

AMDISA NEWSLETTER

Association of Management Development Institutions in South Asia

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Volume 64* June 2025

AMDISA-RABE International Conference “Cooperation between Russian and Indian Business Schools: What’s the Interest?”

On **March 5, 2025**, AMDISA, in collaboration with the Russian Association of Business Education (RABE), hosted a high-impact **International Online Conference** on “*Cooperation between Russian and Indian Business Schools: What’s the Interest?*” The conference served as a significant platform to promote academic cooperation between Indian and Russian business schools, with the aim of addressing emerging challenges in management education and exploring mutually beneficial models of collaboration. The discussions covered a wide spectrum of themes including **internationalization of management education, joint research opportunities, quality assurance systems, technology integration (AI), leadership development, and business school–industry partnerships.**

The conference featured a **Plenary Session** followed by two technical sessions, each drawing participation from a diverse and eminent group of academic leaders, institutional heads, and industry experts from both countries.

Plenary Session

The conference commenced with a high-level **Plenary Session** that outlined the strategic potential of India–Russia partnerships in management education. Speakers reflected on the historical ties between the two nations and emphasized the urgency of developing cross-border collaborations through academic mobility, research, and curriculum integration.

Moderators:

- *Dr. Ashok R. Joshi*, Chairman, Local Management Committee & Past President, AMDISA; Director General, IndSearch Institute of Management Studies & Research, Pune
- *Ms. Natalia Evtikhieva*, Director General, RABE and NACBE; Deputy Director, IPACS RANEP

Speakers:

- *Dr. A. H. Kalro*, Chairman, SAQS Committee, AMDISA, former Professor and Dean, IIM Ahmedabad; former Director, IIM Kozhikode
- *Dr. Rajan Saxena*, Former Vice Chancellor, NMIMS University, Mumbai and former Director, IIM-Indore
- *Mr. Sergey Myasoedov*, President, RABE; Vice-Rector, RANEP
- *Mr. Evgeniy Griva*, Deputy Trade Representative of the Russian Federation in India

Key Highlights:

- Spoke about the longstanding friendship between India and Russia and advocated for joint degree programs and research partnerships.
- Emphasized that business education can serve as a diplomatic and economic bridge, helping Russian companies better understand Indian markets.
- Discussed the historical evolution of business education and recommended cross-border accreditation models and research collaboration as key strategies.
- Underlined the need to build global skills, develop international executive programs, and create a joint India–Russia academic platform to enhance the global standing of both ecosystems.

(Contd at Page. 4)

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Dr. Mohamed Latheef, Maldives (2002-2004), Former Chancellor, The Maldives National University, Male, Republic of Maldives

Dr. Syed Zahoor Hassan, Pakistan (2004-2006), Professor & Former Vice Chancellor, Lahore University of Management Sciences, Lahore, Pakistan

Mr. Karma Tshering, Bhutan (2009-2011), Director General, Department of School Education, Ministry of School Education, Thimphu, Bhutan

Mr. Punya Prasad Neupane, Nepal (2011-2013), Former Executive Director, Nepal Administrative Staff College, Kathmandu, Nepal

Dr. Ashok R. Joshi, India (2013-2015), Director General, IndSearch Institute of Management Studies & Research, Pune, India

Prof. Lakshman R. Watawala, Sri Lanka (2015-2017), President, The Institute of Chartered Professional Managers of Sri Lanka, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Mr. Shathif Ali, Maldives (2017-2018), Former Dean, MNU Business School, The Maldives National University, Male', Republic of Maldives

Mr. Abdul Rahman Mubaarique, Maldives (2018-2019), Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration and Finance), The Maldives National University, Male', Republic of Maldives

Prof. Dr. Syed Mir Muhammad Shah, Pakistan (2020-2022), Pro Vice Chancellor, Sukkur IBA University, Sukkur, Pakistan

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AMDISA Condoles



Dr. V. Panduranga Rao

It is with deep sorrow that we have learned of the passing of Dr. V. Panduranga Rao on 6th April, 2025.

Dr. Rao was closely associated with AMDISA's Quality Assurance Programme - SAQS - during its formative years.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family.

May his soul rest in peace.

AMDISA mourns the passing away of Dr. M. Rammohan Rao on 24th May, 2025.

Dr M. Rammohan Rao was closely associated with AMDISA and its Quality Assurance Program-SAQS for several years. His valuable contributions played a significant role in shaping and advancing the SAQS framework.

AMDISA expresses its heartfelt condolences. May his soul attain eternal peace.



Dr. M. Rammohan Rao

From the Editor



Dear Readers,

Greetings !

It gives me immense pleasure to present to you the 64th edition of the AMDISA Newsletter. This issue comes at a time when the higher education landscape in South Asia is undergoing rapid transformation through greater international engagement, technological advancement, and renewed emphasis on sustainability and quality assurance.

A highlight of this edition is the detailed coverage of the AMDISA–RABE International Conference held in March 2025. This unique collaborative platform with the Russian Association of Business Education (RABE) brought together eminent academic and industry leaders from

India and Russia. The dialogues centered on building strategic

We also report on AMDISA's active engagement in the EQUAL Board Meeting and other international platforms such as the upcoming India–UK Business School Dialogue. These events demonstrate AMDISA's growing role in fostering cross-border collaboration and knowledge exchange among business schools.

The SAQS Quality Assurance initiative continues to thrive, with multiple accreditations, peer review visits, and mentor engagements reinforcing our collective pursuit of excellence.

