

SEVENTEENTH CONVOCATION Saturday, May 11, 2013

Presidential Address

Esteemed Chief Guest, Mr. Bhaskar Pramanik, Chairman, Mr. K.C. Mohan,
Ladies & Gentlemen:

As President of XIME Society I must say how happy and grateful I am for the gracious presence of Mr. Bhaskar Pramanik as our Chief Guest at this 17th Convocation of the Institute. As you are well aware, he is an Icon among the top managers of the country – heading this dream company, Microsoft, in the country. Welcome to you Mr. Pramanik. And also my welcome to our dear Chairman, Mr. K.C. Mohan, Board Members, Director, Dean, Faculty, students and parents.

Convocation is always a joyous occasion – this is the grand finale of the two-year struggle for the graduates. When it is all over, as it is today, it is a matter of great joy to the students, their parents and to us teachers. We are all here to celebrate this special occasion.

In my address, I usually deal with some very special highlights of the year. A detailed report follows from the Director.

Let me start on some of these highlights:

1. We are happy and proud that we contribute to the economy today, the largest number of students ever to graduate from this hallowed halls – 175 of them – who will receive their Post-Graduate Diploma in Management at this Convocation. With this kind of a number – we catch up with many of the leading B-Schools of the country in numbers. In

quality of course, we were always in the top first 25 or 30 of the 3600 B-Schools of the country. I must add with all the emphasis that I can command that they are all 'employable' and not belonging to the so called 77% who are seen as not employable by some of the Indian surveys. That doesn't apply to XIME. Our products have been of superior quality always.

2. After having said about the graduates, I must touch upon an issue which is so crucial to them – that is the placement. During all these years, including the worst one that was 2009, we did quite well in placements. But this year it was tough – really tough. However, we are just about to hit 80% which is our usual standard in a standard year, when we reach the convocation date. However, it was tough going – not just for us – for almost all B-Schools of the country. I am really happy we bucked the trend.

When I read this article 'Generation Jobless' in the Economist of 27th April, 13, I said to myself and also shared with my Colleagues, that our graduates are not going to be part of that. It is our determination to place every graduate of ours suitably, as is our tradition.

3. We always do some special International Conferences every year. This year's one was on Labour Law Framework in BRICS Countries in comparison with that of the developed world. The Hon'ble Union Minister for Labour, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge inaugurated the seminar.
4. We had some excellent papers on the topic from countries such as:

Brazil, China, Germany, India, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, South Africa, and the U.K.

It is our hope to bring out a book on this theme which will indeed be the first of its kind in the world. We had earlier partnered with FGV-EAESP University of Brazil for an international publication on: ‘Doing Business in BRIC Countries, Legal aspects’.

5. Another unique initiative of the year was the Xavier Students Meet at our campus. Xavier B-Schools like XLRI, XIM-B, XIME, XISS, LIBA, St. Joseph’s and other Xavier B-Schools, have a common association called XAMI. It has a number of common activities including the admission test called XAT. This year for the first time, there was a XAMI Students’ Meet at our campus – like the IIM and IIT students meets. It was a great event with students from a number of Xavier institutions competing for top positions in various games, quizzes and other intellectual exercises. The students had great fun and great value from that common meet. It was also an occasion for the students to touch and feel the true Xavier spirit.

6. I would like to include in my brief presentation a very creditable recognition that came our way during the year. It was the recognition that we received from Madras Management Association [MMA] when they declared XIME as the Best B-School of South India outside the IIMs. It was a proud moment for me to receive on behalf of the Institute this prestigious award on Managerial Excellence for 2012 under the Educational Institutions category.

7. Size is one of the themes in my presentation, so let me end with a piece on this again. As Chairman would elaborate later, it was our passion and commitment that we should have our footprints in Kochi and Chennai

too. The first step in this direction is now complete. Our state-of-the-art campus in Kochi is now operational which will admit 90 to 100 students this year. With this we become one of the largest PGDM Schools in South India approved by AICTE. We are indeed happy and proud at this achievement.

8. One other aspect on size, ambience and comfort. Our Bangalore campus has a built-up area of 140,000 sq.ft. –that works out to about 400 sq.ft. per student as opposed to 110 stipulated by AICTE. But, we said to ourselves, no, that is not enough. We must keep on adding to the capacity and comfort of this place. And therefore, we will soon be adding another floor on this building including a new auditorium with 440 seating capacity. This is to be ready by end October. So our graduates, when you come here next time, you will see this new height, as you would have put on some good professional height to yourself.

Now, lastly, a few words specially to you, the graduating students:

I will start with a cliché. It was always my advice not to use clichés in speeches. But let me break that rule today. You know that old saying ‘when the going gets tough, the tough gets going’. It was a tough year, we went resolutely and optimistically to fight that adversity and we have so far won upto 80 per cent in placement. As of now, it is a good record. We have kept 90% as the target for June 15. And 100% by end July. If our past placement record is any indicator, we should make it.

Second – A quote which I have used often:

‘Make your habits first and the habits will make you’. This is something on which we steadfastly concentrated during your two years here. And I know

many of you have moved up the value chain on this. As I have always said: If you have the right habits, you cannot fail.

Now the last piece: This is from Napoleon Bonaparte:

“Victory belongs to the most persevering”

Good luck and God Speed.

Thank you.

Prof. J. Philip