



Contact Us

Editors, AIMS*i*News

aimsnews@aims-international.org

Useful e-mails

Web site: aims-international.org

For Information:

info@aims-international.org

For Membership:

membership@aims-international.org

For AIMS Placement Service

aims.placement@gmail.com

For AIMS Int. Journal of Management:

aimsjournal@aims-international.org

For third AIMS Int. Conference:

aims3@aims-international.org

For directory of Indian Management Scholars

directory@aims-international.org

Dear AIMS International Scholars,

I am delighted to receive your support and cooperation for the Sixth AIMS International Conference on Operations & Quantitative Management (ICOQM6) hosted by the Indian Institute of Management Indore, India in August 2005. Your enthusiasm made the conference a grand success! Thank you very much!!

I thank Prof. S P Parashar (Director, Indian Institute of Management Indore) for hosting the conference and my good friend Prof. Prithvi Yadav for co-chairing the conference. They provided excellent support and made sure that everything went just as perfectly as it did. I express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to all those who helped us in organizing ICOQM6.

We now look forward to the third AIMS Conference (AIMS3) that will be jointly organized with IIM Ahmedabad on January 1-4, 2006. See you in Ahmedabad!

Omprakash K Gupta

ICOQM6 at IIM Indore

(Special acknowledgements to Dr. Prateek Kanchan (prateek.kanchan@yahoo.com), Faculty Member, B.K. School of Management, Gujarat University, Ahmedabad, India and Dr. Vinti Agarwal (drvinti@yahoo.co.in), Faculty Member, ICFAI Business School, Gurgaon, India, for their valuable input).

AIMS International successfully organized the Sixth International Conference on Operations and Quantitative Management (ICOQM6) at the Indian Institute of Management Indore (IIMI) during August 9-11, 2005. The first two conferences were held in India, followed by the third hosted by the University of Western Sydney, Australia. The fourth ICOQM was hosted by National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan in January 2003 and the fifth was organized at Hanyang University, Seoul, South Korea in 2004. The city of Indore witnessed active participation from well over one hundred management scholars from fifteen countries including USA, Canada, Japan, India, Taiwan, Iran and Malaysia.

The Conference was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Mr. Anil Srivastava, Secretary-Finance, Government of Madhya Pradesh and Commissioner - Treasury and Accounts, Government of Madhya Pradesh. Mr Srivastava threw light on the central theme of the conference - "Intelligent Decision Making: Emerging Strategy for Global Winners." According to him, it is the need of the hour that decision making should be related to intelligence which requires human resources to acquire intelligence through various means. He felt that due to pressures of performance targets, decision making tends to be shortsighted and not intelligent in spite of the best intentions of the decision-maker. He gave examples of countries like China, Korea, Japan, USA, etc., to make his point. He strongly felt that Organizations should ensure that pressures and intelligent decision-making co-exist as individual, as well as organizational growth, takes place simultaneously. The inaugural session was also addressed by Director IIMI and Conference Honourable Chair & Chief Patron, Prof. (Dr.) S P Parashar, Dr. Omprakash K Gupta, and Dr. Prithvi Yadav, Chairs of the Conference.

Well over 120 papers on sixteen subjects were presented in four parallel tracks during the span of three days, giving the participants a comprehensive overview on many advances in fields like Inventory Management, Operational Strategy, Optimization Models, Quality Management, Supply Chain Management, and so on. The conference enabled the delegates to exchange their practical experiences, pedagogical viewpoints, and discuss developments in the emerging nations and in innovative areas of research. In addition, three plenary sessions were scheduled with keynote speeches from well-known scholars from India and abroad.



L to R: Prof Prithvi Yadav, Shri Anil Srivastava, Secretary, Govt. of MP, Prof. S P Parashar, Director, IIM Indore, and Prof Omprakash Gupta during the inaugural session at ICOQM6, IIM Indore, India, August 9, 2005.

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ICOQM6 at IIM Indore (ctd.)



L to R: Prof. Arvinder Loomba, San Jose State University, USA, Prof. M Hossein Yarmohammadian, Dean, Isfahan Uni of Medical sciences, Iran and Prof. SP Parashar, Director, IIM Indore during a plenary session at ICOQM6, IIM Indore, India, August 2005.

The other experts who delivered speeches during the plenary sessions of the conference included Prof. Ashok Kumar (Grand Valley State University, USA), Prof. S K Goyal (Concordia University, Canada), Mr. K P Puri, (Managing Director, HAL, MIG Complex, Nasik, India), Mr. M. Hossein Yarmohammadian, (Dean, Isfahan Uni. of Medical Sciences, Iran), Prof. Arvinder Loomba (San Jose State University, California, USA), Prof. (Dr.) S P Parasar, Director, Indian Institute of Management, Indore, India).

