



International Conference on Entrepreneurship



5 & 6th June, 2009

Indian School of Business, Hyderabad

The Indian School of Business promotes Entrepreneurship in India through 'The Wadhvani Center for Entrepreneurship Development'. The main objective of this center at ISB is to help create an effective ecosystem for broad based entrepreneurial development in India. It is our core belief that entrepreneurship is one of the most powerful and sustainable ways to change India and to bring equitable socio economic growth in the country. To help accomplish this, ISB is partnering with industry, academia and the policy makers as well as entrepreneurs across the world. These partnerships are designed to bring about collective thought leadership and plans and to translate this thought leadership into action.

Among other partnerships we currently have, ISB in partnership with RAND Corporation and Legatum Institute is conducting joint research on entrepreneurial policies in India and on how to realign policies supporting entrepreneurs in India. To discuss these findings and more importantly, to identify and advocate new policy framework needed to boost entrepreneurship; a conference is being held at the Indian School of Business with the theme:

Catalysts of Entrepreneurship: Policies for Growth

The Conference is organized by the Indian School of Business, the RAND Corporation and Legatum Institute. The RAND Corporation is a nonprofit global policy think tank working with several governments, private foundations, international organizations, and commercial organizations across the world. http://www.rand.org/icj/centers/small_business/.

The Legatum Institute is a member of the Legatum Group - a global investment organization which draws upon a twenty-year heritage of investment excellence across all major continents and in a broad range of sectors and industries. Legatum Institute is an independent research, policy, and advisory organization whose mission is to research and promote the principles that drive the creation of global prosperity and the expansion of human liberty – <http://www.legatum.com>.

This conference addresses issues that affect multiple stakeholders – the government and policymakers, the entrepreneurial ecosystem (including educational institutions, financial institutions, and entrepreneurial networks), entrepreneurs, SME's and policy researchers.



The Conference focuses on:

- What policies or practices at the state and central encourage or impede entrepreneurship in India?
- How have recent reforms, such as a single window clearance, fared? To what extent can this be adopted for all types of businesses across all states in India? What sector specific variations do we need, if any?
- How supportive is the ecosystem in India – do investors, the government, and society provide for a foundation on which entrepreneurs can grow and flourish?

We believe that both education as well as the infrastructure ecosystem, aided by appropriate policies, can generate the next wave of great entrepreneurial activity in India. With this belief, the conference will be concentrating on these two industry segments, that is;

- **Educational Sector**
- **Effective Infrastructure Utilization**

This conference provides a platform for policy makers, entrepreneurs, industry bodies and researchers to recognize the opportunities that lie ahead and how policy can aid in taking advantage of these opportunities.

SUMMARY OF THE CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Session 1: ISB-RAND Research Findings

This session provides a summary of key findings by ISB-RAND researchers on the existing policies and gaps in promoting entrepreneurs development in India. It also identifies areas for further research.

Session 2: Entrepreneurship India's Educational Sector – Policy Framework

This session attempts to address the following areas:

- How effective are the current policies in India to spur broad based entrepreneurial activities in the education sector?
- How can India encourage entrepreneurial approaches to bridge both skills and competencies gaps across all major sectors of socio-economic development in India in the next 5-10 years?
 - What policy changes will help?
 - What specific role can the state governments play?
 - What policy changes are needed to nurture appropriate but holistic ecosystem needed to promote entrepreneurship in this sector?
 - What does it take to build entrepreneurial based ecosystem to meet education needs at primary, secondary, higher education as well as vocational needs?
 - Are there any successful models of entrepreneurial ecosystem that can be replicated in many states across India?
 - What does it take to have significant investment flows to support entrepreneurs in this sector?



- What innovative approaches can we adopt to promote public private partnership in building the necessary ecosystem?
- Would foreign investment in the education sector help? How attractive do investors find the education and training markets when compared to IT, pharma, biotech, etc.?

Session 3: Entrepreneurship in effective Infrastructure Utilization – Policy Framework

This session attempts to address policy related issues required to build a strong entrepreneurial focused network of entrepreneurs and SME for faster and efficient implementation of mega infrastructure projects.

- What policy changes are needed to create a vibrant entrepreneur and SME network servicing large scale infrastructure projects, SEZ¹'s and industry clusters?
- Can public/private partnership models in infrastructure be extended to develop strong supporting enterprises such as focused SMEs?
 - What policy changes will help?
 - What specific role can the state governments play?
 - What policy changes are needed to nurture appropriate but holistic ecosystem needed to promote entrepreneurship in this sector?
 - Are there any successful models of entrepreneurial ecosystem that can be replicated in many states across India?
 - What does it take to have significant investment flows to support entrepreneurs in this sector?
- SEZ's and industry clusters need significant infrastructure and other support services. Can this need be translated into entrepreneurial opportunities in the infrastructure sector (e.g. waste management, value chain management, Training, use of appropriate technologies etc.)?
- What policies can help develop clusters close to industrial areas thereby facilitating creation of an entire city with focus on socio economic development?

Session 4: The Journey to Action

This panel focuses on key points discussed in all the first three panels in an attempt to provide guidance to various key stake holders to develop a time bound action plan. It highlights key policy changes needed and provides a basis for a constructive dialog between policy makers, industry, and other stake holders of entrepreneurial ecosystem. These include:

- Policy reforms needed to encourage entrepreneurship
- Financing
- Public Private Partnerships
- Human Resource availability
- Challenges associated with Implementation

Conference Website - <http://www.isb.edu/wced/entrepreneurship-conference>