



The Beginning ...

It gives us great pleasure and a sense of satisfaction to bring out our first newsletter. IITians have made enormous impact wherever they have been. A lot of it is due to our quest for excellence in whichever field we go to but a large part of the success is also due to the community IITians have created in India and abroad. The company of like-minded people sharing a common set of values provides support and inspiration in our journey forward. With an increase in our presence in Korea, a group like this was long due. Our membership includes a small but steadily increasing group of IITians who have come to Korea and are mostly associated with the technology sector here.

We had a formal inauguration on 24th of January, 2015. The Ambassador of India to South Korea, H.E. Vishnu Prakash was kind enough to grace the occasion. He congratulated us for this initiative and noted that each of us represented not just our Alma Mater but also our nation and as such it was our duty to conduct ourselves in a manner that portrays India in a positive light. He also hoped that with time, we'd take a more active role in promoting cooperation between the two countries at various levels. We certainly hope so and strive to make that a reality.

The picture above is from a lunch event that marked our formal beginning with the Ambassador of India to Korea, H.E. Mr. Vinshu Prakash and Deputy Head of Mission, Mr. Upendra Rawat

Message from the President

When I came to Korea in 2004, there were very few Indians, let alone IITians. I still remember those early days when I experienced a huge emotional vacuum. It was difficult to find folks with whom I could connect with and have a conversation. The first few months were very harsh and I could survive perhaps only because of the tough training at IIT. Fast forward 10 years and now the freshers in Korea call their first few months a “honeymoon phase”. One factor for this paradigm shift is definitely the significant increase in the number of IITians/Indians all across Korea. That said, while our association currently has members mainly based in Suwon and Seoul, we are excited about expanding our footprint going forward. I am honored to lead the first year of this alumni association and look forward to make my humble contributions together with all other enthusiastic office bearers. I envision this as a group which every member connects with thus leading to a culture of shared commitment. I see this group as being relevant to all the members (network, gain new inspirations, learn from each other) and full of fun (board games, outdoor activities, cultural events, magic show amongst other activities).
Thank you

MoU between IITAAK and GSIS

In April, 4 members of IITAAK participated in a pilot project to interact with high school students of the Gyeonggi Suwon International School (GSIS). The aim was to share problem solving tips with these high schoolers who are preparing for university entrance exams. During the hour long interactive session, the members also shared their experience from professional and personal life, especially how IIT moulded their thought process and prepared them to face the challenges later in their lives.

Encouraged by the success of the pilot project and request from students and faculty, IITAAK and GSIS signed a MoU to have a more organized interaction between IITians and the school students to discuss about career path, opportunities and sharing experience from professional and personal life. The program will commence from September this year.

Social Media Presence

Website: www.iitalumkorea.com

Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/582823221819614/>

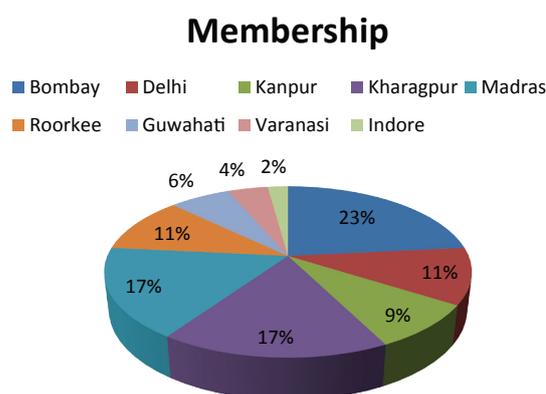
Twitter: <https://twitter.com/iitalumkorea>

Website Launch and “Know a Member” series

The IITAAK website is designed and managed by Pawan Nagwani. An important feature of the site is the “Know a Member” series which publishes interview with a member every week to promote familiarity amongst the members.

Membership composition

Currently we have 47 registered members. A look at how each of the IITs are represented in our group.



EVENTS



Finance Know-How Session by Jalaj Jain, sharing important personal finance tips



Hosting the Indian Defense Minister, Manohar Parrikar (IIT Bombay alumnus) during his visit to South Korea, at the Millennium Hilton in Seoul. Also in attendance was Mr Jayant Patil , EVP L&T. This event also marked the launch of the IITAAK logo.



Sharing problem solving tips and career advice with high school students at the GSIS (Gyeonggi Suwon International School)

OFFICE BEARERS

Every organization needs some people who work behind the scenes (and in front) to run it. The first group of office bearers were elected in January 2015. IITAAK will hold elections every year in January to form the core group that works to take the association forward. There are 5 Office Bearers for 2015.



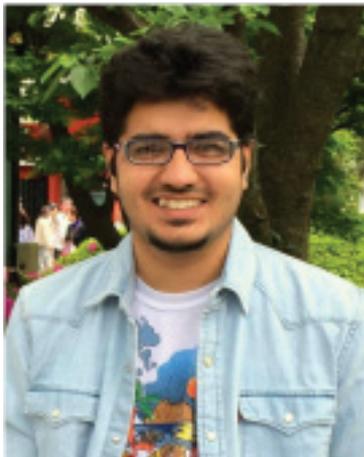
Pankaj Agarwal, President
B.Tech 2004, IIT Kanpur



Jalaj Jain, VP Finance
M.Tech 2000, IIT Madras



Subhojit Chakladar, VP PR
B.Tech 2008, IIT Kharagpur



Pawan Nagwani, VP Operations
B.Tech 2014, IIT Bombay



Vishnu Vinjam, VP Events
B.Tech 2014, IIT Bombay