

## **Criterion 7 – Institutional Values and Best Practices**

### **7.3 Institutional Distinctiveness:**

Hope Foundation and Research Centre (Hope Foundation), a Public Charitable Trust/ Society was established by Late Shri. Pralhad P. Chhabria, Founder Chairman of Finolex Group of Companies in the year 1979 with the objective of rendering social service in the field of education, medicine and research. Under the aegis of Hope Foundation, our Institute, the International Institute of Information Technology (I<sup>2</sup>IT) was established and was dedicated to the services of the nation at the hands of Bharat Ratna Late Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam in the year 2003.

Under the guidance and leadership of Mrs. Aruna M. Katara, President – Hope Foundation, the governance of I<sup>2</sup>IT comprises of Board of Governors (BoG), Advisory Council consisting of National and International experts of high repute. Their valuable inputs play vital role in the institute reforms. Also guidelines from College of Engineering Pune (COEP) as our mentor institute provide directions in academic development.

Vision of our Institute is “To be a premier academic institution that fosters diversity, value-added education and research, leading to sustainable innovations and transforming learners into leaders”. In line with the Vision statement, our Institute has established Research, Development, Consultancy and Collaboration (RDCC) cell to churn out various technological solutions for betterment of life. RDCC cell intends to have collaborative research programs in association with top research institutes in India and abroad. An interdisciplinary approach is encouraged to involve different research and consultancy activities for the industries. Our institute is striving to develop itself into an institution of Excellence in education and research keeping in mind the contemporary and future needs of India of the highest standards in engineering and technology.

To enable research environment, the Institute has formulated two thematic research groups and Centers of Excellence (CoE) in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Geoinformatics. Each Centre of Excellence consists of faculty members and students who are focused on the domain specific research work. Each Centre is aimed to cater various pathways such as research publications through journals, conference, patents; professional trainings through outreach activities, Sponsored research projects from government or consultancy project from Industries and finally involving in incubating start ups.

In this initiative, I<sup>2</sup>IT received approval for two sponsored research projects titled, “Development of Near Real-Time Regional TEC Mapping at Low-Latitude ASEAN Region Using GNSS Stations (INR 30.27 Lakhs) and Service Oriented Participatory Platform for Local SDI: Smart Civic Services for Second Tier Cities in Thailand and India (INR 10.95 Lakh) funded by ASEAN-India Science & Technology Development Fund and Department of Science & Technology respectively. Indo-Asean Project involves project partners with Malaysian & Thai universities whereas second project consists of IIT Bombay and Two Thai Universities as project partners.



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Further, the recognition granted to Hope Foundation as a Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (SIRO) by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India has definitely added value to the Research & Development activities of the Institute for undertaking various funded research projects.



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