



Report  
of the  
Expert Committee  
of UGC  
to ~~Indian Institute of Foreign Trade~~

*Delhi & Kolkata*

October 3 and 6 2008

University Grants Commission

Bahadurshah Zafar Marg

New Delhi 110 002

In April 2008 the UGC appointed a Committee of the following members to confirm the status as Deemed University upon IIFT granted earlier on provisional basis in 2003.

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|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Prof. Manmohan Agrawal   | (Chairman)         |
| 2. Prof. R. G. Harshe       | (Member)           |
| 3. Prof. T N Kapoor         | (Member)           |
| 4. Prof. D K Bandhopandhay  | (AICTE Nominee)    |
| 5. Prof. Manoranjan Mohanty | (Member)           |
| 6. Prof. S. B. Dahiya       | (Member)           |
| 7. Dr. Kanwal Singh         | (Member Secretary) |

In addition of the main campus, in Delhi. The Institute has an off campus programme at Kolkata. All the members of the Committee visited the IIFT Campus in Delhi on 3-10-08 except Prof. Agarwal who could not attend the meeting as he was abroad.

The Committee listened to the presentations made by the chairpersons of the different divisions such as Graduate Studies Division, Research Division, Management Development Programmes Division, International Collaborations and Capacity Development, Centre for International Trade & Technology, Centre for WTO Studies pertaining to their academic performance during the past five years. Subsequently, the Committee also interacted, quite extensively, with all the faculty members and looked into the courses that they were teaching and the areas of research.

After meeting the academic staff, the Committee proceeded to meet the non-teaching staff to get acquainted with their aspirations and anxieties regarding Deemed University. Finally, the Committee met research students as well as students admitted to MBA programme. The broad understanding of the Committee about the IIFT with reference to terms and reference of the expert committee to review Deemed University status is being spelt out according to the terms of reference as laid down by the UGC.

1. *To examine whether the Institute is following proper procedure for admissions, teaching and examination.*

The IIFT is functioning by following appropriate procedures for admissions. In fact, admissions are conducted on all India bases in 50 Centres involving 20 cities. There are also seven major cities where interviews are conducted. The Institute should be

congratulated for not deviating from the appropriate admission procedures. The teaching programmes have been keeping pace with the times through constant revision in syllabus. Also, the examination process is modern thanks to the introduction of the letter grade and the semester system.

- 2. *To examine whether various authorities and bodies of the Institute are in place in accordance with the provisions of the UGC guidelines.*

The authorities and bodies namely Board of Management, Academic Council and Finance Committee are functioning according the norms of the IIFT which are consistent with the provisions of the UGC guidelines.

- 3. *To examine the qualifications, pay scale and service conditions of the faculty appointed by the Institute.*

The Institute has highly qualified faculty and service conditions are as per the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs).

- 4. *To examine whether the academic programmes and corresponding facilities are available as prescribed by the statutory authorities.*

All the academic programmes and the corresponding facilities are available as prescribed by statutory authorities

- 5. *To examine whether the Deemed University has launched unauthorized study programmes, off campus centre, distance education.*

The Deemed University has not launched any unauthorized programme. The off-campus in Kolkata has been launched, though in a hired building, with the prior permission of the UGC.

- 6. *To examine whether the Institute is confined to its areas of specialization or started programmes not in line with its specialization.*

*[Handwritten signatures and scribbles]*

The IIFT has confined itself to the programmes of specialization and not gone beyond its academic jurisdiction.

- 7. *To examine whether the Institute is adhering to the UGC regulations on minimum standards, fee structure etc.*

Institute of such kind has to be judged vis-à-vis the Institutions like IIMs and fee structure of IIFT is Rs. 2.5 Lakhs per annum which is lower than the IIMs. One of the admirably important features has been that the IIFT gives 100 % interest subsidy to candidates who come from economically weaker backgrounds.

- 8. *To take stock of the efforts made by the Institute to achieve excellence in its areas of specialization.*

The Committee was particularly impressed by the manner in which there has been a uniform effort on the part of the faculty to achieve academic excellence in each area of specialization. The faculty has published books from standard publishing houses such as Oxford University Press, Sage Publications, etc. Practically all of them have been publishing in referred journals of international and national repute. By and large, the research students as well as MBA students are extremely happy with the faculty's quest for academic excellence. The Director with his versatile academic interests and administrative experience has been able to steer the IIFT to new heights of academic and professional success.

- 9. *To examine whether the corpus fund as prescribed under UGC Guidelines is being maintained.*

As per the audited accounts, the IIFT has corpus fund worth Rs. 21,16,31,140.00 which is as per the UGC guidelines.

- 10. *To examine and evaluate the overall performance of Institute.*

The Committee was unanimous in appreciating the good work that is being done in the IIFT at Delhi Campus in a wide variety of areas related to trade, business, marketing, technology and regional organizations. The facilities offered in the IIFT such as good

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infrastructure, including digitalized library, and well furnished space were impressive. The high quality faculty as well as infrastructure of the IIFT has been able to attract some of the brightest students in the country at the postgraduate and research level programmes. The number of applicants who seek admission in the postgraduate programme is soaring each year. Over sixty seven thousand candidates have applied for one hundred and eighty seats in the 2 year postgraduate programme in International Business. The students are getting international perspective while they go through the programme. All the full time postgraduate programme students of the IIFT, after they pass out, are getting employment with enviable salaries and perks.

