

Research and Innovation: The Role of International Collaboration

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Considering Scientific and Technical Development of the whole world, one can discover that with time technology is continuously moving forward. A close look will display that this forward movement with time is not uniform. With the passage of time as people face new more and more problems they also need to find out solutions to those problems to maintain their forward movement. If appropriate actions are not taken at that time, developments will definitely slowdown. Similarly if we look into the development of different regions of the world it will be clear that not all the regions are moving forward at the same rate. What is behind this quick and slow development of a particular time or region is the involvement in effective research activities.

In the current age no country can ensure development without research on technical issues. This is why all countries now give importance to more and more research activities in their universities and research institutions. At the same time they try to invest as much as they can in the field of technical research. When someone involves in a particular research work he needs to know the current state of the issue. In most cases one tries to know these things from all the publications on the subject and by attending conferences and seminars thereby trying to collect the information on the latest status. In this respect International collaboration can play a huge role. To ensure these facilities to its faculty members it is essential for a university to develop collaborations with other developed universities. IUT, as soon as it attained the status of a university in 2001, started giving more and more importance on research works. It also started signing bilateral agreements with good universities and research organizations of the developed countries. As a result the research capability of the university is growing faster.

One of the important lessons of the past two decades has been the pivotal role of innovation in economic development. Innovation is essential to propagate the development and success of business. Innovation is also vital for the durability of any business. So to increase sustainable growth and competitiveness it is necessary to reinforce the innovation capacity. To do so one needs to integrate higher education research and business in areas of higher societal need through our knowledge and innovation communities.

The technical innovation system concept emphasizes that stimulating knowledge flow is not sufficient to induce technological change and economic performance. There is a need to exploit this knowledge in order to create new business opportunities. This stresses the importance of individuals as sources of innovation. Although technology plays a part in innovation, for the common person, technology has no value on its own. To make a difference, it has to be appropriately applied to solve specific problems or meet certain goals as defined by a business or a customer. To maximize the value of that difference, it is essential to apply only the smallest amount of technology to the areas that stand to benefit from it.

Some people think that technology is innovative on its own which is not true. Innovation only happens when one uses technology to provide a real or perceived value to the customer. Technological innovation is a source of economic growth by constructing direct measures of innovation at the firm level.

Considering the role of international collaboration, IUT since its establishment has been trying to sign bilateral agreements and involve in joint activities with different renowned universities/ research organizations. As of now it has signed bilateral agreements with about thirty different universities/ research organizations from all over the world. Among the developed countries, IUT has collaboration with universities from Canada, Ireland, United Kingdom, USA, China, Korea, and Germany. IUT also has collaboration with a number of countries of the Islamic world. Among these countries the names of Malaysia, Jordan, Sudan, Gambia, Indonesia, Pakistan, Niger, Uganda, Senegal, Cairo may be mentioned.

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