

GTU INNOVATION COUNCIL

(<http://www.gtuinnovationcouncil.ac.in/>)

The Concept of Sectoral Innovation Councils

GTU Innovation Council has decided to create 50 Sectoral Innovation Councils in phase one involving its 4867 Degree Engineering and 3886 Diploma Engineering Professors to create virtual center of excellence in each field of interest to GTU researchers

INTRODUCTION:

GTU Innovation Council has established 25 Innovation Sankuls, spread out all over Gujarat. It has also established Udisha Clubs in nearly every College thus linking 3.5 lac students, their faculty members and 500 colleges with 34,500 SMEs. In quantity and quality this effort by GTU Innovation Council is unprecedented in the field of technology education all over the globe.

Each one of the GTU Innovation Sankuls is co-chaired by a Principal/ Director of a GTU College and a leader from the industry from the area. Many of the Co-Chairpersons (Industry) are Presidents of Chambers or Industry Associations. About 500 leading persons from industries are members of the Sankul Committees. Principals/ Directors of GTU Institutions are trying to develop closer relationships with each one of these members.

National Innovation Council (NIC) has established 10 State Innovation Councils in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Manipur, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Lakshadweep, Mizoram, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Karnataka. NIC has also created 12 Sectoral innovation councils in the country involving various Govt. departments. In April 2011, National Innovation Council (NIC) has proposed the creation of Cluster Innovation Centers (CIC) at universities.

GTU is the country's 1st large scale State Technical University, which has not only implemented this idea but it has also created its own locally relevant innovation frameworks. GTU started working on its Innovation Council on August 2, 2010. GTU Innovation Council has created its own roadmap of creating innovation clusters. 50,010 young technical students have participated in Industrial Shodh Yatras during summer 2011 for benchmarking the technology, energy and waste with respect to each MSMEs. Through the Shodh Yatras or otherwise, every Final Year students has worked out an Industry Defined Project (IDP), which would aim at improving a product or a process in an SME by using the innovative spirit of the young. The students in 113 disciplines in UG and PG level at GTU are converting these IDPs as their final year projects during the next 10 months of effort each.

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The concept of GTU Innovation Sankuls and IDPs has been well appreciated by GCCI, VCCI, ASSOCHAM ,VIA , FGI, SGCCI , REA and other leading industry chambers and industry clusters. In June 2011, GTU has started the process of linking 72 smaller GIDC Associations with the Sankuls and many of them have responded very enthusiastically to the invitation from the honourable Vice-Chancellor. The Co-Chairperson (Academic) of the 25 GTU Innovation Sankuls are trying to meet the Presidents of each one of the Associations in their respective areas to explain to them the concept and to bring them into the Sankul Committees.

Without any public or private support system and solely due to the strength of its intellectual vision, the GTU Innovation Council has succeeded in visualizing the model of GTU Innovation Sankuls and in implementing it in various geographic locations of the state, jointly with Techpedia.in. GTU Innovation Sankuls are regularly arranging interactions between students-faculties and industry authorities involving local GIDC and other industry persons.

SECTORAL INNOVATION COUNCILS:

GTU Innovation Council wants to involve GTU's 4867 Degree Engineering and 3886 Diploma Engineering Professors directly with the industries in their field of interest. It has decided to create Sectoral Innovation Councils in each field of interest to GTU's students and faculty. Each of the Sectoral Innovation Councils will have teams from industry chambers/discrete industries and Professors/expert academicians interested in their specific field. Young technology students, working in the field of technology students will also be members of the Sectoral Council, working in the field in which the student is developing his/ her project or pursuing his/ her research. Each one of the Sectoral Council will become a virtual center of excellence for its field.

The Sectoral Councils are expected to provide a range of services from encouraging innovative ideas, to promoting inter/multi disciplinary research, providing training and support on innovation and entrepreneurship, developing ideas into innovative applications, facilitating closer technological collaborations with industry and society, mnagement, commercialization and marketing of these applications to benefit society at large etc. The Sectoral Innovation Councils will be engaged in creating new domains of knowledge, new teaching learning methodologies and new forms of organization and networking in particular sectors, jointly with the industry counterparts.

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GTU Innovation Council is developing an eco system for successful innovation in clusters, where open interactions between the stakeholders has started taking place. Innovation benefits from cross-fertilization between organizations, young minds and experts. We need to break the traditional barriers against knowledge sharing and move towards co-creation of knowledge. The most significant barriers for innovation in industry are skill shortages, lack of effective collaborations, insufficient capacity building and inability to manage innovation successfully. However, sustainable and accessible mechanisms to address these are virtually non-existent. Hence GTU Innovation Council and Techpedia are striving to make it happen. 8753 professors of engineering in GTU (4867 Degree Engineering and 3886 Diploma Engineering Professors*) faculty members and professionals in the industry will be able to exchange ideas and collaborate through the use of virtual connectivity, provided through the Sectoral Council.

Each Sectoral Council will be linked to particular industry professional from all the GIDCs and other industries of Gujarat. The Sectoral councils will again follow a user defined innovation model where the inputs, needs and suggestions from MSMEs and by GTU Professors, researchers and students will chart new ways and new roadmaps of technical and scientific developments in their field of interest. Each Sectoral Innovation Councils may involve faculties from degree Engineering, Diploma Engineering, Pharmacy and MCA, as required. We expect that the Sectoral councils will be able to draw in expert mentors from National Mentoring Network (NMN) headed by Padmabhushan Dr. R.A.Mashelkar and other resources from any where in India and the world.

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*The number as on the day this document is being written