KUIC to foster GIAs

Bengaluru has cemented itself as a global technology hub, actively being supported by its vast talent pool, global innovation centres and dynamic Government policies. Tier 2 cities like Mysuru and Hubballi are also ripe for development as centres of innovation and entrepreneurship. Karnataka has to compete at a global level for innovation partnerships and collaboration for which Global Innovation Alliances (GIAs) are being established with all Innovation economies of the world. KUIC (Karnataka Unit for International Cooperation) has been set up by the Department to effectively communicate Karnataka’s strengths to the international fora, and to help in furthering collaborations and strengthening and maturing of the innovation ecosystem of the State.

KUIC shall help in handling all international partnerships of the Department of IT, BT and S&T.

Technology in Agriculture

A one day workshop on “Technology in Agriculture” was jointly organized by Department of IT, BT and S&T and Department of Agriculture on March 28th 2018 at Hotel Shangri-La, Bengaluru. The event took place under the aegis of “Bengaluru Tech Summit”, with emphasis on how technologies like IoT (Internet of Things), Drones, Smartphones, GIS (Geographic Information Systems) etc. are impacting the Agriculture sector. The keynote address for the session was delivered by Ms. Dana Kursh, Consul General of Israel to South India, with a presentation encapsulating the preeminent position Israel has in the fields of Agriculture and Technology, and how this has led to the synthesis in “Agritech”. Ms. Kursh focused on achievements of Israeli agriculture such as micro irrigation and other techniques utilized by Israel to convert its vast desert areas to greenhouses. With Israel and India having many similarities, she reiterated the need for continued engagement between the two countries in the field of Agritech in order to reap maximum benefits.

The 21st edition of Bengaluru Tech Summit, flagship global event for the tech industry, shall be organized on 29th November to 1st December 2018. KUIC is promoting this event at international innovation hubs and has also planned to organize curated tech sessions with experts from all over the globe for benefit of industry in Karnataka.

This newsletter is a quarterly update of activities taken up, conferences and meetings attended and workshops organized by Department of IT BT and S&T along with KUIC.

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Ms. Dana Kursh lighting the lamp along with Government officials at the workshop

The India-Israel connection
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Delegation Visit to Netherlands

A delegation from Department of IT BT conducted a fruitful visit to Netherlands from 5-11 March 2018. They met regional and national stakeholders in The Hague’s start-up ecosystem, and also got acquainted with relevant participants under the MoU signed between Karnataka and Netherlands. An MoU Joint Program Steering Committee was held in the presence of the Vice-Mayor of the City of The Hague to chart a road map for both parties reaching milestones for the MoU.

MoU with Embassy of Finland

“The Karnataka–Finland Innovation Corridor heralds a new age of collaboration and knowledge sharing between the two regions.”

- Shri Priyank Kharge

Department of IT BT entered into an MoU with Embassy of Finland during late 2017 to promote innovation cooperation between Karnataka and Finland under the title "Karnataka - Finland Innovation Corridor". In accordance to the MoU, the High Level Steering Committee co-chaired by Hon’ble Minister Shri Priyank Kharge and H.E. Ambassador of Finland to India, Ms. Nina Vaskunlahti, met on 19 February 2018 in Bengaluru to review progress made under the MoU, and to discuss next steps for taking the Innovation Corridor forward. Karnataka-based i-Samarth programme, initiated by Nokia, acting as an informal focal point for IoT-related Indian and Finnish companies to collaborate, has already begun work with three Karnataka start-ups. Further, to meet the growing demand for quality human capital in technology, Karnataka and Finland have planned to organise suitable skill development programmes, under the aegis of Yuva Yuqa scheme.

Victoria-India Digital Health Workshop

The Premier of Victoria, the Hon. Daniel Andrews visited Bangalore on 18 January 2018 to partake in the Digital Health Workshop organized by the Victorian Government in coordination with Department of IT BT and Bangalore Bio Innovation Centre. The workshop saw the participation of med-tech companies and research organizations, with entrepreneur and biopharma magnate, Ms. Kiran Majumdar Shaw, giving the closing remarks. The workshop resulted in the developing of a roadmap for collaboration between medtech start-ups in Karnataka.
Breakfast with German Federation of Start-ups

The German India week roadshow organised by the German Startups Association proceeded through the Bengaluru startup landscape, with 24-member delegation of German investors, entrepreneurs, and Federal officials shaking hands with members of Department of IT BT over morning coffee on 20 February 2018.

