

Bengal Engineering College Alumni Association, Delhi
Address: H-54-A, Kalkaji, New Delhi 110 019, Tel : 011-2647 1884

October 10, 2006
Soumyaa Souvik Hati
General Secretary, BECSU

Dear Soumyaa:

It is my privilege to receive your invitation to attend the discussion of upgrading of BESU to IEST (an INI) on October 12, 2006. I convey our thanks on behalf of the Delhi Alumni Association. However, due to practical difficulties, outstation being the main reason, we shall not be able to join but we are sure of your leadership that would result the desired success.

The Global Alumni Association and BESU Faculty Association made a joint appeal to the WB CM to consider the MHRD proposal for converting BESU to an IEST. Recently the Andhra Pradesh CM accepted a similar MHRD proposal for converting two of its best state engineering institutes to IESTs, which comes as no surprise.

Just after independence, both BEC and Calcutta Medical College were selected for conversion to national institutes of IIT and AIIMS, respectively, but the then ruling WB Government of that time did not accept that proposal, unfortunately. After 50 years, now our IITs and AIIMS have raised to world-wide recognition. This has been possible by (i) selecting students from greater geographical base and (ii) receiving patronage for infrastructural developments both in the faculty and in research. Although there is concern about the chances of local students getting admitted in an INI, we must not forget that in a globalized world, we all have to compete at least nationally, if not globally. Historically the best institutes of the world have always encouraged admission of best students of foreign countries and thus they have established the institutional credibility. For greater interest, we have to accept the same philosophy to study along with some of the best brains of other countries under the same roof. It routes to future growth, success and well being of the institution and the students. An INI (funded by the Government of India) with better infrastructure and faculty will allow the local students to get proper training to compete with others around the globe.

Our WB CM, Mr. Bhattacharya, in his efforts to attract industries to West Bengal, will not miss this opportunity to get another technical INI with a strong potential of R&D, since the existence of an INI will make it easy for him to convince the businesses to move/start their operations in WB.

The GAABSU initiated the conversion effort 3 years back and it is encouraging to note that the students now have joined into this initiative. The benefit of BESU's conversion to INI will reach both undergraduate and post graduate students. Industries will come forward for better Industry-Institute relationship, allowing both Teachers and Students to have experience beyond the class rooms. This will provide the students better path in their future goals, be it in the job market or in higher studies. Teachers shall be benefited with industrial exposure.

As our chapter is supporting it for the past 3+ years, we now strongly support IEST, Shibpur and wish that your efforts are successful in building a consensus on this issue.

Sincerely,

Asim Deb
On behalf of Delhi Alumni Association