The article by Dr. Somayajulu Garimella on “Internationalization in Indian Business Schools” provides a timely and thought-provoking lens to reflect upon the depth and direction of our global engagement strategies.

Wishing you a reflective and enriching reading experience.

Ashok R Joshi

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AMDISA-RABE International Conference (Contd from Page. I)

Session I

Business Education: Emerging Trends, Partnerships, Technologies, and Quality Recognition

Moderators:

- Dr. S. Padam, Chairman, SAQS Accreditation Awarding Committee, AMDISA
- Ms. Zhanna S. Belyaeva, Ural Federal University, RABE

This session focused on identifying and addressing the shifts in global business education and how Indian and Russian institutions can jointly respond.

Key Themes and Outcomes:

- **Global vs. Regional Graduate Programs:** There was consensus that business education should maintain global relevance while being rooted in local and regional contexts.
- **Mutual Recognition of Accreditation:** Opportunities were explored for SAQS and Russian national accreditation bodies to recognize each other's frameworks.
- **Collaborative Research and PhD Programs:** The need to promote high-quality joint research and co-supervised PhD programs in domains like leadership, ESG, and digital transformation was emphasized.
- **AI in Management Education:** Speakers highlighted the growing relevance of AI in personalizing learning, reshaping curriculum, and transforming student assessment.
- **Innovative Models of Collaboration:** Concepts like the *Meta University*, a hybrid transnational education platform, were introduced as a future-forward strategy.

Speakers from AMDISA:

- Dr. Ramakrishnan Raman, Vice Chancellor, Symbiosis International (Deemed University), Pune
- Dr. Janat Shah, Former Director, IIM Udaipur
- Dr. Vishal Talwar, Chief Operating Officer, Southampton University UK-India Campus
- Mr. Avnish Sabharwal, Managing Director, Accenture Ventures and Open Innovation India

Speakers from RABE:

- Ms. Violetta Grigorieva, Executive Director, Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO
- Ms. Natalia Evtikhieva, Director General, RABE
- Mr. Teimur Akperov, Executive Director, International Alliance Business Eurasia
- Dr. Oleg Zabelin, President, Moscow Financial and Law Academy

Session II

Business Schools as Enablers of Industry – Leadership, ESG, and Lifelong Learning

Moderators:

- Dr. Rajan Saxena, Former Vice Chancellor, NMIMS University; Former Director, IIM Indore
- Mr. Ashot Seferyan, Director of Executive MBA, IBS RANEP

This session explored the proactive role business schools can play in supporting industry and society through **executive education, institutional development, consulting services, and leadership training.**

Key Themes and Outcomes:

- **Executive Education and Lifelong Learning:** Speakers emphasized continuous learning for working professionals, tailored to dynamic business needs.
- **ESG Integration:** Mr. Andrey Sharonov stressed the role of business schools in embedding sustainability and governance into leadership development.
- **Industry-Academia Consultancy Models:** Discussions focused on business schools' role in solving real-world challenges through applied research and consulting.

- **Leadership Development:** *Mr. Shiv Shivakumar* and *Dr. Avantika Tomar* underscored the importance of ethical leadership, innovation, and adaptability in future-ready executives.

Speakers from AMDISA:

- *Prof. Upinder Dhar*, Vice Chancellor, Shri Vaishnav Vidyapeeth Vishwavidyalaya, Indore
- *Prof. L. S. Ganesh*, Vice Chancellor, ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education (IFHE), Hyderabad
- *Mr. Shiv Shivakumar*, Operating Partner, Advent International; former Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer at PepsiCo Holdings Private Limited, India
- *Dr. Avantika Tomar*, Partner, Education, EY- Parthenon India

Speakers from RABE:

- *Mr. Andrey Sharonov*, President, Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO; CEO of the Alliance for Sustainable Development
- *Mr. Aditya Srivastava*, Vice-President of Russian-Indian Friendship Society «DISHA»
- *Mr. Andrei Povarov*, Director of International MBA & EMBA Programs, IBS RANEP
- *Prof. Sergey Grigoriev*, Vice-President of «SUEK» (Siberian Coal Energy Company)

Conclusion

The AMDISA–RABE International Online Conference marked a **significant step toward fostering sustained academic partnerships** between India and Russia. The dialogue showcased a shared vision for **technology-enabled, research-driven, and globally connected business education**. Actionable ideas such as co-designed programs, shared quality standards, research collaboration, and joint industry engagement were widely supported.

The conference reaffirmed AMDISA's strategic intent to expand **cross-border academic cooperation** while promoting excellence and innovation in management education across South Asia and its extended network.

EQUAL BOARD MEETING - ONLINE

EQUAL members gathered online on 26th March 2025 for a productive meeting focused on advancing sustainability in business education. Dr. Ashok Joshi, Chairman, Local Management Committee & Past President and Mr. C. Ramakrishna, Executive Director represented AMDISA at the meeting following AMDISA's membership in the EQUAL Network.

Highlights included the welcoming of the Chartered Association of Business Schools (CABS) as a new member, whose mission aligns with EQUAL's goals of supporting business schools for the benefit of business and society. Discussions also centred around the Sustainability Project Proposal: A Framework for Sustainability Convergence in Management Education, which outlines a comprehensive 24-month action plan to promote sustainability across institutions through shared resources and voluntary convergence. During the meeting, guest speakers from GRLI (Globally Responsible Leadership Initiative) presented their focus on global responsibility in business education, emphasizing the need for systemic change and the role of business schools in addressing interconnected global challenges like environmental degradation and social inequality. The meeting underscored the importance of collaboration with such global initiatives to drive systemic change in business education.

