



Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser
to the Government of India



BCKIC
Bhubaneswar City
Knowledge Innovation
Cluster Foundation

BCKIC Foundation Newsletter

Connect. Cooperate. Collaborate.

June
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ABOUT BHUBANESWAR CITY KNOWLEDGE INNOVATION CLUSTER FOUNDATION

Bhubaneswar City Knowledge Innovation Cluster (BCKIC) Foundation, is an initiative by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India. BCKIC Foundation seamlessly connects academic, industrial, corporate, and start-up ecosystems to create a Hub & Spoke Model, actively facilitating innovation, knowledge creation, and implementation of technologies for socio-economic benefits.

Our major thematic areas include - Biosciences, Polymer-based interventions, Quantum engineered advanced materials, Wetland management, Waste to Value, Food, and nutrition.



Connect

Connect with multiple stakeholders. Industries, research institutes, incubators/accelerators, and governments to build and strengthen an inclusive regional science and technology ecosystem.



Co-operate

Creating solutions through close cooperation, leveraging expertise from partner organizations that are reliable, effective, and sustainable for the current and future problems of the region.



Collaborate

Collaborations for nurturing and driving translational research and innovation in Bhubaneswar that boosts economic and employment growth by creating a market for reliability and replicability across the state.

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Restoring Promise of Water

via reviving a win-win farmer connect to the local water bodies.

Water Bodies are an integral part of almost every district of India and have been the key support for the local ecosystem and underground water table. However, few regions in the country have constantly seen water shortages and the problem is further aggravated by changing rain patterns and precipitation levels. Adequate availability of water is a prerequisite for survival and quality of human life. India accounts for ~18% of the world population and harbors ~ 4% of freshwater resources signifying the need for waterbody rejuvenation.



BCKIC Foundation in association with IIT.IIT has completed rejuvenation work of 3 numbers of dry water bodies in the aspirational district of Rayagada (Chandrapur Block in Dangasorda village) Odisha, for this season with a goal of enhancing the capacity to store an additional four crore liter of water in the existing or dried-up water bodies. The ponds were excavated and 10,000 cubic meters of highly nutritious soil is put into cultivable lands reducing fertilizer costs in the long run while creating additional water storage capacity.

The community focused program involved 250 local farmers and established a win-win relationship between farmers and their local water bodies. The initiative was well supported by Strategic Alliance Division, O/o PSA and with a long-term vision, BCKIC Foundation and IIT. IIT looks forward to rejuvenating multiple waterbodies of the block to positively impact the existing water table and ensure the promise of water.

Leadership Enabling The Ecosystem

BCKIC Foundation held multiple interactions with the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to Government of India for creating a vibrant science and technology-driven ecosystem. We had our first interaction with Prof. A. K. Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Govt of India, and Prof Mrutyunjay Suar, Chairman-BCKIC Foundation, apprised him on the thematic areas and ongoing work of BCKIC including establishment of industry linkages & innovation led technology deployment program which are adoptable and scalable. It was enriching and encouraging to received inputs from Prof. Sood for taking forward the mission of the Bhubaneswar Science and Technology cluster. Subsequently, a focus group discussion was chaired by Prof. Sood with participation of key dignitaries including Shri Lok Ranjan, Secretary Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, Dr. Parvinder Maini, Scientific Secretary along with vertical Head of AGNli mission Mr. Rahul Nayar, Head of Waste to Wealth Mission Ms Malyaj Varmani and senior officials from various departments.

The focused group discussion revolved around translational impact of potential technologies for sustainable regional development and livelihood creation. A multi-pronged strategy was envisioned to achieve the objectives including scouting and implementation of technologies from academia as well as from deep-tech and social startups.



BCKIC Foundation leadership also met Mr. Deepak Bagla, MD & CEO of Invest India, and his dynamic team. Our team appraised Mr. Bagla about the startup ecosystem and shared the compendium enlisting the startups from the region. Mr. Bagla extended all his support in nurturing the potential technologies and scaling up/deployment of promising technologies.

Nurturing Regional Ecosystem

Regional Ecosystem Building : Startup Odisha

BCKIC Foundation hosted Dr. Omkar Rai, Executive Chairman, Startup Odisha with the vision of building an inclusive supportive ecosystem for the startups in the state of Odisha.

During the visit, Dr. Rai interacted with the startups and enablers and generously applauded the impact created in the area of various facets of startup promotion. Dr. Rai extended his support for BCKIC Foundation. With collaborative efforts, BCKIC Foundation and Startup Odisha envision to establish a more vibrant, dynamic and supportive ecosystem for startups.



