

Delhi Copenhagen Urban Challenge Programme

There is usually something innovative and creative which happens when students from three premier institutes collaborate and try to look at issues and situations that persist in society. They bring along with them a different perspective and help find solutions. The Delhi Copenhagen Urban challenge under the initiative of IBM's Smarter Cities Challenge saw the participation of Copenhagen Business School (CBS), University of Copenhagen and Institute of Management Technology, Ghaziabad (IMT-G). The aim of the challenge was to apply ethnographic methods and theories of logistics and mobility to issues regarding forms of transportation and mobility in Copenhagen and Delhi. They were assisted by Prof. Mark Vacher from the University of Copenhagen and Ms. Ditte Tellgren from CBS. Of the 21 students, 9 students who participated in the event were from IMT Ghaziabad. The challenge was a month in duration, from 14th of July to 17th of August. The first leg (14-Jul-2014 to 2-Aug-2014) of the challenge involved IMT-G students going to CBS, Copenhagen to develop an understanding of their local, social and work culture.

For the second leg, IMT hosted students from Copenhagen from 3rd of August to 17th August. The students from Copenhagen, apart from the challenge, were offered a glimpse and chance to live the IMT way of life. They were introduced to the various clubs and committees of IMT Ghaziabad and were informed about the various activities which take part in our college. As a part of their project they were taken to Delhi to understand the logistics situation and apply their theories and methods to help build smarter cities.

Mr. Biplab Srivastava, a Sr. Researcher at IBM with expertise in Artificial Intelligence, Services and Sustainability, shared his experience and knowledge with the DCUC team on various aspects of smart cities. The students had sessions on 'Supply Chain Management and Transportation' by Dr VK Gupta. Further a session on City Logistics was conducted by Dr. Parijat Upadhyay and then another on Business, Government and Society in India was conducted by Dr. Vikas Gupta.

A trip was organised to Agra on 10th of August so that the students could view and cherish the intense cultural experience of the Taj Mahal. This also offered them an opportunity to refresh and reenergise themselves. It was a great experience for the students and the faculty members. A couple of "focussed group initiatives" regarding their research work were conducted and students from IMT-G, especially those belonging to the National Capital Region (NCR) participated with great enthusiasm and shared their experiences with them. There were a lot of exchange of ideas and information during the "focussed group discussions" with the DCUC team. Also an initiative regarding "Women's safety in Delhi" was conducted. During the discussion the women team members of the DCUC team along with women students of IMT-G discussed and shared their views on women's safety in India and what is being done to improve it.

The DCUC team which was divided in 2 groups presented their analysis to the faculty and the members of IMT on 14th of August. A certificate of participation was presented to all the

students who took part in the challenge. On 15th of August they took part in the Independence Day celebrations and also in the cultural activities that followed.

It was a pleasure hosting the team from Denmark and we look forward to more such engagements in future. We would also like to thank IBM especially, for bringing forth this initiative to build smarter cities. We would also like to personally thank Prof. Mark Vacher, University of Copenhagen and Ms. Ditte Tellegren, Copenhagen Business School for guiding the DCUC team throughout the challenge. We would also like to thank Mr. Biplab Srivastava, Dr VK Gupta, Dr. Parijat Upadhyay and Dr. Vikas Gupta for sharing their valuable insights and knowledge with the team.

