



**Industry-academia collaboration in India:  
focus on Centers of Excellence in  
technology**

**Executive Summary**

**June 2012**



**Industry-academia collaboration in India:  
Focus on Centers of Excellence in technology**

**June 2012**

## **Executive Summary**

Industry-academia collaboration is increasingly seen as critical to economic performance. The evolution of traditional corporate R&D laboratories and the rise of open innovation and user-driven innovation processes are seen as important drivers of this trend, especially from a business perspective. From a university perspective, the importance of knowledge creation in a practitioner context, in comparison to traditional academic knowledge creation processes, is becoming more widely acknowledged.

### **CoEs in India**

Based on the public-private partnership model, quite a few Centers of Excellence (CoEs) have been set up in India for the benefit of society. Funded by the government and industry, these CoEs aim to provide high-quality training, undertake advanced research and develop globally competitive tools within a defined timeframe. The focus is on technology development and transfer, path-breaking scientific research, development of trained human resources and economic outreach.

CoEs have been set up in the areas of telecom, wireless technology, bioinformatics, lasers and optoelectronic devices and nanoelectronics.

### **Key challenges of CoEs**

- Norms and values within academia create a tension in the perception of what counts to be a centre with goals of excellence.
- Centers of Excellence experience tensions with regards to selection of research topics and in developing overarching research questions that can unite stakeholders from academia and industry.
- The financing mechanisms themselves constitute a barrier to achieve a well operating centre.
- Disadvantaged by constrained budgets, and regular permanent employment, the CoEs frequently cease to be more than the sum of their parts – and sometimes add up to less.

### **Conclusions**

With a goal to make India the global powerhouse in research and innovation, a new range of technology is required to meet the future challenges, and India has to head forward on innovative collaborations between industry and its universities through cooperative knowledge creation and exchange. There is a tremendous need to create other avenues that need to be intensified, stimulated, and above all integrated, for a close academia and industry interaction through all the stages of technology development, starting from conceptualization down to commercialization.

Besides industry associations, the universities should also form linkages with government agencies which are entrusted with industrial development activities. Government should put into place an integrated policy of academia-industry collaborative interaction encompassing a number of strategies enabling such an initiative to thrive in the country's quest for technological leadership.



**International Institute of Information Technology - Bangalore**

26/C, Electronics City  
Hosur Road  
Bangalore -560 100  
[www.iiitb.ac.in](http://www.iiitb.ac.in)

**Latitude Edutech Consulting Pvt. Ltd.**

UNI Building, First Floor  
Millers Tank Bund Road  
Vasanthnagar, Bangalore -560 052.  
[www.latitudegroup.in](http://www.latitudegroup.in)