

The 2nd Ireland-India Science & Technology Forum 2011



Ireland-India Science, Technology & Educational Collaborations: Opportunities, Challenges & Solutions



Universities and Institutes of Technology from all over North & South Ireland and some from India, attended the 2nd Ireland-India Science and Technology Forum in Dublin's prestigious Mansion House on 17th June 2011. They were given the opportunity to meet on a one-to-one basis with Vice Chancellor of the University of Pune Dr. R. K. Shevgaonkar and other Irish-Indian delegates brought to Dublin by the Ireland-India Council (IIC). The participants of the Forum listened to presentations and speeches from academia as well as industrial and government representatives. Delegates were warmly welcomed by The Lord Mayor of Dublin Cllr. Gerry Breen.

Feedback from delegates attending the 2nd Forum has been extremely encouraging



"I wish every success to the 2nd Forum and IIC's efforts to promote greater collaboration not only between Ireland and India, but with other countries as well".

Dr Subra Suresh
Director
National Science Foundation
of USA

Professor R. K. Shevgaonkar, the Vice Chancellor of University of Pune was a Key Note speaker at the Forum. President of the Dublin City University Professor Brian Mac Craith and President of the Dublin Institute of Technology Professor Brian Norton were also speakers in the Forum.

A well-received interactive panel discussion and question and answer session featured challenges and opportunities for Irish Indian collaborations. This discussion allowed speakers and panelists to tap into great experiences from Ireland and India with more in-depth knowledge of their particular subjects.

The Forum also offered delegates the opportunity to meet each other from key universities, Institutes of Technology and representative's state agencies such as Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade and Department of Education & Skills.

There was an exceptional turn out at the conference, allowing delegates to make some very useful links with other collaborative partners keen to share expertise or discuss the substantial opportunities open to Irish-Indian Researchers, Scientists and Academics wanting to foster partnership with India.

Moving forward, the IIC is determined to work closely with the Irish-Indian Universities and Institutes of Technology. Over the next 12 months, we intend to strengthen our existing services and roll out new information and business services aimed at raising awareness. We also plan to enhance business to business dialogue and create more communities in Ireland and India around all these sectors.

Feedback from delegates attending the 2nd Forum has been extremely encouraging and we look forward to welcoming the Forum again in 2012 to allow even more productive businesses to take advantage of the bilateral collaborative opportunities available between Ireland and India.

IIC MUNSTER CHAPTER LAUNCHED



Cork 15 June, 2011

The Munster Chapter of the Ireland-India Council was launched in the Cork Institute of Technology on 15 June, 2011. Prominent members of Irish-Indian community, business leaders and academics attended the ceremony.

At the launch, Deputy Lord Mayor of Cork Cllr. Kieran McCarthy said, "The Ireland-India Council is a very progressive establishment. It visualises greater economic, educational, scientific, cultural and tourism opportunities between Ireland and India. Council explores new areas by supporting to develop communication, dialogue, mutual trust, leadership and improved understanding between leaders in business, education and government in Ireland and India." He pledged that Cork City Council "would support the IIC Munster chapter as it



"I learned so much and really appreciated the networking opportunity. This was the most useful conference I have attended in a long time so congratulations to all for putting on such an interesting and diverse programme."

Michael Loftus
CIT



Prior to 2nd Forum S&T Steering Committee discussing the plan

would help social inclusion and create a positive environment for the business communities to bring Irish-Indian commercial relations to their full potential.



The President of the Cork Institute of Technology, Dr Brendan Murphy, praised this initiative saying the establishment of the Chapter will create a new paradigm for how we do business with India. This will facilitate not only CIT but other businesses and Institutions across the Munster region. Informing the gathering in relation to CIT's links with the University of Pune (UoP), India, Dr Murphy said CIT has developed a strong partnership and links and engaged with UoP to run joint educational and research programmes.

Mr. Bryan McSwiney, Director of Zenith Technologies Ltd., highlighted the successful Indian operations of his company and expressed his desire to be involved with the Chapter.

Mr Prashant Shukla, Director of the IIC informed the gathering about the aims and objective of the council and future plan for the Munster chapter.

Master of the ceremony was Mr Michael Loftus, Head of Faculty of Engineering and Science at CIT. A comprehensive question and answers session was also organised and chaired by Dr. Niall Smith, Head of Research, CIT. The event culminated with a reception hosted by CIT.

Prominent among the participants was Ms. Clair Nadkar, Internationalisation Coordinator, CIT, many Indian students from CIT, and a wide range of participants from India and Ireland drawn from organisations around Munster.

The Ireland-India Council (IIC) is the leading organisation working to strengthen the existing relationship and promote understanding among the Irish-Indian communities, business leaders, universities and institutions of Ireland and India, bringing together present and future leaders, intellectuals and diplomats from both our countries. The Council has laid the groundwork for future cooperation.

