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Students to enjoy dual benefit of Degree Program from IGNOU & professional training from NIIT

IGNOU and NIIT have entered into a 'Global Partnership in Education & Skill Building for Enhanced Employability.' The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on this significant partnership was announced by Prof. V. N. Rajasekharan Pillai, Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU and Rajendra S. Pawar, Chairman, NIIT.

Under this Global Partnership IGNOU & NIIT plan to collaborate in domains like Information Technology and Management Sciences for its India and international operations. Joint Programs in IT would include programs in standalone under-

graduate programs or combined Master's programs. An Executive MBA will be offered as a part of management programs. The tie-up will also be extended to Finishing School programs that would be available as optional programs for IGNOU students and Alumni.

Prof. Pillai remarked, "People look to us to get customized education which is internationally viable. This global partnership with NIIT will enable students to acquire employable skills for the domestic as well as global markets."

Pawar said, "Inspired by the

Prime Minister's skills mission, the NIIT- IGNOU partnership seeks to contribute to large scale skill development."

With the return of a strong hiring outlook, the industry would be on the lookout for job-ready talent. According to industry experts more than 900,000 jobs are likely to be created in 2010 in India, of which over 350,000 new jobs will be added by IT services companies alone. As per the latest industry figures announced by NASSCOM, the IT BPO exports market alone is expected to grow by 13-15% and the domestic market by 15-17%.

Prof. Manohar Lal, Director of the School of Information and Computer Sciences (SOCIS) of IGNOU, said, "We are duty-bound to take education to all. Democratization of computer education, taking the state-of-the-art IT education to the doorstep of the learners, everywhere and anywhere, is a challenge that we have undertaken."

The IGNOU-NIIT partnership aims at initiating the process for developing a pool of industry-ready professionals by bringing together higher education and skill building. ■