

## “Scotland-India: Partnering for Excellence, Growth and Sustainability”

Over 150 students and 50 academicians from across India attended the showcase of UKIERI partnerships with Scottish institutions, which was organised on 14 October in British Council New Delhi office.

The showcase event was organised for the visiting Scottish Minister Humza Yousaf, Minister for External Affairs and International Development who was on a short visit to India. Scottish Institutions have had successful partnerships across all UKIERI strand areas of Leadership Development, Innovation Partnerships, Skills Development and Enhancing Mobility.



The event brought together over 42 partnerships that have been supported under UKIERI with Scottish institutions across diverse areas of research, science, technology, capacity building initiatives for both professional and institutional staff.



Selected projects awarded under UKIERI were exhibited in the form of posters and respective project leads spoke about their experiences of partnership work, the benefits accrued and how institutions are now developing deeper partnerships which are more sustainable.

The Minister also met with students, faculty members and staff who have through their UKIERI partnership had visited Scottish institutions and continue to engage in developing mutually beneficial partnerships. These

interactions with the Minister and his senior delegation captured the depth of Indo Scottish linkages through UKIERI and how it is benefitting the academic community, students and institutions overall. It also highlighted the growing bilateral relationship between India and Scotland and the benefits accruing back to the Scottish Institutions.

Visiting Scottish Minister Humza Yousaf, Minister for External Affairs and International Development in his special address to the attendees applauded the work done through UKIERI. He stated *“The UK-India Education and Research Initiative established in 2006 has been proving very successful at furthering and deepening links between India and the UK and indeed between Scotland and India. I think the decision to extend the programme to 2015 is in no small part due to the substantial achievements that the programme has realised since its establishment.”*

UKIERI is a multi-stakeholder partnership programme that strengthens the bilateral relationship between India and the UK and is setting an example of best practice in international cooperation. The programme is supported and funded by Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, British Council, Indian Department for Science and Technology, Department for Employment and Learning, Scottish Government, Welsh Government, University Grants Commission and All India Council for Technical Education.

Dr Shubnum Singh, Chairman - Healthcare Sector Skills Council National Committee on National Occupational Standards who also participated in the event, endorsed the efforts on UKIERI towards this focussed approach for capacity building.

The Minister reiterated Scottish Government's commitment to support UKIERI and will continue to support this initiative in further years. He quotes- *"We recognise that UKIERI it is an important programme that will continue to strengthen educational links between Scotland and India."*



The Minister also witnessed signing of Memorandum of Understanding between Coatbridge College and Health Care Sector Skills Council signed under UKIERI which formalised a system for assessment and certification, training of trainers etc in the identified area of Dental Nursing.



For further details on UKIERI programme, visit [www.ukieri.org](http://www.ukieri.org)