000 is currently going on. Expansion of the Girls' hostel from the present 172 rooms to 420 rooms is going on and about 100 more rooms will be ready by July. Residences are also under construction. Of the 35 F type Professor's quarters under construction, 15 will be ready for occupation next month. 35 C type quarters are also under construction with 14 to be ready next month. 28 B type quarters, 18 D type quarters, and 24 E type quarters are in various stages of construction. When all these are completed, the institute will have 514 residential units, space for 4200 boy students and 420 girl students.

The construction of Central Workshop, a Pre-Fabricated Steel Building of 5430 sqm. area, commenced in May 2007 and 80% work has been completed. The work is expected to be completed by August 2009.

Considering the numbers of conferences to be held each year in the Institute at National/International levels simultaneously, the Institute started the construction of a Conference Centre adjacent to the Auditorium with a provision of 4 halls (2 halls of 150 capacity and 2 halls of 200 capacity) and a food court, in July 2008. It is expected to be completed by March 2010.

The Institute has already started some new courses in BTech level in Chemical Science and Technology in the Department of Chemistry, Engineering Physics in the Department of Physics and Electronics and Electrical Engineering in the Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering. In order to meet the additional space required for these expanding activities and for the increase on student strength, the Institute has commenced the expansion of the academic complex. This is being done in phases. Work for expansion of the departments of Physics, Chemistry and Electronics and Communication Engineering has started. Expansion of the departments of Chemical engineering, Design and the

construction of a separate building for the Central Instruments Facility are in an advanced state of processing.

Activities related to the beautification and “greening” of the campus has picked up this year as should be evident to visitors and residents. A small lake is being created near the library to help in drainage and to improve the ambience of the area.

## **STUDENTS' ACTIVITIES**

### **Alcheringa 2009**

*Alcheringa* – the annual cultural event of the Institute was organised from 29 January - 1 February 2009. It was a grand success this year with many leading artists from the country performing with their bands. Students from various Institutes from all over the country participated in this mega cultural event. Alcheringa provides us an opportunity to catch up with the activities and career engagements of our alumni who visit the campus during the event. It has been fruitful for the students of IIT Guwahati also as the event provides them an opportunity to gain experience of event management.

### **Techniche 2008**

*Techniche* – the IIT Guwahati annual national level technical festival which celebrated a decade of existence was organised during 5 - 7 September 2008 and met with resounding success. There were participants from a number of colleges from all over India and various schools of Guwahati. Apart from the regular programmes, some additional programmes like blood donation camp, video conferencing by Prof. John Mather, Nobel Laureate, Senior Astrophysicist, NASA, Exhibition by the Indian Army, Laser exhibition, Vintage Car Exhibition, Bamboo Show, Fire works Exhibition, etc. were organised this year to mark the decade edition. Techniche is now undoubtedly one of the most popular rendezvous for exchange of technical know-how among the student community.

Following are the other regular events organised by the students during the year:

Manthan	–	the intra-IIT cultural festival
Spirit	–	the inter-college invitation sports competition
Spardha	–	the annual sports meet
Zest	–	the annual athletics meet

Along with these, there have been regular events and competitions organised by the various existing clubs and societies under the Cultural Council like the Movie Club, the Fine Arts Club, the Literary Club, the Photography Club, etc.

## **1<sup>st</sup> IIT Guwahati Entrepreneurial Summit (IES)**

The Entrepreneurial Development Cell (EDC) of IIT Guwahati successfully organised the 1<sup>st</sup> IIT Guwahati Entrepreneurial Summit (IES) during 14 - 15 March 2009 in the campus. The event had participation of leading entrepreneurial luminaries from across the country. The panel discussions, the talks and interactive sessions were very informative and encouraging for the students.

## **Activities under National Service Scheme**

Working under the Welfare Board, IIT Guwahati and National Service Scheme, IIT Guwahati, the student volunteers from IIT Guwahati have tried to make a certain difference in the lives of the people in and outside the campus walls. This project has been started from July 2008. This project includes the *Zero Illiteracy Zone (ZIZ) campaign* – where over 150 school going children in the age group of 5 - 15 years from nearby villages were taught Mathematics, English and General Science four days a week. Classes were also conducted for the security guards of the Institute and the mess workers in the hostels to teach them English and improve general awareness under this campaign; *distribution of used clothes* – collecting old clothes from the campus and distributing to the needy in Guwahati city; *blood donation camps* – now a regular feature in the campus, the latest camp was organised on 29 March 2009 in collaboration with Guwahati Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) where 102 units of blood were donated. The student volunteers are also involved with activities like *visit to orphanages in Guwahati city, popularisation of Gandhian philosophy, efforts towards e-governance, mentoring students of classes IX and XI from Kendriya Vidyalaya, IIT Guwahati, etc.*

## **STUDENTS' ACHIEVEMENTS**

Mr. Simadri Acharya, Mr. B.K. Sahu and Mr. C. Jayageeth from Chemical Engineering Department have been conferred "Ambuja's Young Researcher's Award" by Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers (IICChE) for doing Post-Graduate Studies in India for the year 2008.