Source: <https://www.equal.network/2025-equal-board-meeting-and-tour-de-table/>

AMDISA



AMDISA facilitates networking, exchange of ideas, knowledge, expertise and Quality Assurance through SAQS Accreditation.

AMDISA conferences / workshops / seminars are happening places where ideas are exchanged, knowledge is shared and connections are forged.

An ideal environment to build a strong legacy for member organizations and its stakeholders.

Institutions/Corporates desirous of joining the Association may please apply for membership. For details, please visit our website at www.amdisa.org/membership/ or write to the Executive Director, AMDISA at execdir.amdisa@gmail.com, execdir@amdisa.org

NEWS FROM HEADQUARTERS

I. SAQS News

The following are the highlights with reference to SAQS operations since the last Newsletter:

- a) 2 new institutions entered the SAQS process
- b) 6 Institutions entered Re-Accreditation
- c) 10 Mentor visits were completed
- d) 1 Peer Review Team visit was completed
- e) 5 Peer Review Team visits to take place
- f) 1 institution awarded SAQS Reaccreditation

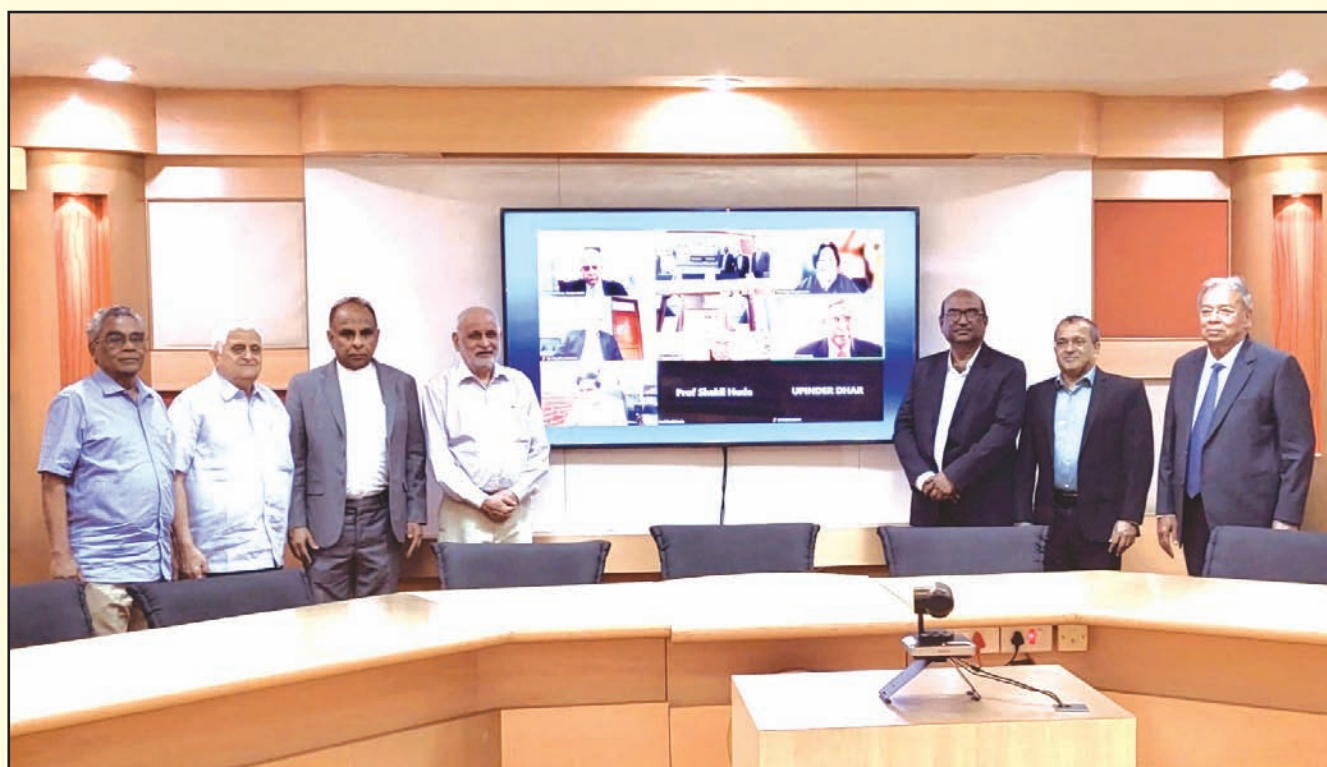
II. AMDISA New Members

- a. Bharathidasan Institute of Management (BIM), Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, India
- b. ASTHA School of Management, Bhubaneswar, Odisha, India
- c. Paari School of Business, SRM University, Mangalagiri, Andhra Pradesh, India

III. AMDISA Meetings

I. Executive Board Meeting

The 85th Executive Board Meeting of AMDISA was held on 10th March, 2025 at AMDISA Secretariat, University of Hyderabad Campus, Hyderabad in Hybrid Mode.