Interaction with Vice Chancellors of State Universities

BCKIC Foundation participated in the Meeting of Vice-Chancellors of State Universities organized by the Department of Higher Education, Government of Odisha at Ramadevi Women's University Bhubaneswar. Prof. Suar, Chairman of BCKIC Foundation, shared the role of BCKIC in creating a shared ecosystem among the Higher Education Institutions across Bhubaneswar city and Odisha state and the convergence of knowledge in resolving identified problem statements with special emphasis on mapping the expertise and innovation potential Bhubaneswar City and Odisha state for a wholistic solution.



INDUSTRIAL COLLABORATIONS

MOU with NALCO :

BCKIC Foundation signed MoU with National Aluminum Company Limited (NALCO). This partnership shall enable sharing of problem statements of NALCO to facilitate design and development of marketable and scalable solutions by BCKIC Foundation in collaboration with partner institutions. NALCO shall also be sharing its research infrastructure as well as commercial expertise with the institutions in the region for development of viable solutions to increase the deplorability potential of innovations and developed processes. Both BCKIC Foundation and NALCO have agreed to provide shared platform and support to the startup ecosystem beyond specific need of NALCO to accelerate innovations with translational impact in the areas of rural health, livelihood, environmental amelioration to state a few.



Partnership with JSW STEEL LTD.

BCKIC Foundation has partnered with JSW STEEL LTD for the assessment of water table and quality in the region surrounding the JSW plant. The consultancy project is focused on development of a framework for monitoring Surface and Ground Water Quality and Quantity, carrying out the Socio-Economic impact assessment of the study area as well as identifying the area's potential for artificial aquifer recharging and rainwater harvesting to augment water supply in phase 1 of the project. Subsequently, the project has potential to be expanded in other JSW STEEL plants based on the outcome of the pilot project.

INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

Indo-German Stakeholder Dialogue

Prof. Mrutyunjay Suar, represented BCKIC Foundation in SME Technology Innovation and International Cooperation Indo-German Stakeholder dialogue on June 23, 2022 at Delhi. Various challenges were discussed by the stakeholders and possible solutions were also mentioned. BCKIC Foundation highlighted the need for promoting various innovation-driven activities through institutional partnership models which are promoting S&T based innovation development and sustainable deployment. BCKIC Foundation highlighted the S&T City Cluster initiatives of the Office of the PSA to the Government of India and based on the strength of city of both the countries, inter-city partnerships can be initiated to carry out such activities involving the city and state administration, bringing more effective partnerships and time bound deliverables.



Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI): Leveraging Indo- Canadian Institutional Expertise

BCKIC Foundation team met Dr. Prachi Kaul, Director, Indo-Canadian Institute with an aim of incorporating the Higher Education Institutes from Bhubaneswar into Indo-Canadian institutional ambit. Specific discussions on faculty exchange programs as well as project supporting local institutions for resolving local challenges were discussed with potential partnership opportunities for Canadian and Institutions in Odisha. Bhubaneswar being the first smart city and Canadian expertise and support for the city shall provide added engagement opportunities among the city and Canadian institutions.

PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES

Catalyzing Diagnostic Innovation:

BCKIC Foundation signed an MOU with India Health Fund (IHF), a TATA Trust Initiative, with the aim of leveraging the power of collective impact and catalyze India's fight against Infectious Diseases. The partnership aims to identify and support health innovation management across incubation. IHF and BCKIC Foundation, along with KIIT-TBI, jointly initiated the grand challenge programme, Quest 2022 along with ecosystem partners. Quest 2022 is focused on innovators working in the infectious disease domain viz Screening and; Diagnosis, Care Pathways and Diseases Surveillance. Selected startups and innovators will be mentored for upscaling the technology and deployment and will be supported by grant funding and investment.



Disrupting Defense with Innovations:

BCKIC Foundation along with the Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) team organized a knowledge session about iDEX Prime and DISC 6.0 for the innovators in the defence and aerospace sector.

The Hon'ble Raksha Mantri launched iDEX Prime, an initiative providing Grant-in-Aid support up to INR 10 Crore for innovative solutions in the Defence Sector, along with Defence India Startup Challenge 6.0 with 38 Problem Statements received from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Services, Indian Cost Guard and Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs).

iDEX initiative was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in April 2018 to achieve self-reliance and foster innovation and technology development in Defence and Aerospace sectors.

ECOSYSTEM PARTNERS



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