

Gautam Buddha University has organized a lecture on the theme Academic R&D to Startups: How does one do it? by Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao,

Fellow IEEE, FNAE, FASc, FNA, FNASc & Pillay Chair Professor & Former Director, IIT Delhi

Highlights of his lecture are:

1. India's contribution to the world's R&D is steadily increasing. In certain specialized areas such as Nanotechnology, India is among the top 3 countries in the world in terms of research publications.
2. Despite the low percentage of GDP spending for R&D in India, Indian researchers have excelled in research output, when measured in terms of the number of research publications. Though these are excellent achievements, the situation is entirely different when one looks at the innovation or the product development potential in the country.
3. For example, India ranks very poorly on the Global Innovation Index (GII), and the research undertaken by Indian academic institutions, whether public or private hasn't resulted in any major technological breakthrough of significant commercial value.
4. Given this scenario, in order to make the Indian research competitive and sustainable in terms of innovation and product development, a multitude of initiatives are required to be taken at the institutional and national level.
5. Some of our research is becoming top-down - 'solution to a problem' rather 'solution looking for a problem'. NEP is a step in right direction.
6. India needs to focus on the impact and knowledge translation into wealth generation which we are lacking.

In this talk, he further discussed the changing scenario for product innovation in Indian academic and R&D institutions, and also see how one can accelerate the culture of product innovation in the country through a multi-disciplinary approach.

About the speaker:

Prof. V. Ramgopal Rao is currently the Pillay Chair Professor in EE and the immediate Past Director of IIT Delhi. Before joining IIT Delhi as the Director in April 2016, Dr. Rao served as a P. K. Kelkar Chair Professor for Nanotechnology in the Department of Electrical Engineering and as the Chief Investigator for the Centre of Excellence in Nanoelectronics project at IIT Bombay. Dr. Rao has over 480 research publications in the area of nano-scale devices & Nanoelectronics and is an inventor on

over 50 patents, which include 20 issued US patents. 15 of his patents have been licensed to industries for commercialization. Prof. Rao is a co-founder of two deep technology startups at IIT Bombay (Nanosniff & Soilsens) which are developing products of relevance to the society. Dr. Rao is a Fellow of IEEE, a Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering, the Indian Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Sciences, and the Indian National Science Academy.

Prof. Rao's research and leadership contributions have been recognized with over 35 awards and honors in the country and abroad. He is a recipient of three honorary doctorates. The recognitions Prof. Rao received include the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize in Engineering Sciences, Infosys Prize, IEEE EDS Education Award, Excellence in Research awards from IIT Bombay, DAE and DRDO, Swarnajayanti Fellowship award from the Department of Science & Technology, IBM Faculty award, Best Research award from the Intel Asia Academic Forum, Techno-Visionary award from the Indian Semiconductor Association, J.C.Bose National Fellowship among many others. Prof. Rao was an Editor for the IEEE Transactions on Electron Devices during 2003-2012 for the CMOS Devices and Technology area and currently serves on the Editorial Advisory Board of ACS Nano Letters, a leading international journal in the area of Nanotechnology. He also serves as an Editor for the IEEE Journal on Flexible Electronics.

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