Germany is known for its IT software power. This combination of brawn and brain as it were, could be put to solving some pressing issues in India while at the same time ensuring that German startups get to explore new market opportunities. Germany and Karnataka have been in touch since to chart a plan for start-up collaboration between the two.

Seminar on GDPR by Consulate of Belgium

Officials from Department of IT BT attended seminar on EU’s GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) organised by Consulate of Belgium at World Trade Centre, Bengaluru, on 26 March 2018 to understand how tenets of the regulation may be used as a reference for creating IP and Data protection framework for Karnataka. A priority under Innovate Karnataka platform launch by the Department, the framework is meant to help companies involved with new and emerging technologies not defined under any Indian law yet to innovate, while ensuring that customers and their data are safe. Legal experts from Belgium and Karnataka interacted with each other to provide a deeper insight into the scenarios in both places from a policy perspective.

Austrian R&D Delegation

Department of IT BT welcomed high level R&D delegation from Austria, headed by Dr. Hannes Androsch, President of the Austrian Council for Research & Technology Development (ACRTD) and former Deputy Prime Minister of Austria, on 31 January 2018. Discussions were held about peculiarities regarding Scientific and Industrial Research, Big Data analytics, Cyber Security and in general technology and innovation in India and in what fields a cooperation could be possible. Department of IT BT officials also attended a networking dinner on 1 February 2018 to understand Austria's new RTI (Research, Technology and Innovation) Policy.

Mr. Gaurav Gupta, Principal Secretary, Department of IT BT (second from left), speaking at the event

Mr. Rajkumar Srivastava, Advisor to IT BT Department, presenting about the Karnataka ecosystem at R&D networking dinner
The Department of IT, BT and S&T has defined an overall Framework for Innovation-Engagements with global leaders. This framework is intended to ensure a systematic and strategic approach to developing and leveraging our international partnerships.

India-Japan Business Partnership Seminar

JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization) in association with BCIC organized an “Invest Japan Partnership Seminar” having focus on IT sector on 8 March 2018 in Bengaluru.

With its primary objective to encourage more and more Indian IT investments to Japan, JETRO and Consulate of Japan shared recent developments about the Indo-Japan ecosystem and some successful case studies where Japanese companies co-developed global products utilizing Indian IT capabilities. Startups and large and medium Indian IT companies also presented their experiences in Japan.

Officials from Department of IT BT participated in the event and shared updates regarding Government of Karnataka’s initiatives that have enabled a thriving IT ecosystem here, and encouraged Karnataka-Japan collaboration.

Ms. Champa E, General Manager, KBITS, addressing the event

Upcoming International Participations

9-11 May 2018, Bio Korea 2018, Seoul, South Korea
A delegation of Startups from Karnataka will be visiting South Korea to attend Bio Korea 2018, which will act as a platform for international information exchange and technology transfer.

4 – 7 June 2018, BIO International Convention 2018, Boston
Karnataka Industry delegation will be attending BIO International Convention, the largest and most significant biotechnology gathering of the year. Nearly 16,000 participants from over 74 countries and 48 U.S. states will gather for three days of business partnering, education sessions, networking events and an exhibition showcasing the promising advancements that our sector is delivering.

8 – 12 June 2018, Official Delegation Visit to Finland
Government delegation will be traveling to Finland on invitation of Finland Permanent Secretary, Mr. Matti Anttonen, to promote innovation cooperation under “Karnataka-Finland Innovation Corridor”.

13 - 17 June 2018, Delegation Annecy International Animated Film Festival 2018, France
The Annecy Film Festival is an ideal platform for networking and showcasing strengths and opportunities in AVGC (Animation Visual Effects Gaming and Comics) sector in Karnataka. The event is an opportunity for the Department and ABAI for forming ideas through discussions with leaders in the industry, which would help in setting up the Centre of Excellence for AVGC, consisting of Post Production Lab and Finishing School.

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