

Now, it's brain drain reversal of 360 degrees

IITs Recruiting Profs From Abroad To Meet The Demand Of Quality Faculty

By Akhilesh Kumar Singh/TNN

Kanpur: Call it brain drain reversal of 360 degrees. To overcome the scarcity of quality faculty, India is looking forward to recruiting professors from abroad, primarily from European countries. And what could be a better place than the IITs to kickstart the process.

The Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) have already made lucrative jobs offers to several European professors and the latter have agreed to join as permanent faculties.

The process started during the recent IIT-EU alumni conference during the Hannover Fair last week, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

The conference had IIT directors, industry leaders and 40 European professors discussing the prospects in India.

IIT-Kanpur took the lead in this enterprise on behalf of all IITs. From Europe, the major contributors were the Rhine-Westphalia Technical Hochschule (RWTH), Aachen and Ecole Centrale Paris, which is French equivalent of IITs.

IITs offered a comprehensive package to European faculty who had shown interest in participating in research being conducted by in-



Quite a few young European faculty, including Olaf Winkler and Sebastien Ducruix were impressed by the prospects in India and had lengthy discussions with IIT-Kanpur director Prof Dhande on the issue. They are likely to join the IIT-Kanpur soon.

"We have already short-listed at least five

international firms opening R&D centre and also in meeting the requirement for teaching staff in India.

The package offered by IITs was comparable to the remuneration paid by the European institutions in terms of PPP (Purchasing Power Parity).

teachers and discussions are on with the heads of different departments to recruit them on a permanent basis," said Dhande, while talking to TOI on Tuesday. He said that besides permanent recruitment, a few senior experts would be invited on contract basis to teach at the IITs.

"We have succeeded in getting European faculty interested in joining IITs and hope this will help IIT increase its faculty in quality and quantity," said Paris-based president of the IIT-EU alumni association, Sharad Tripathi, talking to the TOI.

"The alumni association in the EU realised the constraints on IITs and decided to take the problem head on. Subsequently the IIT authorities came here and offered jobs, which has gone rightly so far," added Tripathi.

"It was for the first time that an attempt was made to find European faculty to teach at IITs. Though as a part of various national educational aid programs in India, countries like US, Russia, Germany have contributed in the past, but never before had an attempt been made to sign up European faculty in their individual capacity," maintained the IIT-EU alumni president.