85th Executive Board Meeting of AMDISA

In person- L-R:- Dr. S. Padam, Dr.A.H.Kalro, Dr.Asanga Ranasinghe, Dr Ashok Joshi, Prof. S. Sreenivasa Murthy, Mr.Abdulla Nafiz and Mr. C. Ramakrishna

The highlights of the meeting were:

- i) Noting the changes in the Executive Board
- ii) Appointment of Auditors - FY 2024-25 & 2025-26
- iii) Taking note of Statutory Compliances
- iv) Approved to enhance Per-diem for Mentors and Peer Reviewers

2. Local Management Committee (LMC) Meeting

The 35th Local Management Committee (LMC) meeting was held on 6th February, 2025 at AMDISA Secretariat in hybrid mode. Dr. Ashok R Joshi, Chairman, Local Management Committee and Director General, IndSearch Indian Institute of Cost Management & Research, Pune, chaired the meeting.



35th Local Management Committee meeting
L-R:- Dr Ashok Joshi, Dr.A.H.Kalro, Prof. S. Sreenivasa Murthy and Mr. C. Ramakrishna

3. SAQS Committee Meeting

The 30th SAQS Committee meeting was held on 6th February, 2025 at AMDISA Secretariat in hybrid mode. Dr. A H Kalro, Chairman, SAQS Committee and Former Director, Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode, chaired the meeting.



30th SAQS Committee Meeting
L-R:- Dr Ashok Joshi, Dr.A.H.Kalro, Prof.Abdul Mannan and Mr. C. Ramakrishna

The highlights of the meeting were:

- i) Inclusion of Off-Campus Centres in SAQS Accreditation
- ii) Recommended to include institutions offering BBA programs alone and BBA programs like MBA programs of different specializations wanting to enter SAQS Accreditation

- iii) Approved the list of prospective Mentors and Peer Reviewers to be invited to the next pre-induction workshop for Peer Reviewers as and when held

4. SAQS Accreditation Awarding Committee (SAAC) Meeting

The 26th SAQS Accreditation Awarding Committee Meeting was held Online on 29th May, 2025 at AMDISA Secretariat. Dr. S. Padam, Chairman, SAQS Accreditation Awarding Committee and Former Dean of Studies, Administrative Staff College of India, Hyderabad, chaired the meeting.

The highlight of the meeting was that SAQS Re-accreditation was awarded to **Institute of Management Technology (IMT), Hyderabad**.

5. E-Meetings

- SAQS Committee - 24 E-Meetings were held with regard to process requirements.
- SAQS Accreditation Awarding Committee (SAAC) - 4 E-Meetings were held with regard to process requirements.

IV. SAQS Accreditation Award

Dr. S. Padam, the Chairman of the SAQS Accreditation Awarding Committee, signing the SAQS Accreditation Award Certificate, granting accreditation to **Postgraduate Institute of Management (PIM), University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Colombo, Sri Lanka**. This marks a significant recognition of its commitment to excellence and adherence to international quality standards in management education.



Dr. S. Padam

V. Meeting with Chartered Association of Business Schools (CABS) at London, United Kingdom

Dr. Ashok Joshi, Chairman, Local Management Committee and Past President, AMDISA and Mr. C. Ramakrishna, Executive Director, AMDISA participated in meetings on Transnational Education (TNE), hosted by the Chartered Association of Business Schools (CABS), United Kingdom on 23rd and 24th April 2025.



Meeting at CABS, UK

In person L-R: - Prof. Mohammed Ali, Dr Eleftherios Alamanos, Dr. Ashok Joshi, Prof. Marian Garcia, Mr. C. Ramakrishna, Ms. Flora Hamilton, Mr. Pavan Budhwar, Mr. Oliver Lowe and Ms. Hina Dean

VI. AACSB Delegates visit AMDISA Secretariat

Dr. Geoff Perry, Executive Vice President, Chief Membership Officer & Managing Director, Asia Pacific and Mr. Prathap Das, Regional Head, South Asia, AACSB International visited AMDISA Secretariat on 29th April 2025.

This meeting provided a valuable opportunity to strengthen collaboration between AMDISA and AACSB International. Discussions focused on exploring joint initiatives to support business schools in South Asia, including potential workshops, collaborative training programs, and knowledge-sharing sessions. The exchange highlighted a shared commitment to advancing the quality of management education in the region through partnership and engagement.



L-R:- Mr. Prathap Das, Dr. Geoff Perry and Mr. C. Ramakrishna



L-R:- Mr. C. Ramakrishna, Dr. Geoff Perry, Mr. Prathap Das and Mr. T. Ganeswara Rao

VII. Presentation on SAQS to Department of Management Studies, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad, India.

Mr. C. Ramakrishna, Executive Director of AMDISA, was invited by Department of Management Studies, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad to deliver a presentation on SAQS, highlighting its framework, accreditation process, and its role in enhancing quality and global recognition of management education.



Presentation on SAQS by Mr. C. Ramakrishna, Executive Director, AMDISA to Faculty of Department of Management Studies, NALSAR University of Law Hyderabad



Mr. C. Ramakrishna and Prof. P. Srinivas Subbarao, Head, Department of Management Studies, NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad



**Self-Assessment Report Writing Workshop
Friday, 24th October, 2025**



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- ✓ **High ROI Placements**
with top global and Indian brands, highest packages offered upto 26.7 LPA.
- ✓ **Accreditation & Approvals**
NBA accredited and MBA equivalence by AIU.