Among the plenary sessions, the participants had the opportunity to listen to Prof. S. K. Goyal, from Concordia University, Canada. One of the most prolific writers of the last fifty years in this field, having authored over 235 research papers, he was the best person to speak on the topic that he chose – "From an Idea to A Refereed Journal Publication: The Never Ending Journey of an Academic." He elaborated on the quality, techniques and disciplined approach of publishing.

Another prominent speaker to have graced the occasion was Prof. Ashok Kumar from the Grand Valley State University, Michigan, USA. His paper titled, "Intelligent Paradigms of Operations Strategies for Global Organizations" enunciated the formulations of intelligent, strategic models that significantly depart from their traditional counterparts and sustained competitive advantage, when implemented properly.

At any confluence of management thought, it is inevitable that the classic debate on the effectiveness of the Eastern and Western ways of decision making arises; ICOQM was no different. Prof Arvinder Loomba of San Jose State University, California, USA presented a paper titled "Intelligent Decisions: Western vs. Eastern Management Thought." This was another high point among the many papers that were presented.

Prof. (Dr.) S. P. Parashar, the Director, IIMI highly appreciated the conference said that this conference emphasizes on quality research and networking amongst the top researchers of the world in this field. He agreed that the conference had met with his expectations and IIMI was pleased to host this event.

The participants enjoyed and learned a lot while attending the conference. They also met many professional colleagues during the event. The IIMI is located on a very picturesque hilltop covering an area of 200 acres on the outskirts of the city of Indore. The flawless administration of the entire conference mesmerized the participants. It was an event to be remembered forever!

Your Feedback is invited...

Please email us your valuable feedback on the AIMS*i*News. Send us your achievements, suggestions, critical feedback, opinions and help us to improve our next issue. aimsnews@aims-international.org

Congratulations AIMS International Scholar!

Dr. E. Bhaskaran (e_baskaran@vsnl.com), Directorate of Industries & Commerce, Chennai, India for being awarded Ph. D. His research findings were also published in the India's reputed newspaper The Indian Express on February 11, 2005.

Dr. Govind Swaroop Pathak conferred 'Young Researcher Fellowship Award 2005-06'

AIMS International Scholar and Assistant Professor in the Department of Management Studies, Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, India, Dr. Govind Swaroop Pathak (gspathak@gmail.com) was awarded the 'Young Researcher Fellowship Award 2005-2006' by the V V Giri National Labour Institute, Noida, an autonomous Institute under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India and has been designated as 'Research Fellow'. This year, for the first time, V V Giri National Labour Institute, NOIDA invited proposals from young Academicians up to 35 years of age for the award, in various areas in the broad area of 'Labour'. Previously, Dr. Pathak has also been conferred other fellowships like 'Industrial Finance Corporation of India Research Fellowship 1992' and 'Associateship of the Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Rashtrapati Niwas, Simla, India. Congratulations to Dr. Pathak from AIMS International!





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Announcements

- Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, India (IIMB) is organizing the Second IMR Conference scheduled on July 13-15, 2006. The chosen theme for the conference is "Global Competitiveness through Outsourcing: Implications for Services & Manufacturing." For further details, please visit <http://202.41.106.14/~review/imrc2006/> or contact the Organising Chair, IMR Conference 2006, Professor B Mahadevan (mahadev@iimb.ernet.in).
- AIMS International will launch its flagship journal, AIMS International Journal of Management (AIMSiJOM), from 2006. We are looking for management scholars who wish to join our editorial review board. The editorial board members will help the journal with reviewing the articles published for possible publication in AIMSiJOM. The individual must have a strong publication record in his/her respective area. Those who are interested are requested to write to aimsjournal@aims-international.org.

The Professor Guides

(Dr. Arvinder Loomba, Professor of Operations and Supply Chain Management, San Jose State University, USA, who was one of the speakers at a plenary session of ICOQM-VI, kindly agreed to an interview for AIMSiNews and our AIMS International Scholar and Faculty Member at ICFAI Business School, Gurgaon, India, Dr. Vinti Agarwal (drvinti@yahoo.co.in) took a very splendid interview of Prof. Loomba. The following are the excerpts of the interview.)

