

## **MHRD & FICCI Higher Education Delegation to European Universities**

A higher education delegation from MHRD and FICCI has returned back from ten days (21<sup>st</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> June 2015) visit to top ranking universities of Europe including countries like France and Germany etc. AISECT University has the distinction of being only university from MP in this delegation, represented by the Vice Chancellor, Prof Vijay Kant Verma. The delegation also had other Vice Chancellors and Directors of various universities and National institutes of India and senior officers from MHRD and FICCI. The delegation examined the higher education system in Europe, looked in to their infrastructure & facilities and interacted with faculty and students. It also met Indian Ambassadors and top officials of education ministries in European countries. The objective of the visit was to find what we can learn from them to better our education system and how to create forums for exchange and also showcase strength of our education system to attract students from there. Prof Verma told that there are many things which we can learn from European Universities. Some of the very strong points of European system are - zero tuition fees, total autonomy of universities and departments, Non interfering, supporting and facilitating approach of regulating and govt agencies, Almost all industries on initiative from govt are associated with some or other institute/university in research and education in a big way both for funding and expert support, officials from Ministry and experts from industries are taken on contract for 6 month to 3 years in a full time regular appointment as faculty, research guides and Lab experts, very strong emphasis on lab work and skill delivery with separate expert manpower full time available in labs, Huge infrastructure with lot of attention to faculty and student comfort . These points have generated lot of interest in Indian students to opt for European universities in last couple of years. The biggest advantage now is that European countries have relaxed the language barrier and now Indian students can get education in English language. The result is that there has been steep rise in admissions of Indian students with ten thousand students in Germany, eight thousand students in France and about two thousand in Neetherland and similar figures in other European countries. The feedback on talent of Indian students is strongly positive and they rank very high among foreign students. The only sad part is that Indian students do not want to return back to India and they blame ailing higher education system back home, corruption in general, against attractive and corruption free life in Europe. However there is now a silver line and many of our students there feel that things are changing for better in India and in near future India may become their destination to join back Indian higher education system as teaching faculty or industries & corporate world as employees to fuel growth of our country. There is need for government, regulating bodies and industries to see the realities and find solutions in an amicable manner to problems which push talent to foreign lands.