

Editorial



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Having worked for over 35 years in Indian Power Industry especially the hydro-sector has given me an opportunity to traverse through the tough terrains of Northern Himalayan states. Even though I worked primarily in CPSUS, I experienced different work cultures in terms of professional work ethics. Industry academia alliance was not known except the fact that top notch faculty members from IIMs and IITs were called to share their domain knowledge in their respective fields. We also had consultancy assignments with these institutions in techno-managerial fields. For example all assignments pertaining to Civil Structural Engineering will go to IIT Roorkee. Organisational cultural surveys were being done through IIMs. However I often wondered if these institutions also require the important Industry feedback to authenticate their research. Somehow I felt Indian Academia needs to build inroads in the Industry to be more specific and relevant to the growing needs of the economic order.

I happen to visit South Korea recently to participate in an International Conference on IT organised by ITAM. We stayed in Ewaha Women's University Seoul. While taking a tour of the campus, Prof.kim informed us that Some of the research Centres are funded by the MNCs such as Daewoo, Samsung etc. Big organisations find it easier and cheaper if the research is carried out in collaboration with the industry. The academia carries its research in these organisations addressing their specific requirements. It not only serves the purpose of both but creates an ecosystem of inclusive growth and development.

I later came to know that South Korean universities are among world leaders when it comes to publishing research with industry. The Pohang University of Science and Technology, founded by Korean steel company POSCO in 1986, tops a table of universities publishing the highest proportions of their research output in collaboration with industry produced. It is shared by Clarivate Analytics that, with 23 percent of its publications coming via such links. Another South Korean institution Sungkyunkwan University has an alliance with Samsung and is placed at 8th position. The UK's University of East Anglia and Institute for Cancer Research also figure in the Top 10, in fifth and ninth places respectively.

The leading companies of the world have realised that research in their native place conducted by local institutions provide them with an edge which not only acts as an enabler but contributes in creating an ecosystem for industrial and economic growth of the country.

India is gradually waking up from slumber. It has started taking baby steps in developing strong university-industry linkages (UILs). Howsoever great efforts may be made both by Industry and Academia in isolation; they can never be enough to make us world leaders. This relationship is symbiotic as Industry gets work ready talent with specialist knowledge and desired training, academia on the other hand gets latest and relevant technologies to work on with challenging problems. In nut shell it is a win-win for both.

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