

International Collaborations

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The Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur has been dedicated to the service of the nation since 1959. The Institute was nurtured in its formative years by its first Director, Prof. P.K. Kelkar, a great visionary leader. Prof. Kelkar championed the cause of international collaboration since the inception of the Institute in the form of technical assistance under the Kanpur Indo-American Program (KIAP). KIAP was primarily a consortium of nine leading Institutions of USA whose faculty members assisted in the setting up of academic programs and development of laboratories for instruction as well as research. Over the years, there has been a consistent rise in international cooperation, given the high visibility and international standing of IIT Kanpur in academics and research. This trend is reflected in the quantum of funding that has been attracted and the nature of competitive international projects taken up by the faculty members of IIT Kanpur. Such cooperation not only complements the institute's research excellence, but also brings in deeper understanding to state-of-the-art research problems.

The need for international collaboration in niche areas of technology, science and humanities is also driven by the current world order wherein it is imperative to seek massive investments in knowledge-intensive developing economies. Accordingly, transnational research networks are also nurtured by major funding agencies such as Department of Science and Technology (DST), Department of Biotechnology (DBT) and Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) through their country-specific themed research programs. Another aspect of international cooperation deals with student exchange through well formulated programs which allow IIT Kanpur students to spend limited time in international universities and institutes, while welcoming international students to spend a semester or more at IIT Kanpur.

It is my pleasure to present this issue of Directions on International Collaboration in the Golden Jubilee year of IIT Kanpur. I do so with a fervent hope that this endeavor will spark more fruitful collaborative efforts for the advancement of fundamental research and for creating a cutting edge academic environment.

Sandeep Verma
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Guest Editor, Directions





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