

September 19, 2006

To
Honorable Sri Buddhadeb Bhattacharya
Chief Minister
West Bengal, India

Dear Sri Bhattacharya,

Few months back, we sent you a letter explaining how conversion of Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur (BESU) to an Institute of National Importance (INI) will be beneficial for the all round development of West Bengal. We appealed to you (Letter dated February 21, 2006) to agree with the conversion when MHRD presents its proposal to the West Bengal Government. We are sure that you are aware of Sri Sudip Banerjee's (Secretary, MHRD) productive meeting with BESU administration at the campus. We understand that he had met the faculty, administration and students. He also visited laboratories and other infrastructure of the university. It has been reported that he was satisfied with the present status of the university after visiting the campus on September 07, 2006.

From the published news/ reports, we are heartened to learn that the MHRD has accepted the report submitted by the Anandkrishnan Committee to upgrade BESU to an INI through an Act of the Parliament. Conversion of BESU to an INI (which is presently restricted to a group of only a few elite Institutions like IITs, AIIMS, etc.) will be the fitting way to honour our Alma Mater for the prominent role that she has played and continues to play in furthering the engineering education in India. The committee, comprising of eminent academicians, Prof. M. Anandkrishnan, Prof. Amitabha Ghosh and Prof. D. V. Singh, in its report, "Transformation of Selected Technical Institutions into a New System of Institutes of National Importance", recommended establishment of a newer system of National Institutes which will amalgamate the strengths of IITs and IISc with a strong focus on post-graduate studies and research in science and engineering.

We are all in praise of your tireless efforts in attracting industries to West Bengal and with a new technical INI in the state, it will be easier for you to convince the industrialists. We


strongly believe that Indian Institute of Engineering, Science and Technology, Shibpur (IEST) will provide the students in West Bengal an opportunity to get a top quality education and research environment in engineering and science within their state. In addition, conversion of BESU to IEST will be a strong step towards highlighting its position as one of the premier technical institutions in India. We know that a large number of well known educational institutions both in India and abroad are looking forward to this transformation of the BESU and some of them are eager to collaborate and assist in its future growth in many ways.

We understand also that the Higher Education Ministry of West Bengal may respond to the MHRD's proposal within a month. We do not know whether the Higher Education Ministry of West Bengal will ask for any recommendations from the BESU administration. In the past, both Academic Council (AC) & Bengal Engineering and Science University Teachers' Association (BESUTA) accepted resolutions to pursue for the IIT/INI status for BESU (Letter of VC dated November 10, 2005 with resolutions of AC). BESUTA also appealed to you to welcome the IIT status for BESU (Letters dated November 18, 2005 and February 21, 2006).

It is well known that in India, educational institutions with INI status are considered to have the best facility and faculty and these institutions are recognized worldwide for imparting top quality education. Therefore, INI status is the most sought after in India. We are deeply committed to the cause of BESU and urge / implore you to steer the conversion of our Alma Mater to an INI before the 150th anniversary celebration scheduled in November '06. This would be remembered as your contribution and legacy towards the cause of enhancing state-of-the-art technical education in our state.

On behalf of BESUTA and the Global Alumni Association of BESU (GAABESU), we thank you for your precious time and look forward to hearing a positive response from your office soon.

With best regards,


(Sujay K Mukherjea)
Secretary, BESUTA


(Santanu K Karmakar)
Secretary, GAABESU
19/09/06