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**28 November – 1 December 2010,
Fortune Hotel Sullivan Court , Ooty,
India**

*Note: Delegates must apply for places,
no later than **25 October 2010**.*

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Accelerating Technology Commercialisation

UK-India join hands for flagship technology commercialisation workshops

The UK and India have launched an initiative to promote and encourage technology innovation among Indian researchers and entrepreneurs to replicate Cambridge-like eco-system of strong academia-industry partnerships across Indian research clusters.

For the first time, a series of UK-India workshops - ACTIV (Accelerated Commercialisation of Technology and Innovation) – was held in Pune from September 27 to October 1, 2010 to develop next generation of Indian technology innovators who are capable to take their innovations from lab to market. The workshop, which attracted huge interest from the Indian scientific community, trained about 60-odd researchers and incubation managers from leading research institutes and organizations.



Experts from Cambridge University and UK-based AcceleratorIndia, a technology consulting firm, shared key lessons learnt in encouraging Science-based entrepreneurship and innovation eco-system at Cambridge. National Chemical Laboratory and Venture Center, a unique incubation centre focused on chemical sciences area, informed their initiatives to promote Indian innovators and entrepreneurs.

Dr Shailendra Vyakarnam, Director, Centre for Entrepreneurial Learning at the Cambridge's Judge Business School, who has designed the workshop, said it was important to change the mindset and perception of researchers. "Academics are not used to the vocabulary of the capitalist arrangement. They are used to getting paid for writing papers. They have not been a part of the culture of paing the money back. It needs a lot effort for them to get used to the idea of venture capital and giving up the ownership of their own work after a company takes up its manufacture. This kind of a workshop helps in such transition."

In his keynote address , Dr R A Mashelkar, Chairman, National Innovation Foundation and President of Global Research Alliance, emphasized the importance of "Gandhian Engineering" in the 21st century, which meant "getting more from less for more". "It meant that the design and development of products and services with more performance, from less material, less cost, less time, less environmental pollution and for benefit of not just a privileged few but for more and more people on this planet -- four billion people, whose income levels are less than two dollars a day."

Expressing his happiness over the joint initiative, Dr Mashelkar dubbed UK and India are natural partners in science and research and recalled that he started his journey of research in the UK.

Speaking about this path-breaking UK-India partnership, Chris Darby, Head of UK Science and Innovation India Network, British High Commission, said: "UK and India are natural partners, not only in globalised implementation of excellent research projects, but also in ensuring that their output has a significant societal and economic impact".



This series was sponsored by UK Science and Innovation Network, India and the Indian Department of Science and Technology (DST), and supported by the UK-India Business Council (UKIBC) and the Indian Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR).

"Indian scientific establishments and technology startups need credible support in translating scientific competencies to commercially viable products and services" according to Dr. V. Premnath, founder-Director of Venture Center"

Dr Uday Phadke, Director, AcceleratorIndia, who spoke on innovation landscape in Cambridge at the workshop, observed: “Most of the scientists who attended the ACTIV workshop were senior researchers who showed some inclination towards innovation in the form of having at Indian and US patents to their credit. We tried to help them in areas like in the identification of an entrepreneurial opportunity in an academic research project, even while they are still being carried out at the laboratory level.”

“The interactive sessions and the handbook provided at the ACTIV workshop are the two most valuable things for me. The workshop gave me the idea that business incubator centres like Venture Center are really helpful to bridge the gap between inventors and commercial houses. Such workshops should be held more frequently as there is a huge appetite”, mentioned one of the participants from a CSIR lab.

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British High Commission, New Delhi

IN FOCUS

[The Prince of Wales wishes IIT Delhi a Happy Birthday](#)

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales attended a reception at the British High Commission on 2 October to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of IIT, Delhi. Prince Charles met a number of IIT Delhi scientists who are working on major projects with UK universities in areas of environmental importance.

[Nobel Prize for IVF expert Robert Edwards – father of 4 million](#)

More than four decades ago British scientist Robert Edwards first witnessed the miracle of human life growing inside a test tube at his Cambridge lab. Since that ground-breaking moment, more than four million babies have been born through IVF and yesterday his great contribution to science was finally recognised as he was awarded the Nobel Prize for medicine.

[India, UK to embark on fuel cell research](#)

United Kingdom and India will embark on a joint research initiative in next generation, environment friendly fuel cell technologies worth 6 million pounds, said Jason Green, Head, UK Energy Programme Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC).

[Royal Society of Chemistry opens Bangalore office](#)

The Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) opened its fourth international office in India, hoping to contribute to "research excellence" and develop deeper scientific links between India and Britain.

[Cancer drug clears two panels: stage set for clinical trials in India](#)

The world's first commercialised gene therapy drug, currently marketed only in China, is likely to reach India soon. Branded Gendicine, the drug is used to treat head and neck cancer. The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) has now constituted a seven-member expert body to decide on allowing clinical (human) trials.

[UoP to be part of UK-India collaborative initiatives](#)

A group of universities from India and the United Kingdom (UK) have agreed in principle to work out collaborative initiatives in specified areas, including quality assurance, use of technology, and governance in education.

[Edinburgh coordinates ESPA scheme to train development scientists in India and Pakistan](#)

A new global initiative coordinated by the University of Edinburgh will help the poorest people in India and Pakistan to continue improving their lives, despite the impact of flooding and other events linked to climate change and environmental degradation.

COMPETITIVENESS

[UK's first engineering academy launched](#)

The £22 million JCB Academy - the UK's first academy dedicated to engineering – has been launched in Rocester, Staffordshire

[Research intelligence - Plugging in to India](#)

India has acquired a host of international suitors as a result of its booming economy and rapidly growing status on the world stage. This summer, the latest in line was David Willetts, the universities and science minister, who visited the country as part of a British delegation of politicians, academics and business leaders. On his return, he spoke of the "enormous scope" for cooperation between the two countries.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

[Govt to help companies develop technology for hybrid, e-vehicles](#)

The government is setting up a new body with a corpus of up to Rs 200 crore to help companies develop environment- friendly technologies for hybrid and electric vehicles, said a senior government official. The National Electric Mobility Mission will try to promote eco-friendly technologies as an alternative to the use of non-renewable fuels such as petrol and diesel that dominate the Indian car and two-wheeler market. This will also help control air pollution in the country.

[Cambridge researchers offer new hope for treatment of liver disease](#)

A pioneering stem cell technique developed in Cambridge to replicate diseased cells in the liver could save tens of thousands of lives.

[India, U.K. to develop next generation wireless systems](#)

A consortium of nine U.K. institutions and seven Indian scientific institutions are all set to design the next generation of wireless systems across India. The project, India-U.K. Advanced Technology Centre (IU-ATC) of Excellence in Next Generation Networks Systems and Services, is being led by Gerard Parr from the University of Ulster in Northern Ireland and Ashok Jhunjhunwala at the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras.

[UK Science and Innovation Network in India](#)

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