



**Embassy of India**  
**The Hague**

**Press Release**

As part of its efforts to increase the existing educational collaboration between India and the Netherlands, especially in key areas like research collaboration & innovation, the Embassy of India in The Hague hosted a first-of-its-kind seminar titled, “Shaping Tomorrow: A Dialogue on India-Netherlands Academic Collaboration” on 4th October 2024. The event was organised in partnership with PanIIT Europe and Amsterdam Region authorities. An MoU was signed between IIT Roorkee and Vrije University, Amsterdam on the occasion.

2. The seminar was attended by Directors and Deans from 13 IITs, Presidents, Deans and Professors from prestigious Dutch universities, entrepreneurs, investors, industry experts as well as IIT alumni from India, Europe and the US. Mr. Gerbert Kunst, Director, International Policy in the Ministry of Education, Culture & Science of the Netherlands was the keynote speaker.

3. In his opening remarks, Mr. Gince K Mattam, Charge d’Affaires of the Embassy of India outlined the India-Netherlands relations and the importance of collaboration between the two countries in various fields including academia. The keynote address by Mr. Kunst highlighted the important role governments play in supporting and nurturing international academic collaborations.

4. This was followed by two panel discussions. The first panel focussed on framework for partnerships between IITs and Dutch Universities. The panellists included Prof Manoj Gaur, Director, IIT Jammu; Prof V K Tewari, Director, IIT Kharagpur; Prof. Ena Voute, Pro Vice Rector, International Affairs, Delft University of Technology and Prof Bernd Hiedergott, Operations Analytics, Schools of Business & Economics, Vrije University, Amsterdam. The session was moderated by Prof. Geert Dewulf, Chief Development Officer & Director of Strategic Business Development, University of Twente. The panel discussed the domains where opportunities for the India-Netherlands academic cooperation exist especially in key enabling technologies as well as societal challenges as water, drought, safety etc. and how the academic cooperation agenda be linked to social agenda of the two countries as well as the barriers and support by the two governments in such collaborations.

5. The second panel discussion on the promising areas for academia-industry collaboration between India and the Netherlands included Mr. Nikhil Agarwal, Managing Director, Foundation for Innovation & Technology Transfer, IIT Delhi; Prof Dhirendra S Katti, Director, IIT Goa; Mr. Mohinder Vij, Director Programme, NXP Semiconductors & Prof. Martijn Heck, Electrical Engineering Department, Eindhoven University of Technology as panellists. The session was moderated by Mr. Vikram Gupta, Founder & Managing Director, IvyCap Venture. The panel discussed the technology areas where India and Netherlands can collaborate to produce meaningful outcomes, the sectors with high potential where Industry and academia can work together and the mutual strengths and gaps where the two countries can help each other to achieve their respective objectives in research, innovation and entrepreneurship.

6. Both India and the Netherlands are significant knowledge societies which play a crucial role in their respective economies and beyond. Indian Institutes of Technology are globally renowned for the top quality talents they produce. Directors and Deans of 13 IITs are visiting the Netherlands to attend the PanIIT Europe Global Conference 2024 being organised by PanIIT Europe Alumni Association in Amsterdam.

The Hague  
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