

Dear Sir/ Madam,

India is making all out efforts to emerge as a nation with developed status by taking advantage of demographic dividend that it enjoys and the richness it has in terms of human resources as well as natural resources. Massive efforts are on in skilling our manpower and enhancing the productivity of our resources both natural and industrial. We are fast moving to a cashless economy with high levels of digitization. All efforts to reach global standards of development would significantly depend on the infrastructure which we have created.

Kerala has achieved global standards in terms of social growth. She has attained high levels of literacy, life expectancy, low infant mortality, high standards of percapita spending on health and education as evidenced by her Human Development Index. The State is blessed with natural resources, being part of Western Ghats, with the presence of diverse tourism products like backwaters, beaches, hill stations, wild life sanctuaries, medical tourism spots, conference tourism centres, tribal tourism centres and so on. Kerala has a high density of engineering graduates and manpower with professional degrees. In terms of physical infrastructure the state has three international airports, with the fourth in the pipeline. The state also has excellent telecom connectivity. However, the high density of population in the state puts excessive pressure on the availability of land for the manufacturing sector and the state still lacks highways with global standards.

We at the Department of Commerce, School of Business Management and Legal Studies, University of Kerala, take immense pleasure in hosting an International Seminar entitled 'Infrastructure-Industrialisation and Development: Forward Linkages Drawing from Global Models' during Feb. 16th- 18th of 2017 and do invite you to enrich the proceedings through your scholarly inputs on the themes identified.

Dr. Resia Beegam S.
Professor and Head



Department of Commerce

The Department of Commerce was established in 1985 as a teaching and research department of the University of Kerala. Within a span of 31 years the department could establish itself as a centre of excellence with focus on education, research, consultancy and extension services. The Department offers post graduate level programmes in commerce-viz M.Com, M.Phil and Doctoral programmes leading to Ph.D. Major Achievements of the Department include: inclusion of the Department under GIAN Project of MHRD, Govt. of India and successful completion of SAP DRS phase I UGC. We have completed several research projects for the government of India and the state. We provide extended research support to outside agencies including industrial enterprises and the inputs received through consultancy services are made use of in the teaching learning processes.

OBJECTIVES OF THE SEMINAR

- To deliberate on successful models of forward linkage between infrastructure development and industrialization and take stock of the resulting economic development that it has promoted.
- To examine the pros and cons of various models of infrastructure financing.
- To examine the effectiveness of institutional support and the regulatory framework for infrastructural development.
- To ascertain the association between infrastructural development and Ease of doing Business.

Relevance of the Seminar

Both physical and social infrastructure are vital for development, we need standardized highways, railways, airports and seaports for swift movement of goods and transit of men with the least expenditure on time and loss of resources. We need telecom connectivity to transmit knowledge and for electronic transit of services, be it banking, insurance and other financial services. In skilling our manpower substantial investment is required on education, health, provision for drinking water, sanitation and green energy. These are the sectors which demand investment in infrastructure and it is this infrastructure that leads to industrialization and thereby development.

Industrial parks, IT parks, Bio parks, Special Economic Zones and food processing parks have all been set up to tap the rich potential for industrialization. Efforts are being made for industrialisation for which the supportive infrastructure needs to be of global standards. We need swift movement of goods for these Parks through quality highways of global standards, same is the case with airports and seaports. Making available green energy sources (power, water, etc.) and dealing with industrial waste and environmental issues are concerns to be addressed. Alternate sources of power (solar and wind energy) and judicious use of water are issues of prime importance. The upcoming Vizhinjam port has potential for cheap inflow of goods to the State. In spite of all this, we need to ponder over the industrialisation and development we have achieved. Learning from global models of growth that took place through substantial investment in infrastructure in nations like China, Singapore and many European countries as well as USA will help us in establishing forward linkages that lead to development. Our institutional support for infrastructure development and financing as well as regulatory framework for infrastructure development need to be revisited in the emerging global perspective.

It is in this backdrop that the Department of Commerce, University of Kerala deemed it fit to organise this 3 day International Seminar entitled "Infrastructure Industrialisation and Development: Forward Linkages Drawing From Global Models".

