NIIT University announces the launch of Microsoft Innovation Center

Signs Agreement aimed at building technical skills and fuelling innovation among students

New Delhi, November 14, 2013: Established with a vision to bring about innovation in higher education and learning in emerging areas of the knowledge society, the not-for-profit NIIT University (NU) has announced the launch of a Microsoft Innovation Center (MIC) on its campus in Neemrana. A Collaboration Agreement was signed today to formalize the partnership between Microsoft and NIIT University in the presence of Vijay Thadani, Co-Founder, NIIT University, Dr. Rajendra Pandey, President, NIIT University and Bhaskar Pramanik, Chairman, Microsoft Corporation (India) Private Limited.

Under this Agreement, Microsoft will collaborate with NU to facilitate setting up Microsoft Innovation Centre (MIC) with an aim to foster the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship amongst University students, by helping them apply their knowledge and technological know-how to real life problems and thus open employment and entrepreneurship avenues for the students.

Speaking on the occasion **Mr. Vijay Thadani, Co-founder, NIIT University** said, *"The unified purpose of promoting a research centric approach, for developing skilled manpower for the Global IT Industry has brought NIIT University and Microsoft together, to launch Microsoft Innovation Center at our University campus in Neemrana. Through this initiative we aim to foster the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship in our students."*

Microsoft Innovation Centers (MICs) are state of art technology facilities for collaboration on innovative research, technology or software solutions, involving a combination of government, academic and industry participants. While each center tunes its programs to local needs, they all provide similar content and services designed to accelerate technology advances and stimulate local software economies through skills and professional training, industry partnerships and innovation. Since the launch of the programme a total of 29 MICs have been set up in India.

Commenting on the launch of the Microsoft Innovation Center, **Mr. Bhaskar Pramanik, Chairman, Microsoft Corporation (India) Private Limited,** said, *"Building avenues for entrepreneurship is critical for enabling India's continued economic growth. The Microsoft Innovation Centre at NIIT University will give students the opportunity to experience the latest in technology, sparking new ideas and innovation.*

The MIC at NIIT University will be among the other such centers worldwide, facilitating collaboration on IT-based research and development, product development and management, technology advancement, professional training, industry partnerships, placement opportunities, skill management, knowledge transfer and strong industry-institute interactions. The University will get access to key resources such as new platforms and software from Microsoft for the effective functioning of the MIC.

Dr. Rajendra Pandey, President, NIIT University said, *"With strong focus on innovation and research at NIIT University, we believe that education is a life-long process and real learning happens only through experience. Our partnership with Microsoft Corporation, will give our students an opportunity to innovate and come up with technological solutions to real life problems."*

The NIIT University currently offers 4-year BTech programme in three streams: Biotechnology (BT), Computer Science and Engineering (CSE), and Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE). Each stream has a very strong research-focus and industry aligned curriculum.

The University also offers MTech Programmes in Educational Technology, Embedded Solutions & Convergence, Computing & Communications and Bioinformatics; and PhD programmes in all the above disciplines. The University also offers MTech Programme in Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

Nestled in the foothills of the Aravali range in Neemrana, Rajasthan, the picturesque 100-acre fully residential green campus of NIIT University is equipped with state-of-the-art technology-enabled methodology that's backed by a strong research-focused curriculum for facilitating a continuous process of learning and development. Since its inception in 2009, NIIT University has made significant progress in research and innovation in curriculum development and design. Conceptualized as an institute of excellence, NIIT University provides exceptional education based on the four Core Principles that make learning industry-linked, technology-based, research-driven and seamless.

About NIIT University

*Set up with the vision of being the leading center of innovation and learning in emerging areas of the Knowledge Society, the not-for-profit NIIT University is dedicated to building great careers and ensuring excellent job opportunities to all its students. It has been developed as an institute of excellence to provide exceptional education based on the **four core principles that make learning industry-linked, technology-based, research-driven and seamless.***

*The NIIT University offers **BTech Programmes** in Computer Science and Engineering, Biotechnology and Electronic and Communication Engineering**; MTech Programmes** in Educational Technology, Embedded Solutions and Convergence, Computing and Communications and in Bioinformatics; and PhD programs in all the above disciplines. The University also offers MTech Programme in Geographic Information Systems (GIS).*

*Dual degree integrated **MTech Programmes** in Computer Science and Engineering, Electronic Communication and Biotechnology are also offered by NU. These contemporary and industry-relevant programmes are customized to prepare skilled professionals and researchers for high-end mobile computing and wireless, communication technology and biotechnology jobs. Highly qualified faculty, state-of-the-art laboratories, associations with research labs and research universities in USA and UK, strong wireless stimulation, performance and modeling concepts are other unique features of these programmes.*

The University also offers an **MBA Programme** *(NU- MBA) designed to help aspiring professionals build meaningful connections to the real world of business and become successful leaders of the future. Through the Mentorship Programme, each MBA student will be mentored by an eminent CEO and coached by an industry professional. NU- MBA trains future CEOs to deal with the challenges and opportunities thrown up by emerging economies such as China and countries in Africa through its International Immersion programme. The University has also launched an industry-linked programme in* **MBA (Banking & Finance)** *in collaboration with ICICI Bank.*

NIIT University has entered into a partnership with Autodesk to promote **'Design Thinking'** *as a course across all disciplines of BTech programmes. Further, a design oriented post graduate programme will be launched by NU shortly.* **The Asian Lens Forum** *has been set-up at NIIT University to sensitize young generation and to create a sense of pride in Asian/Indian heritage, culture, history and values amongst youth. The Forum will also act as a launching pad for the faculty and student bodies of NU to undertake research and disseminate knowledge about achievements and role of Asia to the world.*

Vibrant social and recreational activities form the heart of Campus Life at NIIT University, with a host of student activities interspersed along the central walking spine. The Campus provides students a wide array of sports activities like volleyball, basketball, tennis, a golf putting range and gymnastics. Furnished student hostels make life comfortable for students. Temperatures are maintained at the Campus all year around using an energy-efficient, geothermal cooling system, with minimal carbon footprint. For further information please visit www.niituniversity.in*.*

About Microsoft India

Founded in 1975, Microsoft (NASDAQ "MSFT") is the worldwide leader in software for personal and business computing. The company offers a wide range of products and services designed to empower people through great software - any time, any place and on any device. Microsoft Corporation (India) Put Ltd. is a subsidiary of Microsoft Corporation, USA. It has had a presence in India since 1990 and currently has offices in nine cities - Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad, Kochi, Kolkata, Mumbai, New Delhi and Pune.

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