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Top Recruiters

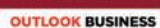


AWARDS & RECOGNITION

RANKED 'A++'
Rating among
all B-SCHOOLS IN INDIA by
Competition Success Review 2023



RANKED as
India's Premier
Business School of Excellence
by Outlook Business 2024



TIMES BUSINESS AWARDS
NORTH 2023
For Excellence in Management
Education in Delhi/NCR



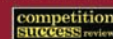
RANKED
Top-40 Private
B-SCHOOL IN NORTH INDIA
by MBA Universe 2024



Recognised As
The Best Management
College in Delhi Ncr 2024
By Cegr



RANKED among
Outstanding B-SCHOOL
OF EXCELLENCE IN INDIA by
Competition Success Review 2024



RANKED
as INDIA'S NO. 7
institution in professional
education by EW 2025



RANKED TOP-18
NORTH ZONE IN PRIVATE
BUSINESS SCHOOL by
IIRF 2025



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UPCOMING PROGRAMMES

1) India-UK Business School Dialogue

Hosted by **Chartered Association of Business Schools (CABS)**

AMDISA **invites** member institutions to participate in the **India-UK Business School Dialogue**, a high-impact international event by the **CABS**, supported by **AMDISA as a strategic partner**.

Venue: Shangri-La Eros, New Delhi

Dates: 16–17 September 2025

Stakeholder Reception: 15 September 2025 at British Council, New Delhi

This Dialogue brings together senior leaders from Indian and UK business schools to forge strategic Transnational Education (TNE) partnerships through:

- Facilitated networking with prospective UK/Indian institutions
- Expert insights on education policy, partnerships, and accreditation
- Collaborative opportunities for joint/double degrees, research & online delivery

Who Should Attend: Deans, Directors, International Heads, Vice-Chancellors



For more information, please visit [India-UK Business School Dialogue](#), and complete [CABS expression of interest form](#) to secure your place.

2) AMDISA's 17th South Asian Management Forum (SAMF)

The 17th SAMF is proposed to be held in September-October, 2025 organised by AMDISA to be hosted by Royal Institute of Management, Thimphu, Bhutan. The dates are in the discussion with the host institution and will be announced in due course.

AMDISA SUPPORTED PROGRAMMES

I. Institute of Marketing & Management (IMM), New Delhi, India

IMMRC-2025 International Conference: A Confluence of Innovation & Sustainability

The Institute of Marketing & Management (IMM) proudly hosted the IMMRC-2025 International Conference on January 17-18, 2025, at the IMM Convention Centre, New Delhi. Themed "Emerging Trends & Technological Advancements Towards Innovation & Sustainability for Societal & Business Progress," the event united distinguished academicians, industry experts, researchers, and students for two days of insightful discussions and knowledge-sharing.

The conference commenced with an Inaugural Session, followed by a traditional lamp-lighting ceremony by the Dignitaries. Prof. Greg Cooper, Global Director of JJF Education and Managing Partner at Van Houten Advisors, New York, delivered an enlightening keynote speech. Prof. Amit Srivastava, Deputy Director of IGNOU and Former Director of AICTE, New Delhi, shared a special address, setting an inspiring tone for the event.

Adding a global perspective, Prof. (Dr.) Ukertor Gabriel Moti from the University of Abuja, Nigeria, and Prof. Laura Asi-Natiran from Brest Business School, France, delivered compelling talks, enriching participants' understanding of global financial trends. Prof. Nawa Raj Khatowada from Nepal discussed "Leveraging Lateral Thinking for Policy Shift & Strategic Change."

The conference featured multiple tracks, including Marketing & Entrepreneurship, HR & General Management, Technical & Operations & Finance & Multidisciplinary.

Throughout these sessions, participants presented their research, engaged in thought-provoking Q&A discussions, and exchanged valuable insights, fostering a vibrant knowledge exchange.

The conference concluded with a valedictory session and special address by Prof Smita Lal, Dean of IMM, during which dignitaries and speakers were honored, and the Best Paper Awards were announced. The event ended with closing remarks and Vote of Thanks by Dr. Preshni Shrivastava, Conference Convenor, IMMRC-2025.

IMM extends heartfelt gratitude to all esteemed guests, speakers, track chairs, co-chairs, paper presenters, and participants for making IMMRC-2025 a grand success.



Delegates and dignitaries at IMMRC-2025: International Conference on Emerging Trends and Technological Advancements Towards Innovation and Sustainability

2. Global Institute of Business Studies (GIBS), Bengaluru, India

5-Day Faculty Development Program (FDP) on Future-Proofing Research and Delivering Outcome-Based Education - A Confluence of AI, Ethics, and Innovation

The Global Institute of Business Studies (GIBS), Bengaluru, in association with MILA University, Malaysia, hosted a 5-day Faculty Development Program (FDP) on “Future-Proofing Research and Delivering Outcome-Based Education” from 17th to 21st February 2025. With 56+ participants from India, Nepal, and Bangladesh, the FDP explored the intersections of Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and Innovation in research and teaching.

The program was inaugurated by Dr. Jason Fitzsimmons, Vice Chancellor, MILA University, followed by an insightful keynote by Prof. Graham Kendall on ethical AI practices in academic research. Each day of the FDP focused on a unique theme:

- Day 1: Dr. Parthesh Shanbhag (TAPMI) led an engaging session on behavioral research in business and management.
- Day 2: Dr. Hariharan TS (TAPMI) introduced Morphological Analysis as a method for addressing complex research problems.
- Day 3: Dr. Hariharan continued with System Dynamics and Theoretical Archetypes for modeling organizational systems.

- Day 4: Dr. Nitu Ghosh (REVA University) guided participants through Outcome-Based Education (OBE), complemented by a library orientation visit to IIM Bangalore.
- Day 5: Prof. Bharath Gopalan (GIBS) emphasized experiential learning in business education, followed by Dr. Jayanta Chakraborti (GIBS), who explored AI applications in academic research and ethics.

