



ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के लिए प्रौद्योगिकी विकल्प केन्द्र
भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान मुंबई
पवई, मुंबई-400 076, भारत

**Centre for Technology Alternatives
for Rural Areas (CTARA)**

Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
Powai, Mumbai-400 076, India

Tel : (+91-22) 2576 7870, 2576 7871
EPABX : (+91-22) 2572 2545, Extn.: 7870, 7871
Fax : (+91-22) 2572 3480

To

Heads of UMA Institutions

25th July 2016

Dear colleagues

Greetings from UMA.

First of all, I would like to brief you all about the 1st UMA Advisory Committee meeting held on 7th June 2016 at ICT, Mumbai. Some of you did indeed attend the meeting. The minutes will be circulated by DTE soon. As you will see, some important decisions were taken. ***The Advisory Committee meetings are important and help us as a body, to forge the conduct and strengthen the reform of technical education and research in Maharashtra. This will aid us in the creation of new jobs, new professions and new opportunities for our faculty and students and at the same time, improve development outcomes for the state.*** I hope that you will find the time to both organize future meetings and also attend the same.

I would like to highlight a few important matters-

1. As discussed in the meeting, GoM issued its third UMA Government Resolution (GR) on 15th June 2016. It lists several concrete project areas which are of interest to various regional agencies of GoM. ***Please keep this in mind while floating BE and ME project topics and do forward this GR to faculty members.*** A copy of the GR has been attached with this letter.
2. There was much discussion on launching a new course entitled 'Development Engineering' to prepare students to take up live projects and case-studies in regional development (such as the ones listed in the GR). This inter-disciplinary training should include (i) various data-sets such as census and GIS, (ii) the conduct of field work and reporting along socio-economic and technical lines, and (iii) an introduction to society and governance structures. SPCE has already prepared a possible curriculum. The UMA cell will collate inputs and contribute to the design of this course. An important idea would be to specify supplementary reading of papers and books which gets students to think about broader issues of society and engineering. An excellent example (in my opinion) is आनंद वन, प्रयोग वन by विकास आमटे which describes the setting up of Anandvan and its various factories. Other suggestions are welcome.
3. As per the decision of the Advisory Committee, a note of invitation to participate in UMA has been sent to a first list of colleges.

Ms Sneha
Scan the letter
(not GR) and
email to UMA
email - 3/6

श्री आमटे,
TEAP cell.

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30/07/2016

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पत्र प्राप्त झाले
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आयक लिपिक
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३, महापालिका मार्ग, मुंबई

4. In the last year, there were 6 ME projects on Jal Yukta Shivar (JYS) from SGGS Nanded, GCE Aurangabad, COE Pune and IIT Bombay. Moreover, there were 6 projects on Rural Water Supply (RWS) from VJTI, SPCE and IIT Bombay. These projects were undertaken before the launch of the UMA program but they fall within the framework of UMA. These reports will be put up on the UMA webpage (<http://www.ctara.iitb.ac.in/tdsc/uma/>). I must thank Prof. Thube, Prof. Parchure, Prof. Main, Prof. Wayal, Prof. Kulkarni, Prof. Waikar, Prof. Kambekar, Prof. Kahalekar and their colleagues.
5. Prof. Sadgir and his colleagues at GCE Aurangabad are already working with two districts on assessments of the rural water supply schemes. They may please note that trained manpower (ME graduates from VJTI, SPCE) are now available to assist GCE Aurangabad in this. BATU (Lonere) and RIT (Sakhrale) may also be on the verge of such collaborations. These trends should continue. I am sure that many such projects are being undertaken by all institutions. Please send details of the same to Ms. Oshin Dharap (oshindharap@gmail.com).
6. I hope that institutions have started thinking about the formation of the T&DC cell under the UMA framework. Please note that the cell should be led by a senior faculty coordinator and aided by a team drawn from across departments. Emphasis should be laid on prior work with government agencies, interest in development issues and willingness to innovate in academics and research. Please visit www.ctara.iitb.ac.in/tdsc/uma for guidelines on the same. Please note that UMA is independent of TEQIP so please do not merge the two. Some institutes have already informed us about their T&DC/UMA coordinator (e.g., ICT Mumbai, RIT).
7. An important step would be for institutions/departments to identify 3-4 key areas in which they will develop expertise through case-studies. Examples of such areas are small enterprises, water resources and urban planning. These case-studies and research will be useful for others to emulate.

As mentioned before, please do have a look at the UMA webpage www.ctara.iitb.ac.in/tdsc/uma as well as www.dtemaharashtra.gov.in/teqip/CMS/Content_Static.aspx?did_325.

Let us know if you have any comments/suggestions.

Regards,



Milind Sohoni

Chairperson,

UMA Advisory Committee

Attachments and CC: Overleaf

Attachments-

1. Government Resolution (GR) on project topics (Higher and Technical Education Department, 15th June 2016)

CC-

1. Shri Praveen Pardeshi, Principal Secretary, Chief Minister's Office, Government of Maharashtra, Mantralaya, Mumbai-400032.
2. Dr. Kiran Patil, Deputy Secretary, Higher and Technical Education, Government of Maharashtra, Mantralaya, Mumbai-400032.
3. Dr. S.K. Mahajan, Director, Directorate of Technical Education, Government of Maharashtra, 3, Mahapalika Marg, Post Box No. 1967, Mumbai-400001.
4. Ms. Priya Khan, Officer on Special Duty, Chief Minister's Office, Government of Maharashtra, Mantralaya, Mumbai-400032.
5. Prof. Milind Sohoni, Head, CTARA, IIT-Bombay, Powai, Mumbai-400076.