

PRESS RELEASE 2008-09

Union Bank & Indian Institute of Management A'bad Sign MoU

Ahmedabad, March 18, 2009: The Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIMA) and the Union Bank of India signed an MoU today for instituting the Chair Professorship at IIMA by the Bank known as “**Union Bank Chair Professor of SME**” and foster the Research Programme as “**Union Bank Research Programme on the SME Segment**”. The partnership between Union Bank and IIMA would be known as “**Union Bank-IIMA Centre of Excellence**”.

The Union Bank has provided a grant of Rs. 2.00 crores for the said purpose. The MoU was signed by Mr. M. V. Nair, Chairman and Managing Director, Union Bank of India and Prof. Samir K Barua, Director, IIMA.

The MoU aims at:

- Establishing and supporting the “Union Bank-IIMA Centre of Excellence”
- Undertaking rigorous research in the Small Medium Enterprises sector, inter alia, conceptualizing the strategic thrust for the banking sector in providing range of financial services to SME
- Providing focused reports on the role of the banking sector in strengthening various aspects of SME operations, structure etc.
- Playing a catalytic role through focused research, training, consulting, and other suitable ways to foster and enrich Banking related to SME in India and abroad.

The Union Bank-IIMA Centre of Excellence activities would be two fold:

- Academic Research and
- Empirical, practice oriented cases, studies and reports

The above activities shall be carried out by way of research, survey, assessment and refinement of current practices, training and management consulting and other techniques that would lead to systematic assessment of the SME segment and identify newer areas for their growth and expansion. IIMA shall be responsible for carrying out the above intended purpose with the Grant provided by the Bank.

The MoU would further the efforts of the Union Bank of India to have a Centre For Excellence with dedicated focus on Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) segment and continuous engagement in Research on formulation of strategies that can facilitate, and strengthen the success and growth of the Bank’s SME portfolio.

The IIMA seeks to further its role in management education and research through its capabilities in the area of developing skills and capacities and disseminating the methods, strategic approach, structure, systems and processes, training and research etc., with the activities that would be conducted under the aegis of the UBI-IIMA partnership.

Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIMA)

The Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (IIMA) is a globally respected institute that shapes management practices in India and abroad by creating new frontiers of knowledge and developing ethical, dependable, entrepreneurial, and socially sensitive leader-managers committed to excellence. From bringing professionalism to Indian management to influencing global management practices, IIMA's vision has been to excel in the field of management education and research. In just four decades IIMA has evolved from being India's premier management institute to a notable international school of management and is now recognized as one of the best and most respected business schools in the Asia-Pacific region.

Union Bank of India (UBI)

Union Bank of India is a large public sector bank, with a network of 2596 outlets over 24 million customers at over 1500 centres. All these branches are networked under CBS in March 2008 making Union Bank the first large Public Sector Bank to do so. At the end of December 2008, the Bank had a total business mix of Rs 2,22,625 crore, with deposits of Rs 1,29,647 crore, and advances of Rs 92978 crore. The bank's net profit for the nine month period ending December 2008 was Rs. 1261 crore, representing year-on-year growth of 45.61%. The capital adequacy ratio for the Bank stood at 12.32% at the end of December 2008.

Union Bank of India has taken a number of initiatives to boost lending to the MSME sector such as MoU with NSIC for establishing Training cum Incubation centres, with SMERA for rating of MSME clients and with CGTMSE for extending guarantee cover to advances without collateral.

Ministry of MSME, Government of India has conferred Union Bank of India a National Award, 2008 for excellence.

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