

Project: “ *Building a partnership of excellence between The University of Western Ontario, Canada and the Indian Institute of Technology Rajasthan, India. ”*

Grant Awarded: Partnership Development Seed Grant - \$15,000

A seed grant of \$15,000 was awarded by Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute to Dr. Andrew Hrymak, Professor and Dean, Faculty of Engineering, UWO to establish a partnership of excellence between The University of Western Ontario, Canada and Indian Institute of Technology, Rajasthan, India. A Workshop was conducted in India from February 21 to 24th, 2011 on the following theme areas:

- Collaborative Research and Development through Centres of Excellence
- Faculty Development through exchanges
- Graduate Studies and Jointly Supervised Research
- New Dimensions and Enrichment of Undergraduate Programs



The workshop concluded by identifying the following immediate steps:

- IIT Rajasthan to send three final year students for at least two summer months to work with faculty members in energy, water and biomedical engineering laboratories at UWO. (the visiting students will have at least one male and one female student)
- Overlapping with the students visit to UWO, two IIT Rajasthan faculty members will visit UWO's Centres of Research Excellence.

Other Observations & Conclusions included:

Both UWO and IIT Rajasthan can benefit most through participation in research through Centres of Excellence by creating a synergy for Canadian and Indian industries collaborating with faculty, PDFs and graduate student researchers from Canada and India.

In the next few years attractive opportunities can be created for bright undergraduate students pursuing accelerated programs, where the four year content is completed in three years and the fourth and possibly the fifth year can be used for studies at Western leading to a second or a third degree.

For more information on the Project, please contact Prof. Andrew Hrymak at hrymak@eng.uwo.ca