Press Note  
(Prepared by Prof. Pradeep Ramancharla, Workshop Coordinator; June 20, 2011)

One-day Vice-Chancellors Workshop on Human Values in Education at IIIT Hyderabad on 17 June 2011 (Friday).

In his address to the gathering, His Excellency Governor of Andhra Pradesh, Shri ESL Narasimhan stressed that the overall purpose of education is to enable the students to live a happy life in harmony with family, society as well as nature. We are seeing an alarming trend at the global level in increasing strife in family and society; destruction of nature leading to significant and potentially irreversible climate change. To teach values teachers and institute should demonstrate in themselves first.

Prof. Rajeev Sangal, Director, IIIT-H in his welcome address stated that “There is a growing realization in the world today that the path being followed currently needs to be re-evaluated. Education must prepare students to understand and deal with these issues in their family, workplace and society at large. A foundation course in Human Values and Professional Ethics has been adopted by IIIT-H, UP Technical University and Punjab Technical University as an essential course for all our undergraduate students.”

Prof. Rajneesh Arora, Vice Chancellor, Punjab Technical University, shared that “The world is going through a rapid transition. Globalization is bringing the world closer economically. However, there is also increasing deprivation and conflicts within societies.”

Prof. Ramancharla Pradeep, IIIT-H faculty member and workshop coordinator, said “Globalization is also resulting in several conflict points around the world. India is both a beneficiary and a victim of the effects of globalization. India is developing rapidly, but this development is coming at the cost of lack of regard for families and the underprivileged. There is disregard for an ethical society, and one sees rampant corruption in public life.”

The question is where do we go from here? Where do we begin? Education must prepare students to understand and deal with these issues.

Over 20 Vice Chancellors attended the workshop and unanimously agreed that Human Values course in higher education is need of the hour.