IIMA IDEA Telecom Centre of Excellence (IITCOE)

IIMA IDEA Telecom Center of Excellence (IITCOE-www.iitcoe.in) is one of the eight national level Telecom Centers of Excellence (TCOEs) that has been set up in public-private partnership mode. IITCOE's partnership involves the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, IDEA Cellular Ltd., and the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), India.

The objectives of IITCOE is to further research, teaching, training and advisory in the field of "telecom policy, governance, regulation and management especially marketing and customer care", with a view to enable the telecom and related sectors to take up the challenges as they arise. The objectives can be further elaborated as:

1. **Think tank activities:** Identifying and capturing best practices across countries, knowledge creation and sharing, and addressing the needs of regulation, policy, governance and customer care.
2. **Skill building:** Enhancing human capital through training and teaching programmes for policy makers, regulators and the industry.
3. **Research and development:** with publications, working papers, and monographs.
4. **Highlighting Policy and Regulatory Agenda:** Bringing fresh insights from related sectors from countries ahead of India in telecom and related sectors, and in finding solutions to India's specific situation especially in the development of rural telecom and related activities.

Since the time of its inception IITCOE has attempted to influence policy and regulation, and telecom management by closely working with TRAI, DoT and the industry. IITCOE is represented on various National Committees such as Working Group for IT for Masses, Dept. of IT, GoI and Working Group on Internet Proliferation and Governance (WGIGS), Dept. of IT, GoI, National Spectrum Committee, etc.

It participates in TRAI consultation and DoT policy processes on a regular basis. It has submitted its responses to a large number of TRAI's consultation papers including papers on Auction of Spectrum, National Broadband Plan, IMT Advanced (4G) Mobile Wireless Broadband, Encouraging Telecom Equipment Manufacturing, and Green Telecom.

IITCOE developed a framework for the National Broadband Initiative and scripted a Strategic Roadmap for Department of Telecommunications as a part of DoT's planning processes. IITCOE also offers training in telecom management through various executive programmes at IIM.

IITCOE funds researchers to undertake studies related to fields, including researchers from outside IIMA. It works closely with other TCOEs, a variety of educational institutes, industry associations, and private companies. Some of the past and current research projects are –

- A techno-economic study of Spectrum of the Commons and associated policy implications
- Modelling spill over effect of financial inclusion on telecommunication in India
- Development of a Novel Authentication System using Daily Activity
- Semiconductor Industry Ecosystem and the Critique of India's Electronics Policy
- Strategy for Growth of Smartphone Manufacturing Ecosystem in India
- Optimal Strategies for Reliable Service in MIMO-OFDM Multiuser Cellular Broadcast Systems
- A Study on the Potential Adaption of e-learning Portable Mobile Devices and Its Impact on Wireless Broadband Usage
- Optimal Game Theoretic Policies for Spectrum Auction and Trading
- Mobiles and New Business Models: Barriers to Innovation
- Challenges in Adopting Market Mechanisms for Spectrum: Lessons from India and Philippines
- Identifying Institutional Mechanisms for Telecom Start-ups in India

IITCOE has strived to bring all the stakeholders in the telecom sector on the same platform for a dialogue through regular workshops and conferences involving all stakeholders. The workshops have been a critical input for exchange of ideas between the academia, industry, policy makers and regulators and the policy making process. Some of these conferences and workshops are listed below.

- '1st India ICANN Readout Session' hosted on December 21, 2016 at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi
- Second Regional ITS Conference "Connectivity for All: Future Technologies, Markets and Regulation", December 13-15, 2015 at The Grand, New Delhi
- Seminar on "Electronics Manufacturing: Can it Drive 'Make in India'?" Venue: India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, November 30 and December 1, 2015, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi
- Workshop on "Activities and R&D Roadmap for the Next Five Years of TCOEs: Achieving the Objectives of NTP 2012" July 6, 2013, Auditorium-1, KLMDC, Old Campus, IIM, Ahmedabad
- The First Special Interest Group (SIG) Meeting of Development Organization of Standards for Telecommunications in India (DOSTI) on "Policies and VAS" is hosted and organized by IITCOE on March 15, 2013 at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.
- A workshop, "ITU Workshop on ICT Innovations in Emerging Economies", hosted and organized by IITCOE on March 14, 2013, at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi, India.

- In collaboration with International Telecommunications Society (ITS), organized a three-day Regional International Telecommunications Society Conference on "Telecom Policy, Regulation, and Management as Drivers for Transforming Emerging Economies" at The Hotel Samrat, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi from 22-24 February, 2012.
- IITCOE organized the 'IITCOE Forum on Leadership and Strategy in the Telecom Sector'. In this series IITCOE has so far invited four speakers from the industry to share their valuable expertise, experience of growth in the sector and challenges for the future, and their vision. Based on the feedback from the participants, IITCOE plans to continue with the series in the future.

  - The first session of the series was by Mr Srinivasa Addepalli, Sr. Vice President, Corporate Strategy, Tata Communications, the second session was by Mr P Balaji, MD, Sony Ericsson, the third session was by Mr Sanjay Jain, CEO, Tulip Telecom Ltd. and the fourth session was by Mr Samaresh Parida, Director, Corporate Strategy, and Vodafone Essar.

- Two workshops on 'Role of ICT in Financial Inclusion' in collaboration with UNDP and NABARD, IIMA, March 2011.
- 'Developing a Policy Framework for the New Telecom Policy 2011', IIMA, February 2011.
- 'Mobile Broadband: Igniting the Service Revolution', New Delhi, November 2010.
- Policy Brief on 'Research and Action Agenda for a National Broadband Initiative', jointly organized with ICRIER, New Delhi, April 2010.
- 'Mobile Phones: Improving the Regulatory Interface for M-transactions', jointly organized with ICRIER, November 2010.

In the future too, IITCOE will continue to act as a hub for research and consultancy in the field of telecom policy, regulation and management. In its pursuit of excellence, it will mentor researchers, guide the stakeholders who come for consultancy and act as a think tank giving direction to new ideas and finding solutions to policy and regulatory issues. It intends to engage in more advanced research and activities that would help the telecom sector to further drive the economy.

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