#### Kolkata Campus

Two members of the committee namely Prof. R G. Harshe and Prof. S. B. Dahiya along with the Member Secretary of the Committee (other members of the committee did not join because of their preoccupations) visited the Kolkata Campus of the IIFT on 06<sup>th</sup> October. Members who visited Kolkata Campus looked into standards of academic excellence and infrastructure, discipline, etc. as have been enforced in Kolkata. They interacted with the faculty and non teaching staff, saw the facilities and visited the site where the campus is being built, since it is currently located in a hired building the faculty members in Kolkata are enthusiastic as far as teaching and research are concerned. They have diverse kinds of experiences in the academic and corporate world. They are also publishing regularly in well known journals. They are establishing links with other universities in India and abroad as well as the government and the corporate world. The Head of the Kolkata centre is providing able leadership to the Kolkata centre. Both the members of the visiting team namely, Prof. R.G. Harshe and Prof. S.B. Dahiya, were fully satisfied with the achievements of the IIFT campus in Kolkata.

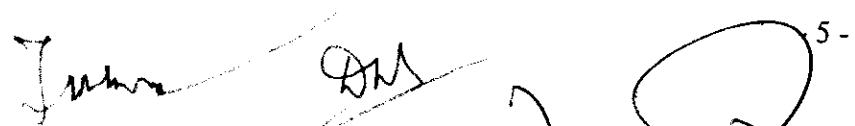


**Observations and Recommendations**

The Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) which came into being in 1963 has over the years emerged as a premier Institution dedicated to teaching, training and research in foreign trade. During the past four decades of its existence it has carved out a unique niche for itself among the social sciences institutes owing to its overall performance. The IIFT is known for its prestigious postgraduate programme of Business Administration (MBA) as well as other Programmes. Thanks to several international collaborative ventures between the IIFT and other Institutions in the world, a large number of the students of IIFT are currently able to go abroad for further studies as a part of their programme. The IIFT runs its own referred journal called **Foreign Trade Review** which has earned a very sound repute in the academic world. Furthermore, the faculty of the IIFT is well qualified, experienced, well travelled and known for its wide range of publications in prestigious international and national academic journals.

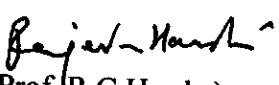
The Committee has the following recommendations to make in the matter for the next five years so that the Institution grows further.

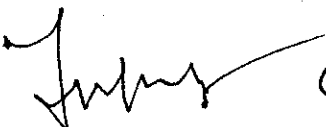
1. The creditability of IIFT regarding trade, economy, business and commerce, related issues is quite impeccable. However, since the IIFT deals with international affairs a few general orientation courses introducing them to international political economy and political economy of India are essential.
2. In the globalizing world capturing the markets or business is not feasible without perceptively understanding the minds of stakeholders, buyers and sellers in the market. Some courses related to cross-cultural psychology in business and markets would be handy in furthering their overall understanding of the field.
3. IIFT can become the focal point of research and work out likely trajectories of trade with Asian, African and Latin American countries. In fact, the IIFT is doing good work in promoting India-Africa Trade and training civil servants from Africa. Especially, after India-Africa Summit (April 2008) the IIFT has to take lead in bolstering India-African Development Cooperation further. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

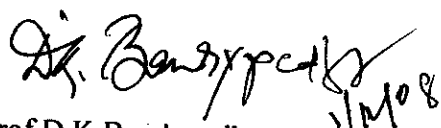
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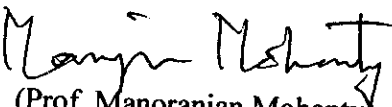
4. Last but not the least, Institution of this kind has to have multiple campuses because of the dire necessity and the pressure of demands for MBA programmes in the country. India being a country with younger population, opportunities provided by IIFT are quite meager and there is enormous scope to be inclusive as far as research, training, teaching in the areas of trade, business and economy is concerned. Hence, in addition to Kolkata, the IIFT should take initiative in opening one campus each in Southern and Western part of the country.
5. Finally, keeping in tune with its progressive demeanor and traditions, it would be desirable to associate students' participation in major bodies like the Academic Council.

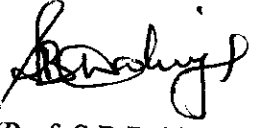
In view of the all round excellent academic performance the of the IIFT Committee unanimously recommends that Deemed University status be renewed of the IIFT.


  
(Prof. R.G. Harshe),  
Chairman

  
(Prof. T.N. Kapoor),  
Member

  
(Prof D.K. Bandopadhyay)  
Member

  
(Prof. Manoranjan Mohanty)  
Member

  
(Prof. S.B. Dahiya)  
Member

  
(Dr. Kanwal Singh)  
Deputy Secretary UGC

October 3 and 6, 2008  
Delhi & Kolkata

The following Committee is constituted :-

- |    |   |                      |
|----|---|----------------------|
| 1. | Dr. P.S. Shankar<br>Deepti, Behind Dist. Court<br>Gulbarga - 585 102<br>(Karnataka)                             | .....Chairman        |
| 2. | Mrs. Vandana Bhattacharya<br>Dean & Principal<br>R. College of Nursing<br>Jamia Hamdard<br>New Delhi - 110 062. | .....Member          |
| 3. | Mrs. Urmil Gulati<br>Under Secretary, UGC   | .....UGC Coordinator |



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*4/5/07*

(Sukhadeo Thorat)  
Chairman  
04.05.2007

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CM. Sectt.  
Dy. No. *292*  
Date *27.5.07*

*KS*  
*DS (CPA)*

*R. Bai*  
*2/5*

*7/5*  
*US (CPA)*

*S*