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President's Message on IETE's 68th Foundation Day 2021
Advancing Skill Development to the Next Level
- A Paradigm Shift to Amalgamate Skills & Academics with Seamless Transitions

The country presently faces a dual challenge of severe paucity of highly-trained, quality engineers, as well as non-employability of large sections of the educated workforce that possess little or no job skills. Huge gaps exist between the industry requirements and the level of skills of engineers due to varied reasons including inadequate training infrastructures, inappropriate mix of skills and education, limited industry interfaces, etc. There is a disconnect between the formal education system and work requirements, compounding the challenges related to the skill gap. A concerted action is required to ensure sustained employability of the Indian youth.

The skill development ecosystem in India is complex, large and diverse, providing varied levels of skills across an extremely heterogeneous population. Skill development in India can be broadly segmented into Education and Vocational Training. The need is about how formal, non-formal and informal learning can be combined to deliver workforce skills and also look at how such combinations could be used and recognised by industry, employers, training providers and individuals.

Skills and knowledge are the driving forces of economic growth and social development for any country. Government of India, taking note of the requirement for skill development among students launched National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF).

NSQF is a nationally integrated education and competency-based framework that enables persons to acquire desired competency levels. The National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) organizes qualifications according to a series of levels of knowledge, skills and aptitude. These levels, graded from one to ten, are defined in terms of learning outcomes which the learner must possess regardless of whether they were acquired through formal, non-formal or informal learning. It is, therefore, a nationally integrated education and competency-based skill and quality assurance framework that will provide for multiple pathways, horizontal as well as vertical, including vocational education, vocational training, general education and technical education, thus linking one level of learning to another higher level. This will enable a person to acquire desired competency levels, transit to the job market and at an opportune time, return for acquiring additional skills to further upgrade their competencies.

IETE, a premier professional society dedicated to the dissemination of Knowledge in the ICT domain is supporting Govt of India in its mission of Skill Development and bridging the gap between the Informal vocational training and formal Technical University Academic Higher Education and bridge the pathway to transition between the two seamlessly.

It is the right times for all the IETE Centres to grab the opportunity of Nation's Skill Development Mission in getting themselves enter into new horizons for their techno-economic sustainability. I, on behalf of all governing Council Members, extend my warmest greetings on this occasion and encourage all Centres to celebrate this auspicious day with great fervour and passion involving all students, faculty, ISF's, Corporate Members and spread aims and objectives of IETE aligning with the Nation Building towards Atmanirbhar Bharat. Together we can, Together we will raise to new heights.

Jai Hind

Prof P Prabhakar