Following its highly successful official launch, the Munster Chapter is actively recruiting new members. Interested parties should contact the Mrs. Clair Nadkar at 021-4326580 or the IIC Office in Dublin at 01-4131241 or e-mail at munster@irelandindiacouncil.ie

[Link to IIC website](#)



Members of the Irish-Indian Community at the Munster Chapter Launch Reception

“The Ireland-India Council is a very progressive establishment. It visualises greater economic, educational, scientific, cultural and tourism opportunities between Ireland and India”

Cllr. Kieran McCarthy
Deputy Lord Mayor of Cork



IIC interviews India's Ambassador to Ireland
His Excellency P.S. Raghavan

Q1. Your Excellency the pre independence ties between the two countries are significant. How do old links complement the culture and traditions of the Irish and Indian people?

The extraordinary diversity of contacts between our two countries in the 19th and 20th centuries has created a groundswell of goodwill between our two peoples. It is a base that we can build on to forge new links in response to the opportunities in the modern globalised world.

Q2. After independence we have limited political interactions between the two countries. How the Irish “look east” policy and the former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern’s visit to India broaden Irish-Indian relations?

The Taoiseach’s visit in 2006 made a valuable contribution to renewing the vibrancy of India-Ireland relations and bridging the awareness gap between the business communities of the two countries. The tempo of bilateral interactions has definitely picked up since then.

Q3. What interests does India have in Ireland?

I have mentioned the friendship that India and Ireland developed over two centuries. What we would like to do is to take that friendship forward by finding new avenues of cooperation between our two countries. As democracies, India and Ireland have a convergence of views on a large number of world problems. We have economic complementarities that should encourage more trade and investment exchanges. India’s strategic partnership with the European Union is another important strand in the India-Ireland relationship. The skilled Indian professionals who live and work in Ireland not only contribute to the economy of this country; they also enable an interaction of our cultures.

Q4. Ambassador, in your opinion, how could the economic relations between the two countries further strengthen?

We are already witnessing a strengthening of economic relations. Even in the current challenging economic situation, bilateral trade in goods & services is

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P.S. Raghavan
Ambassador of India to
Ireland

showing a sustained increase. There is also considerable investment interest on both sides. We need to continue our efforts – and in this the IIC also has a role – to promote greater awareness in our business communities of the tremendous potential that is still to be tapped.

Q5. What is happening in the areas of culture, science, and technology and education exchange between our two counties?

With the efforts of the Indian community in Ireland and our Embassy, a number of Indian cultural events have been held in Ireland recently. We will see more such activities in 2011, particularly in connection with the 150th birth anniversary of our poet philosopher Rabindranath Tagore who had close connections with Ireland in the early 20th century. The Programme of Cooperation in Science & Technology, which was concluded in May 2009, has catalyzed stronger interaction between scientists and researchers of our two countries, including through joint research projects. We see great promise in this cooperation.

I believe Irish higher educational institutions can attract many more Indian students. Fortunately a number of them are now paying more attention to their marketing efforts in India. I am sure these efforts will yield rich results. I am happy that our Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) has established a Chair of Indian Studies in Trinity College Dublin. Equally heartening is the creation of a new post in Indian studies in Trinity College which has been co-funded by the Indian community in Ireland along with the College.

Q6. How rapidly is India developing today and what are the opportunities for Irish businesses in India and vice versa?

India's economic growth is now fairly well documented in the business pages of the international press. The Indian Government is paying equal attention to economic development, so that the benefits of growth accrue to the less affluent sections of the population, thereby narrowing income disparities. Both our growth and our development initiatives offer rich opportunities to Irish businesses. Irish companies have been exploring business in India in IT, pharmaceuticals, energy and a range of infrastructure industries. With India's present economic trajectory and the strengths of Irish business, there is really no limit to the speed at which our economic relations can grow. In this I would also like to mention investments. Indian companies have significantly stepped up investments abroad, particularly in Europe. With Ireland's special advantages it should attract a number of Indian companies which are seeking a base in the European Union.

Q7. What is happening about the Indian Presidential Visit to Ireland?

The two Governments are in discussion about the schedules.

Q8. Where do you see India in next 20 years?

In 2030, India should be a developed and prosperous country, playing its rightful role for peace and security in the global community.

Q9. You are probably at the end of your tenure in Ireland, what initiatives have you already taken to enhance Irish-Indian ties, how much are you satisfied with the outcome of these initiatives and what advice will you give to your successor?

My tenure in Ireland [which still continues] has been very rewarding. It has been



“Ireland and India have a great deal to learn from each other. India can learn from the close relationship which Irish educational institutions have with business and industrial development. Ireland can draw inspiration from the commitment of millions of ordinary Indians to educational attainment and benefit from cooperating with the wide spectrum of cutting-edge scientific research taking place in Indian Institutes of Technology, Universities and laboratories”.