Dr. Arvinder Loomba is Professor of Operations and Supply Chain Management in the Department of Organization and Management within the College of Business at San Jose State University in California USA. Dr. Loomba's research interests include issues pertaining to supply chain management, manufacturing-marketing interface, organizational issues related to functional decentralization, product distribution channels, product/service quality and after sales support. Dr. Loomba is an Area Editor for the International Journal of Operations & Quantitative Management and serves on the editorial boards of IEEE Transaction on Engineering Management, Int. J. of Opers. and Quant. Management, International Journal of Physical Distribution & Logistics Management.

Dr. Vinti Agarwal (VA): What is the progress of Supply Chain Solutions in India?

Dr. Arvinder Loomba (AL): Well, definitely Indian companies are gradually adopting Supply Chain Solutions, but the progress is extremely slow. There are only some companies that are adopting in a big way. For others it is mainly restricted to transport solutions. Companies do not realize that Supply Chain Management (SCM) actually involves all such platforms wherein it is possible to make full use of assets by streamlining the interaction and communication of all participants along your supply chain. This may be the customer, the supplier or the vendor as well as the distributor.

VA: What do you think are the reasons for the slow progress?

AL: First, there is little realization of the benefits of supply chain solutions. Companies are not aware of the contribution that efficient supply change solutions can make to the profitability of the company. Second, there are very few organizations that are able to offer good integrated supply chain solutions. Integrative solutions involves not only distribution and logistic solutions but also product development, planning, purchasing, manufacturing and business partner integration solutions.

VA: What are the possible steps that can be taken by which SCM can increasingly become a source of value addition for the companies?

AL: First of all the entry of multinationals itself would act as fillip to adoption of SCM practices. Along with the entry of multinationals, the provider of SCM solutions would also follow suit. Thus in the coming years SCM would definitely act as a value creator for companies in various ways. For example, it would improve customer service, minimize inventory levels, improve decision making, reduce planning cycles, lower operating expenses, decrease order lead times and improve on time deliver performances. The Indian government can, however, do its bit by integrating its departments such as putting roads, railways, inland transport, and water transport under one head instead of multiple heads as it is now. That would go a long way in having a concerted policy instead of individual solutions that sometimes work at cross purposes.

Placement Service

AIMS International is pleased to announce its academic placement service. The third AIMS International Conference on Management to be held during January 1 to 4, 2006, at Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, India, will provide placement opportunity to individuals and academic institutions. Prof. Badri Toppur at TAPMI (0820-2571358 Ext. 602) is the coordinator of the placement activity. If you are looking for a faculty job, or if your organization is hiring management faculty, please write to aims.placement@gmail.com. The details are posted on the conference website www.aims-international.org/aims3.



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ICOQM6 at IIM Indore, India in August 2005: Presentations of research papers during technical sessions

Third AIMS International Conference at Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad

The Third AIMS International Conference on Management (AIMS3) shall be jointly organized by the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, India (IIMA) and AIMS International - The Association of Indian Management Scholars on January 1- 4, 2006. The Conference will be held at the beautiful campus of Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, India. IIMA (<http://www.iimahd.ernet.in>) is one of the most prestigious management institutes in Asia. The Institute has been consistently rated as one of the top B-schools of India by most leading surveys for many years. The theme for AIMS3 is "Management Education at a Crossroad: Issues, Challenges, and Opportunities." Please visit <http://www.aims-international.org/aims3/> for Call for details of the Conference.

The Conference Honorable Chair and Chief Patron is Professor Bakul Dholakia (Director, Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, India) and Conference General Chairs are Professor Omprakash K. Gupta (College of Business, Prairie View A&M University, USA) and Professor Sunil Maheshwari (Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad, India).

The conference will be inaugurated on January 1 at 11 A.M. by the well-known economist, Prof. Y. K. Alagh. There will be several keynote speakers included. In addition, we expect 250-300 contributed papers that will be presented in seven parallel sessions over the period of four days. About 50 papers will be presented from scholars abroad such as USA, Canada, Iran, Taiwan, Japan, UK, Hong Kong, Korea, and Thailand. Perhaps, this will be the largest meeting of Indian management scholars of this kind. We will continue with the doctoral student paper competition that started last year at IIM Calcutta. Another added feature for this conference is a placement service.

Information about conference is constantly updated at www.aims-international.org/aims3. If you wish to attend the conference or will like to nominate members of faculty/staff, please fill in the nomination form and mail it along with the fee as soon as possible. We promise you an exciting and rewarding conference!



Participants at ICOQM6, IIM Indore, India in August 2005.



Planting a sapling during ICOQM6, IIM Indore, India in August 2005.

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