There is nothing more powerful than an idea…

It is about the idea where 'I' is upright and not inverted; with this philosophy, Technology Information & Assessment Council (TIFAC) is synergizing strengths of the three pillars of economic growth - the industry, academia, and the government, and is harnessing and enriching the vast pool of talent. The Governing Council [Table 1] of TIFAC is represented by the persons of high caliber and imminence with secretaries from all concerned GOI departments and entrepreneurs-turned-industrial-tycoons of vision.

Table 1: TIFAC Governing Council

Dr. R. Chidambaram, Chairman, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India
Shri Rajeeva Ratna Shah, Member Secretary, Planning Commission
Dr. T. Ramasami, Secretary, DST
Prof. S.K. Brahmachari, Director General, CSIR & Secretary, DSIR
Shri Jainder Singh, Secretary, Department of Information Technology
Dr. Maharaj Krishan Bhan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology
Shri A.K. Dua, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce & Industry
Shri M. Natarajan, Secretary, Department of Defence Research & Development
Dr. D. Subba Rao, Secretary, Minister of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs
Shri Y.C. Deveshwar, Chairman, Indian Tobacco Co. (ITC) Ltd.
Ms. Kiran Majumder Shaw, CMD, Biocon India Ltd.
Shri N.R. Narayana Murthy, Chief Mentor, Infosys Technologies Ltd.
Dr. Kota Harinarayana, Advisor (Structures), National Aerospace Laboratory
Lt. Gen. Yash Malhotra, Former Commandant, College of Military Engineering
Dr. Bharati Ray, Ex-MP (Rajya Sabha)
Shri Gautam Rohatgi, Director & Technical Adviser, M/s Hind Chemicals Ltd.
Shri. Satish K. Kaura, Chairman & MD, Samtel Color Ltd.
Dr. Naresh Trehan, Escorts Heart Institute and Research Centre
Prof. S.P. Sukhatme, Emeritus Professor, IIT, Mumbai
Prof. Anand Patwardhan, Member Secretary and Executive Director, TIFAC

The TIFAC-CORE in Green Pharmacy (TCGP) being established at BRNCP is such an endeavor, which is aimed at sparking the ideas and sprouting the innovations in Holistic Health Sciences as well as Modern Pharmaceutical Technology. This Center of Relevance and Excellence (CORE) is destined to create niche value knowledge and manpower in the tunes of industry's needs. Its academic programs and industry link modalities are shown in Tables 2 and 3, respectively. These have been designed on the basis of dual utilization of the knowledge, i.e., conferment of academic credentials to the students and passing on of commercial exploitation rights to the industry. And it is because of this preposition that this endeavor has great economic sense.

TCRP: TCRP is the academic program that is going to start in the first phase with regular semester commencing from August 2008. This program would be available to all, who are having the required background and interest in the area. Initially, there would 25 seats for each specialization. The second semester would comprise of research work or on-the-job training. The program shall be available at TCGP main campus and also at its satellite laboratories. At least 50% faculty in each program shall be from industry.

Table 2: TCGP academic programs

Program and specialization	Eligibility	Duration
TIFAC-CORE Research Program (TCRP)	Good Bachelor's or Master's degree or work experience in the relevant area	Two semesters (August-December and January-May) each comprising of a minimum of 5 months/16 weeks of instructional/research period
Pharmaceutical Product Development Nutraceutical Product Development Cosmetic Product Development Quality Assurance BA/BE Studies and Clinical Research Regulatory Affairs and Documentation Intellectual Property Rights		
Ph. D.	Master's degree	2-4 years
M. Pharm.	B. Pharm.	2 years
Formulation Technology Herbal Technology		
Certificate level Continuing education Corporate Courses (CCC)	Available for all	1-3 weeks

Table 3: TCGP industrial relationship modalities

Salient parameters	Size of relationship		
	Large entity	**Medium entity**	**Small entity**
Tenure	6 years	4 years	2 years
Collaborator's stake			
Financial	First year Rs. 1 crore, thereafter Rs. 10 lakh PA	Rs. 7.5 lakh PA	Rs. 2.5 lakh PA
Intellectual	Two adjunct faculty for 25 days PA	One adjunct faculty for 25 days PA	None
Satellite lab	Required	Recommended	Optional
Collaborator's benefits			
Lab space	5000 sq ft	500 sq ft	100 sq ft
Equipments	Rs. 1.5 crore	Rs. 25 lakh	Shared facilities
Services and supplies	Rs. 15 lakh PA	Rs. 2.5 lakh PA	Rs. 1 lakh PA
Researchers	35	9	3
Training sessions	5 × 5 days PA	3 × 3 days PA	2 × 2 days PA

TCGP Business Model: Usually, any business relationship has an inverse value plot because each of the collaborating entity desires to get the best value for the money or for the work put in. However, this is not the case in this business model and the value plot is directly propositional. More is the work done, more is the profit for both the parties because of the concept of dual utilization. Besides the benefits ascribed in Table 3, the collaborators would have host of other benefits such as 125% IT benefit, Accelerated Depreciation, use of TIFAC-CORE logo on products or services, ability to put their employees on academic programs to get extra loyalty and stability, and many more.

The concept of TIFAC-CORE is in everybody's interest. It carries the individual interest, the organizational interest, and above all the National interest. Grab the idea!

Dr. V. B. Gupta
Editor-in-Chief