This FDP successfully blended theory with practical tools, empowering faculty to adopt future-ready approaches in research and education. The program received positive feedback for its quality content, distinguished speakers, and collaborative learning environment.



5-Day Faculty Development Program (FDP) on Future-Proofing Research and Delivering Outcome-Based Education

3. Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmedabad, India

16th Biennial Conference on Entrepreneurship from 26-28 February, 2025

Entrepreneurship encompasses multiple functions, approaches and perspectives. A probe into its various dimensions is helping clear the underlying dimensions, making it an all powerful tool for growth and evolution. As a National Resource Institute in the field, EDII has been actively promoting entrepreneurship research and creation of a cadre of scholars in entrepreneurship. In 1994, EDII commenced the unique Biennial Conferences on 'Entrepreneurship'. Over the years, these conferences have proven to be a potent platform for researchers, educationists, and practitioners to share their research studies and findings in different areas of entrepreneurship development.

The 3-day 16th Biennial Conference commenced on February 26th at the Institute's campus. During this conference, over 148 research papers and studies by scholars from more than 9 countries on the themes of Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice, Entrepreneurship Education, Entrepreneurship Ecosystem, Psychology and Entrepreneurship, MSME Entrepreneurship, Technology and Digital Entrepreneurship, Startup and Innovation, Green and Sustainable Entrepreneurship, Social Entrepreneurship, Culture, Tradition and Value-based Entrepreneurship, Women Entrepreneurship, Rural Entrepreneurship and Nascent Entrepreneurship and New venture Creation & Family Business, were presented. Five best paper awards were presented to national and international researchers.

The conference was inaugurated by Chief Guest, Prof (Dr.) T.V. Rao, Founder and Chairman, T.V. Rao Learning Systems Pvt. Ltd., Ahmedabad & Former Professor of Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. He stated, "In today's fast-paced economy, entrepreneurship development is crucial to driving economic growth and professional advancement. I believe entrepreneurship is a mission, a powerful force where individuals leverage technology and innovation to solve real-world problems, creating a better future for all. Given the significance of the domain, it is important to undertake regular research and policy advocacy to impact entrepreneurship promotion. This is a unique platform. I am sure the conference revelations will lead to noticeable influence on entrepreneurship."

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Sunil Shukla, Director General, EDII said, "The Biennial Conference consistently provides a platform for the researchers and educators worldwide, to share their ideas and innovations which are important for understanding the complexities of entrepreneurship. By bringing together leading researchers and educators, this forum facilitates dissemination of research revelations, fostering new perspectives and shaping the future of entrepreneurial practice, thus empowering aspiring entrepreneurs with the knowledge they need to succeed."

Dr. D.M Pestonjee, Psychologist and esteemed academician, the Chief Guest at the valedictory function stated, "Entrepreneurship was, for a long time, believed to be a natural instinct, but that it can be taught has now come to be accepted and endorsed widely. I urge PhD. scholars to undertake research on the various phases on entrepreneurship and their impact on entrepreneurs. Several critical issues still need to be addressed."



Chief Guest, Prof (Dr.) T.V. Rao addressing the delegates at the 16th Biennial Conference on Entrepreneurship

Vice Chancellors'/Directors' Conclave

As a part of the conference, a Vice Chancellors'/Directors' Conclave was also held to discuss the Innovations in Entrepreneurship Education. Universities from across the country were represented, moderated by Prof. (Dr.) Harivansh Chaturvedi, Director General, IILM Delhi, New Delhi. The panelists included Prof. (Dr.) Deepak Kumar Srivastava, Director, Indian Institute of Management Ranchi; Prof. (Dr.) Rajat Moona, Director, Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar; Prof. (Dr.) Rajul K. Gajjar, Vice-Chancellor, Gujarat Technological University, Ahmedabad; Prof. (Dr.) Ravi P Singh, Provost, Adani University, Ahmedabad; and Prof. (Dr.) Sameer Sood, Director, National Institute of Fashion Technology, Gandhinagar.

Doctoral Colloquium

Another important event of the conference was the Doctoral Colloquium where the PhD. scholars and FPM students from across the country, were mentored and guided on their research work.

Best Doctoral Awards were presented to Ms. Tanaji Pavani Prabha, Ph.D Scholar, BITS Pilani (Hyderabad) and Mr. Ashutosh Mishra & Ms. Anuja Sharma, FPM Scholars, EDII.

4. IMS Unison University, Dehradun, India

International Conference on “Confluence of AI, Sustainability, and Innovation in Industry 5.0”

The Two-Day International Conference on “Confluence of AI, Sustainability, and Innovation in Industry 5.0” was held at IMS Unison University, Dehradun, on April 4–5, 2025, in collaboration with GEDU College of Business Studies, Bhutan, and the Association of Management Development Institutions in South Asia (AMDISA). The event facilitated interdisciplinary dialogue, international academic cooperation, and groundbreaking discussions on the evolving landscape of Industry 5.0.

Day 1 commenced with a grand inaugural ceremony, featuring traditional Saraswati Vandana and lamp lighting, followed by inspiring addresses from distinguished academics. Dr. Priyanka Chopra introduced the central theme, while Dr. Rajeev Srivastava emphasized the transformative role of AI, sustainability, and innovation. Dr. Anil Subbarao Paila advocated for ethical AI and eco-conscious innovation.



