

Trip Report – India, August 2010 (v. 1.0)
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I visited India on behalf of MSOE from August 15 to 28. I believe the trip was very successful and productive. I made numerous contacts and gathered a lot of information. Here are few of my observations:

- Many more potential students and university collaborators are now aware of MSOE's interest in India.
- The rapidly growing Indian economy now makes it feasible for some students who study in the U.S. to return to India to work immediately after graduation.
- The market for engineering programs in India continues to change and grow rapidly. Many new schools have opened in the past 10 years and all of the schools I visited have more doubled their enrollments over this interval. In spite of this, Indian engineering schools can still enroll all highly qualified and motivated students they can accommodate. Unlike the U.S. where 20% to 30% attrition rates are the norm, the Indian schools report attrition rates of 1 to 3%.
- The most often cited challenge for the Indian schools was the lack of qualified faculty. All the schools expressed a keen interest in visiting faculty arrangements.
- Another common area of interest was graduate studies and possible collaborative Master's programs.
- American schools continue to be the first choice of most of the ICAS students and their families.
- Attending the ICAS inaugural ceremonies continues to be the best way to make contact with ICAS students and their families and to attract these students to MSOE.

My first stop was in Kochi where I visited Toc H Public School (TPS) and Toc H Institute of Science and Technology (TIST). I addressed student assemblies at both schools regarding educational opportunities in the U.S. in general and at MSOE in particular. At TPS, I discussed the proposed international camp experience for high school students that would include sessions at MSOE. At TIST, I explored the possibility of faculty and student exchanges and developing a 2+2 style arrangement similar to the one MSOE current has with Manipal University.

My next stop was in Pondicherry where I visited Pondicherry Engineering College (PEC), Rajiv Gandhi College of Engineering and Technology (RG CET) and Pondicherry University. I addressed student assemblies regarding educational opportunities in the U.S. and at MSOE at PEC and RG CET. At all three schools, I discussed student and faculty exchange and 2+2 opportunities with faculty and administrators.

I next traveled to Chennai where I visited the grandparents and high school classmates of a current MSOE student, Rajalakshmi Engineering College (REC) and the U.S. Consulate. The visit with the student's family and classmates was primarily social. I was well received and everyone seemed very pleased by my presence and interest. The visit to REC was similar to the visits to the other engineering colleges. I addressed a student assembly and talked to faculty and administrators about possible

collaboration. At the consulate, I met with Mr. Donald Mulligan, the Chief of their Non-Immigrant Visa Unit. This is the unit that interviews prospective students and makes student visa decisions. Mr. Mulligan and I discussed the general visa process and MSOE's sustained interest in India and Indian students. The meeting was very productive.

My next stop was in Bangaluru (better known in the U.S. by its old name, Bangalore) and met briefly (between flights) with Advith Shetty, a May 2010 AE graduate. Among other topics, Advith and I discussed the value of an MSOE education for Indian students who immediately return to their home country.

Finally, I arrived in Manipal to attend inaugural ceremonies for the 2010-12 Class (or Batch as the Indians would say) at Manipal University's International Center for Applied Science (ICAS). It is with ICAS that MSOE maintains a 2+2 arrangement. I made a presentation to an assembly of new ICAS students and their families and met individually with interested students and families. He also had the opportunity to spend time with Mr. Graham Barker, the U.S. Vice Consul in Chennai and with representatives from other universities who were in Manipal to attend the ceremonies. Other universities sending representatives to this year's event were Andrews University in Michigan, City University London and Lancaster University in the U.K. and Deakin and Flinders University in Australia. I had the opportunity to attend these representatives' presentations and talk with them informally during meals and receptions. This provided additional insight into the international student market and other schools' recruiting strategies. While in Manipal, I was also introduced, by phone, the Vice Chancellor of Chitkara University who indicated his keen interest in developing collaborative arrangements with MSOE. Chitkara University is located in the city of Chandigarh in Northern Indian.

The opportunities in India are plentiful; the challenge is to understand and prioritize these opportunities so that MSOE's resources can be appropriately allocated. As always, my observations and conclusions are more nuanced and subtle than it is possible to express in a brief summary document such as this. Anyone wishing to know more about my impressions should contact me to arrange meeting.