MIT – IIT Make in India Boot Camp in IIT Mandi

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA one of world's top ranking technological institutions is joining hand with Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi and IIT Delhi to conduct a 10-day social innovation boot camp at IIT Mandi. About 50 students of several IITs and engineering colleges across India, along with students from Australia, ASB Malaysia and MIT USA are participating.

The boot camp, designed as a 24 x 7 'live and learn' training programme in a rural area of Himachal Pradesh, will train students to understand the social problems of the Himalayan communities. They will apply their technological skills and innovative minds to come up with viable solutions. The camp provides an environment conducive for students to hone their design thinking and fabrication abilities as also to develop innovation and entrepreneurship skills.

The camp is led by Rajesh M. Nair, a visiting scholar at MIT and the Director of the Innovation Centre in Asia School of Business in Kuala Lumpur and assisted by Dr. Melanie Mala Ghosh of MIT;, Dr. Shubhajit Roy Chowdhury of IIT Mandi, who is also the Coordinator of the Design and Innovation Centre at IIT Mandi, Prof. P.V. Madhusudan Rao, who is also the Coordinator of the Design and Innovation Centre at IIT Delhi, Prof V K Damodaran, who is an acclaimed energy expert, social engineer and innovation promoter and others.

In his inaugural address on 24th June, Professor Timothy Gonsalves, Director, IIT Mandi outlined the needs of India. He described the pathways to successful innovation. He also shared some experiences of IIT Mandi, the only IIT in the Himalayas, and other IITs towards changing the technology landscape of India.

Rajesh Nair stated that this boot camp will accelerate the students' desire to solve problems of our society. He also added that India has an enormous reserve of untapped cognitive resources. MIT-IIT Make in India boot camp initiated by TechTop Charitable Trust is a small but firm step towards making India the go to destination for technology-based solutions through for the problems of society.

The month long boot camp started at IIT Delhi on 18th June will offer opportunities for continuous interactions with the global student community till July 15. We expect that several interesting prototypes will be developed by the end, demonstrating the capabilities of the young minds.