Experts exchange Insights on AI and Sustainability at the International Conference

L-R: Dr. Sneha Badola, Assistant Professor, School of Management, IMS Unison University Dehradun; Dr. Anil Subbarao Paila, Vice-Chancellor, IMS Unison University Dehradun; Mr. Suyash Agarwal, President - CII, Uttarakhand Chapter; Dr. Tshewang Phuntsho, Head Research, Gedu College of Business Studies, Royal University of Bhutan, Bhutan; and Dr. Rajeev Srivastava, Dean, School of Management, IMS Unison University, Dehradun

The keynote address was delivered by Ms. Nitu Agarwal, Chief Financial Officer at FISERVE Global Services, focusing on AI's impact in financial services. A thought-provoking panel discussion, moderated by Dr. Abhijit Chatteraj, highlighted AI-driven business excellence and sustainable innovations. The day continued with technical sessions covering AI in recruitment, fintech innovations, ESG investing, behavioural finance, and applications in education and tourism. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed between IMS Unison University and GEDU College of Business Studies to strengthen academic collaboration.

Day 2 featured further technical sessions, with discussions on AI-driven sustainable solutions, human-centric innovations in Industry 5.0, financial inclusion, and ethical considerations in AI-powered financial advisory. The valedictory function, graced by esteemed guests, emphasized the impact of AI, sustainability, and data analytics on Uttarakhand's development and Industry 5.0's broader societal implications.

The conference concluded with international partner remarks, a felicitation ceremony, and the presentation of Best Paper Awards to distinguished faculty and student researchers. A High-Tea reception marked the end of this prestigious event, celebrating inquiry, innovation, and collaboration across academic and industry landscapes.

SHORT TAKES

1. Dr. Atish Chattopadhyay has taken over as Director, Institute of Management Technology, Ghaziabad, India
2. Dr. Shiva Raj Bhattarai has taken over as President of Royal Thimphu College, Bhutan (January, 2025)
3. Prof. Baharul Islam has taken over as Director, Institute of Management Technology, Hyderabad, Telangana, India
4. Prof. Dr. Anwar Hossain has taken over as Advisor and Dean-in-Charge, Faculty of Business Administration, American International University (AIUB), Bangladesh
5. Dr. Rakesh Chandra Agrawal has taken over as Acting Director, ICAR - National Academy of Agricultural Research Management, Hyderabad, Telangana, India
6. Dr. Debashis Sanyal has taken over as Director, Great Lakes Institute of Management, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India
7. Prof. Dr. Ambuj Gupta has taken over as Director, Siva Sivani Institute of Management, Secunderabad, Telangana, India
8. Dr. Ashutosh A. Murkute has taken over as In-Charge Director General, National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Hyderabad, Telangana, India
9. Dr. Rajneesh Chauhan has taken over as Director, Institute of Management Technology, Nagpur, Maharashtra, India
10. Prof. S. John Mano Raj has taken over as Director In-charge, Indian Institute of Plantation Management, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India
11. Mr. S.A.D. Sennanayake has taken over as Dean, Faculty of Management Studies, The Open University of Sri Lanka, Nugegoda, Sri Lanka
12. Dr. Seema Gupta has taken over as Director, Bharati Vidyapeeth (Deemed to Be University) Institute of Management and Research, New Delhi
13. Mr. Ram Sharan Pudasaini has taken over as Executive Director, Nepal Administrative Staff College, Nepal.



SAQS is a globally benchmarked strategic audit and accreditation system, designed to assess business schools in diverse national and cultural contexts. It recognizes institutions for meeting international standards of excellence and provides strategic direction for long-term quality enhancement. SAQS accreditation is institutional in nature, covering the entire business and management education unit.

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Internationalization: From Symbolism to Substance in Indian Business Schools

Dr. Somayajulu Garimella*

In recent years, the term “internationalisation” has become a mainstay in business school strategy documents. Yet, for many Indian institutions, it still translates into ceremonial Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) that rarely lead to lasting academic or student benefits. If we are serious about preparing graduates for a world that is increasingly interconnected and digitally transformed, Indian business schools must transition from tokenism to mission-driven global engagement.



Why It Matters Now

Global integration is no longer a choice. Graduates today must work across cultures, navigate global supply chains, and respond to shifting geopolitical dynamics. True internationalisation develops the skills, perspectives, and networks to thrive in such a world. Moreover, in the emerging global education landscape, internationalisation is not merely about competition between business schools, it is about ecosystems. Collaboration is now essential to reimagine value creation and adapt to a rapidly evolving educational paradigm.

From MoUs to Meaningful Partnerships

Symbolic MoUs must give way to collaborative models that deliver real academic and developmental value:

- Global classrooms and virtual exchanges.
- Dual degrees and academic mobility programs.
- Faculty co-teaching and collaborative research.
- Short-term immersion experiences like “Doing Business in India.”
- Joint capstone projects with international institutions.

Some institutions are already demonstrating how to translate intention into impact. IIM Bangalore, for instance, leverages its GNAM membership to co-deliver shared courses, dual degrees, and a global MOOC portfolio. Woxsen University integrates over 200 international adjunct faculty and hosts global lecture series and advisory boards. These institutions prioritise substance over volume, focusing on structured, outcome-based collaborations that benefit students, faculty, and institutional standing alike.

Curriculum is the Core

Internationalisation should be meaningfully integrated into the curriculum, rather than treated merely as a peripheral activity. This shift demands that institutions rethink how global content is embedded across disciplines, touching every learner. Real internationalisation must touch every student. Core courses must embed global strategy, trade, and economics, while international faculty and cross-cultural group projects enhance learning. Prof. Pankaj Ghemawat cautions against “globaloney”—believing one is global without embedding it institutionally. “Internationalisation at home” must be prioritised.

