

Working Towards PanIIT-2008, Chennai

Since its inception in 2003, the IIT Global Alumni Conference has established itself as a premier event by bringing together an eclectic group of industry visionaries, thought leaders and IIT alumni from across the globe.

The last PanIIT Global Conference held in Mumbai, India (2006), was a roaring success, thanks to the organizing vision of the leaders in the PanIIT movement, the detailed planning and the flawless execution by the event committee chaired by Ashank Desai.

The PanIIT-2008 event is slated to be held at IIT Madras, Chennai, during December 19-21, 2008. The venue and timing are very appropriate, given that IIT Madras is celebrating its Golden Jubilee this year.



Preparations:

The planning for this mega event commenced in August 2007 and preparations are now well underway. A total of 3000 delegates are expected to be in Chennai for this event, while three to four times this number will likely participate virtually from across the globe.

The kick-off meeting was held on August 18, 2007 at IIT - Madras. Taking a cue from the organization structure of the previous event, eight individual committees as well as an overall coordinating committee were set-up during this meeting. These committees are working under the chairmanship of B. Santhanam to meticulously plan all the details to ensure the success of the PanIIT-2008 event.



B. Santhanam is a Distinguished Alumnus (2004) of IIT Madras and the Managing Director of Saint-Gobain Glass India, a subsidiary of Saint-Gobain, a €40 billion multinational headquartered in France with over 200,000 employees worldwide. Santhanam is also the Chairman of the National Human Resources Council at the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII), the past Chairman of the Indian Glass Association, and was one of the founder directors of the IIT Madras Research Park.

After an interesting debate, the committee overwhelmingly chose IIT-Madras as the venue for holding this mega event. The committee continues to receive unstinted support from the IIT-Madras administration in all the preparatory activities for the event.

The event committee has grown from a modest strength of 23 members to a 75-member organization, with more and more volunteers joining every day.

Thanks to the excellent alumni networks in the individual IITs, the committee has been successful in integrating the efforts of all the institutes to participate and contribute to the effort.

As the PanIIT India EC, Ashank Desai, Pradeep Gupta, PS Ramnathan, Sanjiv Kerkar and Prakash Khemani work closely with the PanIIT-2008 event committee and



Committee Meeting in Progress at IIT-M

provide the required guidance and continuity. PanIIT-USA is also providing active support on several fronts to make the event happen.

After several interactions with the PanIIT EC and the key contributors to the PanIIT-2006 event, and after assimilating the lessons learnt from the previous events, the individual committees are now moving ahead in a coordinated manner, planning their activities and making significant progress on every front.

Event Theme and Tracks

Each PanIIT event held in the country has had a specific theme that focuses on Nation Building and several Tracks revolving around the event Theme. Under this same framework, the PanIIT-2008 event is aiming to deliver high quality content and actionable items to all the stake holders, viz. the IITs, the faculty, the alumni, industry and society.

On the September 15, 2007, with the task of formulating the PanIIT-2008 Event Theme and preparing a framework for the Event Tracks, the committees sat through a brainstorming session moderated by Dr. L.S. Ganesh, IIT-M.



As many as 150 ideas were received from participating members. The ideas were then classified and circulated to all members for their inputs and refinement.

IITs are always in the forefront of transformation of the country through technology education and research. India has reached a stage where the next phase of growth can come from innovation. IITs and IITans can catalyse innovation that leads to transformation in the Indian society.

With a view to reflect this, the theme for the 2008 event was unanimously chosen as **"Inspire, Innovate and Transform"**

Brainstorming Session in Progress to generate Ideas for the event Theme and Tracks

The Marketing & PR Committee, chaired by Chand Das (IIT-K) and co-chaired by Deepak Mirza (IIT-D), worked with FCB Ulka, the event branding and advertising partner, to come up with options for the logo for the event. After working on several equally good choices, the committee has chosen the logo below to represent the event Theme.



The Logo symbolizes the multidisciplinary collaboration required for the Transformational and Nation Building efforts of the PanIIT movement.

The Program Committee, chaired by Sarath Naru (IIT-M) and co-chaired by Prof. Nagarajan (IIT-M), has charted out an Event Program with the following Six Tracks that will reflect the event Theme:

- Research & Technology initiatives in Nation-building
- Excellence in Government
- Vision & Leadership in Social Entrepreneurship
- Challenges & Opportunities in India's Infrastructure
- Enhancing Quality & Accessibility in Education
- Innovate or Stagnate: India's road ahead

The Committee is currently drafting the detailed program, deciding the topics and sessions, Inviting authorities and renowned speakers on each subject and identifying the track mentors, track leaders and the knowledge partner for the event.

Branding the Event

The Marketing & PR Committee is busy working on collaterals for the event. It is also waiting to kick-off the PR activities for PanIIT-2008 starting from the Distinguished Alumni event planned in Hyderabad in March 2008.



The PanIIT-2008 Event Logo

All Committees in Action

The Organizing Committee, chaired by Ramana Prasad (IIT-M) and co-chaired by SVB Viswanathan (IIT-M), is fully geared to meet the challenge of organizing this mega event and its team is meticulously planning every aspect of the event such as venue and facilities, event management, travel and accommodation, transport, catering, entertainment, registration and on-site amenities.

Raj Varadharajan (IIT-M), the chair of the Participation Committee, along with the co-chair Ramnath Mani (IIT-KGP), is leveraging the Alumni Meets at various institutes to communicate the event and muster participation. His team is working with the Alumni Associations of all institutes and is collating a database to start direct communication and reach out to alumni across the globe.



Committees sharing and discussing their Action Plans



The Sponsorship Committee, chaired by Raju Venkatraman (IIT-M) and co-chaired by Shankar (IIT-M), and the Exhibition Committee, chaired by K.K. Raman (IIT-M), have already set their targets and charted out detailed action plans. They are ready to roll-out their plans once the event program is given final shape.

The IT Infrastructure Committee, chaired by Ananth Krishnan (IIT-D) and co-chaired by Deepak Mirza (IIT-D), is working very closely with the Gunjan Bagla of PanIIT-USA to rollout the event Web Site. The process of IT enabling all the committees, as the momentum gathers, is also on. Detailed plans for the IT infrastructure and services to be provided during the event are being worked out by the committee

D Chandrasekhar (IIT-M) and Dalton Eddy (IIT-M), the chair and co-chair of the Finance Committee, are working very closely with PanIIT EC to formulate and implement the financial guidelines and controls for the event.

PanIIT-2008 is not just an event, but a series of interactions, thought processes, ideas and concrete action items towards achieving the PanIIT movement's agenda that emerges both before and during the event as well as the projects and activities that follow.

The PanIIT-2008 Committee and the PanIIT movement are working together to deliver an event that will:

- provide a world-class experience to all participants
- deliver high-quality content and value to all the stake holders
- formulate ideas and generate actionable items to help the PanIIT movement in its nation building efforts and
- leave a lasting legacy for the future...