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IIMA's 30th Faculty Development Programme concludes

IIMA, October 4, 2008: The Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad's 30th FDP- Faculty Development Programme (FDP) 2008 concluded today with a valedictory function at IIMA. Thirty seven (37) faculty members including international participants from neighbouring countries like Nepal and Maldives participated in this 30th FDP.

The FDP was launched by IIMA in 1979 and is a multi-tier programme meant for management faculty from India and abroad. It is the most reputed faculty development programme in India and its neighbouring countries. The FDP is specially designed to meet the management education requirements of teachers, researchers, and trainers in HRD, training colleges and industrial organizations.

The 16-week long programme not only covers basic disciplines like economics and statistics and core management areas like marketing, finance, human resource management, operations management and strategy, but also focuses on academic writing, case writing, qualitative and quantitative research methods and innovative pedagogical techniques.

A unique component of the FDP is to provide information and guidelines to develop expertise in conducting management development programmes, doing consultancies, and the ways to access funding agencies for doing the funded projects. This year, the programme included rigorous exercises and live projects in various courses, and industrial visits to Reliance Refinery and Amul Dairy.

According to the 30th FDP Chairperson Prof. Manjari Singh, "IIM Ahmedabad tries to provide the best learning environment to the participants. The added advantage for this offering was the scope to learn through diversity in the participant backgrounds. They were from different fields of management like finance, marketing, HR, etc. and came with a rich array of experience. The participants from all over the country and also neighbouring countries worked together in groups, staying in the same dormitory building. Their presentations and reports were of high standards and reflected their learning through diversity and the honed analytical skills of academicians."

All the participants expressed that they had wonderful days in IIM Ahmedabad and added that they are fortunate for being here. They said that these 16 weeks' experience would take them a long way in their career prospects.

Below are impressions of some of the FDP participants:

A participant from Mumbai remarked "For me, it was amazing experience, a great learning experience, which gave me insights in management areas"

A participant from Tamil Nadu said that "The entire contents of the FDP is found useful and especially the critique writing, data analysis, research methodology, operations management, communication for management teachers, qualitative research methods, etc. are really useful."

Participant from Kerala who already holds a Ph.D. commented "The qualitative research is a very value added area that I got exposed, I never knew that qualitative research is such an exciting area of research. I am now confident of taking another Ph.D.

An international participant from Nepal was excited about the programme and remarked "It was a prestigious opportunity for me to represent my institute and gain the amount of knowledge and everlasting experience at an esteemed institute like IIM Ahmedabad. Apart from learning, the association with distinguished professors of IIMA and with many management teachers from different parts of India and abroad has been a great earning for me in these three and half months."

Another international participant from Maldives remarked –"It is a pleasure to experience the FDP programme. It is really valuable learning experience which will be treasured in my heart forever. Apart from the formal classroom learning, it taught me a lot about the Indian people and their culture."

A trainer from a cooperative enterprise added that "The programme is extremely useful and has given me a lot to carry and consolidate upon it. The case method approach of teaching will be very useful to be adopted in my kind of organization (cooperative training centre) where mostly the participants are adults and are at executive levels in cooperative organizations." He also added that the learning from this programmes cannot be measured.

Another participant expressed that, "I felt like I was in a monastery for all these 16 weeks. This stay gave me a strong academic discipline" He also added that this visit to IIMA is his academic pilgrimage to a Mecca of management institutions.