Internationalisation should also include Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) practices and offer global insights into ESG and SDG-related frameworks. Incorporating these dimensions into the curriculum not only builds student competence but also ensures relevance to global employers and communities.

Policy Push and New Opportunities

The Indian government has taken key steps:

- UGC allows joint/dual/twinning degree programs.
- HEIs are encouraged to establish International Affairs Offices.
- GIFT City opens doors for global universities in India.
- NEP 2020 and Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) support cultural confidence and multilingualism.

These developments offer a conducive environment for Indian B-schools to transform intent into action. Policy now enables institutions to scale what works, whether through formal degree collaborations, institutional partnerships, or cross-border research ecosystems. The challenge lies in moving from opportunity to execution.

Challenges to Internationalisation

Despite progress, structural and cultural challenges continue to constrain meaningful internationalisation:

- **Lack of strategic clarity and institutional ownership:** In many institutions, internationalisation remains a standalone effort led by a single office rather than an institution-wide commitment. Without senior leadership involvement and clearly defined goals, initiatives remain fragmented and unsustainable.
- **Overemphasis on outbound mobility:** Sending a few students abroad often substitutes for embedding global exposure into the broader curriculum. This creates inequity, as only a small fraction of the student body benefits, and ignores the potential of “internationalisation at home.”
- **Minimal faculty engagement:** Faculty rarely receive support or incentives to engage in international research, co-teaching, or sabbaticals abroad. Many remain disconnected from global academic networks, limiting the impact of internationalisation on research and pedagogy.
- **Inadequate infrastructure and digital readiness:** Hosting international students and faculty requires globally benchmarked facilities, safety standards, and academic systems. Limited hybrid capabilities and incompatible credit structures also deter virtual or hybrid collaborations.
- **Regulatory friction and procedural delays:** Non-aligned academic calendars, visa delays, and financial restrictions slow down the formation and execution of global partnerships.
- **Low international visibility and brand value:** Many Indian business schools struggle to articulate a compelling value proposition for international audiences. Without clarity on what makes them unique or globally relevant, they find it hard to attract inbound mobility or prestigious partners.
- **Neglected diaspora and alumni potential:** Indian-origin academics and professionals abroad can serve as bridges for teaching, mentoring, and partnership development. However, most institutions do not engage them strategically.

Addressing these challenges requires a systemic and sustained institutional effort, where internationalisation is viewed as an important dimension of educational excellence and social impact and not just an accreditation requirement.

A Purpose-Driven Approach to Internationalisation

Indian B-schools must anchor their global strategies in values. One guiding framework is EFMD’s STRIVE, which encourages institutions to embrace internationalisation that is not only functional but also meaningful:

- **Sustainable:** Forge partnerships that actively contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), ensuring long-term value for communities and learners. This means embedding sustainability into curricula, research agendas, and campus practices.
- **Transnational:** Prioritise alliances based on shared educational values and missions rather than convenience or prestige. True transnational collaboration requires mutual respect and co-ownership of academic initiatives.
- **Responsible:** Ensure global engagements are built on equity, reciprocity, and shared benefits—not extractive arrangements that disproportionately benefit one side. Joint research, curriculum co-creation, and fair resource sharing are examples.
- **Inclusive:** Make international experiences accessible to all students, not just a privileged few. This includes offering scholarships, virtual exchange options, and ensuring diverse voices are represented in classrooms.
- **Virtual:** Leverage digital technologies to create global learning opportunities that are scalable and cost-effective. Hybrid classrooms, international webinars, and joint online courses democratise access and reduce barriers.
- **Ethical:** Uphold transparency, academic integrity, and respect for diverse cultural contexts in all international endeavours. Students must experience global engagement grounded in dignity and fairness.

By adopting STRIVE as a model, institutions can move from symbolic gestures to systemic transformation - redefining what it means to be truly global.

Conclusion

Internationalisation is not about counting countries or students sent abroad. It’s about ensuring that every graduate gains a global mindset, every faculty member has global exposure, and every partnership creates measurable learning value. Done right, internationalisation transforms not just reputations, but classrooms and careers.

**Dr. Somayajulu Garimella was formerly Dean, Executive Education at IMT Ghaziabad; Director and Dean at Institute of Management, Nirma University; and Director at IMI Bhubaneswar.*

AMDISA Supported Program Facility Services



AMDISA introduced 'Supported Program' facility for its member institutions in 2013. This was done to provide value added services to those institutional members who are desirous of propagating their events/programs to the wider network of AMDISA member institutions and beyond.

This Supported Program facility is unique and member institutions have been able to disseminate their program/event information to the network in South Asia. The uniqueness of this program is that, being an AMDISA initiative, AMDISA cobrands the specific programs with an 'AMDISA Supported Program logo' which would be used while promoting the program in the electronic and print media. AMDISA Supported Programs are prominently displayed on AMDISA's website Homepage.

Dissemination of program/events information is done through 4 rounds of e-mail communication to AMDISA network on dates preferred by the service requesting institution. It is observed that such promotion has helped member institutions in not only propagating and dissemination of program/event information on a wider network but also resulted in international participation in the member institution events/programs.

This value added service has become success over a period of time and more than 100 programs have availed the 'Supported Program Facility'.

It is expected that in the future too, this service will be availed of by the member institutions with enthusiasm. Other innovative steps are also on the anvil for a better value added service to the network.



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