

BRIEF ON VISIT OF PROF. PRADEEP ROHATGI TO IIM DC ON 17.1.2015

Prof. Pradeep K Rohatgi is a Distinguished Professor in University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, USA. He was in India recently for a few days. He was requested to visit our Chapter for interaction with Members of the Executive Committee. He was kind enough to give his consent for visiting our Chapter and interacting with us.

A meeting of some of the members of the Executive Committee was held at our Chapter on 17th January 2015 with Prof Rohatgi.

The proceedings of the meeting are as under:

1. Chairman IIM Delhi Chapter welcomed Professor Rohatgi to IIM Delhi and briefed the members about the background of Prof. Rohatgi and love for India, since he went to US. He also explained the reason of Professor Rohatgi being here.
2. Professor Rohtagi recounted his days and association with CSIR and how he not only played a pivotal role in growth of CSIR but also set up ISRO labs at Trivandrum and Bhopal which still have the latest facilities, many of which are not in his Lab at Wisconsin Prof. Rohatgi also worked as a Professor at IISc Bangalore for five years.
3. The Professor emphasised that Scientists of Indian origin are doyens in the field of Material Science in US and are doing excellent research work. They wish to interact and initiate projects,



collaborations, technical consultancy, professional work, technology transfer on many material science based projects which are the needs of India to enable grow the domestic industry as well as serve global industry.

4. He also opined that as per him the number of papers coming in from India still constitutes a phenomenal share on the global scene and is seen with awe and admiration.



5. He feels IIM, especially Delhi Chapter can play a pivotal role in identifying local entrepreneurs who could be ready to walk hand in hand with Indian scientists like him from US and develop indigenous capabilities to develop prototypes and products to cater to domestic and global industry. He was sure that lab and developments costs here in India for developing prototypes and products is so low that one would not have to invest much vis a vis money needed in US, to go ahead and implement the project to produce world standard products here.

6. While Shri. K L Mehrotra, VC, IIM Delhi was of the opinion that much is needed to be done in construction of low cost housing for masses, Prof Rohatgi opined opportunity exists right here to start with auto sector where opportunities are already identified.

7. Shri Mehrotra insisted that he can drive the projects with NBCC and Bharat Dynamics as he is on the board of these companies and shall propose working with Prof Rohtagi to develop products through collaboration here.



8. Professor Rohtagi made a brief power point presentation to show where the world is going in development of metal composites with fly ash and other material and why it is both cheaper and better as compared to other products.

9. Besides light weighting of vehicles, high strength components, energy absorbing materials and insulation properties, use in development of lead plates with low lead content for batteries were other areas which appear promising here.
10. Professor Rohatgi concluded with an offer to send the literature and react to any opportunity forwarded by Chairman and Vice Chairman IIM Delhi after his return to USA.
11. The members profusely thanked Prof. Rohatgi for sparing his time for informative interaction.