Kenneth Thompson
Ambassador of Ireland to
India

heartening to see the tremendous strides in various areas of bilateral relations in recent years. All those involved in this – the Indian and Irish Governments, my Embassy and the Irish Embassy in Delhi, a number of governmental agencies in both countries, and the Indian community in this country – can take pride in having helped in this process. At the same time, we recognize that there is more work to be done to further enrich the relationship.

[Link to IIC website](#)

IRELAND'S FIRST EVER VISA WAIVER PROGRAMME INCLUDES INDIA

Dublin 30 June, 2011

The Taoiseach, Enda Kenny, T.D., the Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Eamon Gilmore, T.D., the Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence, Alan Shatter, T.D. and the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Leo Varadkar, T.D., today launched the first ever Irish Short-stay Visa Waiver Programme.

It is due to commence on Friday 1 July 2011 and will run up to the end of October 2012, as a pilot, taking in the period of the London Olympics.

Under the Programme, tourists or business people who have lawfully entered the UK, including Northern Ireland, on a valid UK visa will be able to travel on to Ireland without the requirement to obtain an Irish visa. They will be allowed to stay in Ireland for up to 3 months or until their UK visa runs out, whichever is the shorter.

Nationals of sixteen countries in all are included in the programme. The countries involved are India, Kazakhstan, Peoples Republic of China, Uzbekistan, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Belarus, Montenegro, Russian Federation, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine.

The Taoiseach described the Programme as an "innovative package which is clearly focussed on encouraging more tourists from new and untraditional markets to visit Ireland". He applauded the initiative of the Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence, Alan Shatter, for bringing the proposal to cabinet. The Taoiseach added that the proposal is noteworthy for coming from a Department "which would not ordinarily be seen as a generator of economic activity". "However, all is changed" he added, "and this Government is determined to do things differently, to operate all the levers and to work closely with industry to make that change happen for the betterment of all our citizens".

The Tánaiste described the initiative "as an excellent example of a joined-up Government response to what is a genuine constraint to the growth of Irish tourism in new and emerging markets such as China, India and the Gulf." He said the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Irish embassies abroad will be cooperating closely with the Department of Justice and Equality to help ensure that our visa regime is aligned with the priorities set out in the Government's integrated strategy for the promotion of overseas trade, tourism and investment. The Tánaiste said that he looked forward to "further developments in relation to the visa regime for entrepreneurs and investors who wished to do business in Ireland in the near future."

The Minister for Justice, Equality and Defence stated "this initiative has been warmly welcomed by the tourism industry as a measure which represents real



*Taoiseach Enda
Kenny and Tánaiste
Eamon Gilmore at
the launch of
Government Visa
Waiver Programme
on Thursday 30th
June, 2011*

practical assistance at a time when it was never more needed. Put at its simplest, it is joined-up Government in action. The Programme is a real and tangible outcome of a process of engagement, facilitated and led by my Department".

Minister Varadkar also welcomed the initiative "The visa waiver has a major role to play in boosting our tourism industry, stimulating job creation and bringing economic recovery. It will allow us to attract new visitors from fast-growing countries like India, China and the Gulf states. These countries are only just becoming aware of Ireland as a tourism destination. The waiver will allow holidaymakers from these nations to travel seamlessly to Ireland from the UK.

[Link to Department of Justice website](#)

Dear IIC Members & Reader,

This edition marks the strengthening of our communication with our members and all stake holders that aims to keep our readers updated about the happenings at IIC and also visits, activities and initiatives progressing between the two governments and private sector.

Over the past few years, IIC had steady growth in terms of initiatives and activities as well as expertise and support given to other stake holders. Our regular activities represent a diverse range and unique opportunity to influencing policy makers to further strengthen Irish-Indian commercial and cultural relations for the best interest of the people.

This edition features our Ambassador Mr. P. S. Raghavan's interview, updates about our programmes, especially the 2nd Ireland-India Science and Technology Forum and opening of the Munster Chapter of the Council in County Cork. The interactions between IIC and its members will go a long way to establishing IIC a vibrant platform and institution that provides the best possible services to both cultural and commercial activities in both Ireland and India.

Being Director of the Council, I humbly encourage all of you to make use of this platform to remain updated and connected with us. We welcome all editorial or other contributions so that we can make IIC and this Newsletter our collective voice. If you wish to share your experiences, please let us know.

A copy of this edition of our Newsletter (and other newsletters) can be found on our website. Don't forget to visit www.irelandindiacouncil.ie regularly for frequent updates.

Enjoy the summer and we hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,
Prashant Shukla
Director

Irish-Indian Information &
Cultural Centre
17 Synge Street, Dublin 8
Ireland
Tel: +353-1-4131241
E-mail:
info@irelandindiacouncil.ie
Website:
www.irelandindiacouncil.ie
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IRISH INDIAN INFORMATION & CULTURAL CENTRE
17 SYNGE STREET
DUBLIN, DUBLIN8
IRELAND



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