Mr. Shamak Ganguly, 2<sup>nd</sup> yr. BTech Student from Mechanical Engineering Department has been awarded the "KISHORE VAIGYANIK PROTSAHAN YOJANA (KVYP)" fellowship.

## **TRAINING AND PLACEMENT**

Even in such a critical condition of the World Economy the placement scenario at IIT Guwahati for the year 2008-2009 has remained satisfactory. 50 companies from various sectors participated in the recruitment. A total of 492 students (BTech: 219, BDes: 25, MTech: 181, MDes: 14, MSc: 63) were registered with the Training and Placement Cell.

207 job offers were made to the BTech/BDes students and 195 students were finally placed (78%). The highest package offered to BTech students is Rs. 22.00 lakhs per annum with an average package of Rs. 5.87 lakhs per annum.

For MTech and MDes, 56 jobs were offered. The highest package offered to MTech students is Rs. 11.33 lakhs per annum with an average package of Rs. 5.15 lakhs per annum.

The branch-wise placement details are:

Dept.	UG				PG (MTech)			
	No. of Student s Reg.	Total No. of Jobs	No. of student s Placed	% of student s Placed	No. of student s Reg.	Total No. of Jobs	No. of Student s Placed	% of Student s Placed
CSE	48	45	42	88	37	17	17	46
ECE	51	48	45	88	39	19	19	49
ME	47	50	46	98	40	10	10	25
CE	27	21	21	78	42	8	8	19
CL	25	22	21	84	23	2	2	9
BT	21	13	12	57	--	--	--	--
DD	25	8	8	53	14	1	1	7
PH (MSc)	19	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
CH (MSc)	20	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
MA (MSc)	24	5	5	21	--	--	--	--

## MENTORING IIT PATNA

Six new IITs were established in 2008 and IIT Guwahati was entrusted with the responsibility of mentoring one of them - IIT Patna. The Director and Chairman of IIT Guwahati were appointed as in charge Director and Chairman respectively of the new institute. The Govt. of Bihar made available space in the campus of the Navin Government Polytechnic in Patna City. This included hostel space. We commenced classes from 6 August 2008 with faculty and staff from IIT Guwahati staying at Patna and taking care of teaching and administration. Since then we have been able to put in place 27 faculty and 13 non-teaching staff, including appointment of the Registrar. Selection of a further 6 staff has just been completed. Laboratories for the first and second year classes are already in place. PhD programmes are to commence from July 2009. I can proudly say that we have been able to put IIT Patna on the road to excellence in a short span of 10 months. Recently, a Director of IIT Patna has been appointed. With his joining, one phase of involvement of IIT Guwahati with the new institute will come to an end. I wish to use this occasion to thank all the faculty and staff who went to Patna and carried out the

task of setting up the new institution with dedication. In particular I would like to mention the contributions of Professor Samarendra Dandapat and Dr. Guru Prem Prasad who as Dean and Associate of IIT Patna have shouldered most of the administrative responsibilities. In fact they are still stationed at Patna, the only faculty from IIT Guwahati.

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

The Institute has now grown to the size the original five IITs were in the mid 1990s. It can no longer be called a "new" institute, 14 years after its academic programme started. It is time now to consolidate our achievements. This has to be done by improving the quality of everything we have been doing. We have to improve our research. We have to improve our teaching and our academic administration. We have to improve the institute's administration. We have initiated steps to review our working in a few areas. We are looking to strengthening and formalising the student feedback process. This feedback is then to form part of the faculty assessment process. We have started a process of re-examining issues of student discipline. Menaces like ragging have to be eradicated. Students' moral values have to improve. At the same time, the process of enquiry and punishment needs tuning. To further research, we have initiated a review of the functioning of the academic centres in the institute with a view to further encouraging inter-disciplinary research, while at the same time not hurting the traditional department based research activities. Our serious foray into entrepreneurial activities, we hope, will give our faculty insights into practical aspects of their research work.

Faculty and staff of the Institute, let us work together to take this institute forward. Your dedication and efforts have enabled the institute to reach this level. We need your continued, selfless, service so that IIT Guwahati reaches ever greater heights. I am sure you will all agree that the satisfaction this success will give each one of us will be more than all the financial and other rewards that can be placed in front of us.

I would like to wish all the graduating students the very best in their life's endeavours. To quote a cliché, honesty is the best policy. With competition, with rising expectations, with an emphasis on success, there is many a temptation to take short cuts, to forget the cliché. Please do not fall into any such trap. Let me tell you though the cliché is wrong. The real proverb is : honesty is the only policy. Please go out to the world and make IIT Guwahati proud with your achievements.

Jai Hind.

Gautam Barua  
Director  
Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati