

IIM meet for business leaders

IIMPact 2013 organising committee chairman Girija Pande

By Jamuna Sundaraj
Friday, Mar 08, 2013



For the first time, the alumni of India's premier business school, the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) will be holding a global conference here in Singapore.

IIMPact 2013: New Frontiers will be held on April 5 and 6, and is expected to attract about 700 delegates from all over the world, including many prominent IIM alumni who will be speaking at the event.

The programme comprises multiple sessions in different engagement formats, including a TED-style themed speaker sessions and panel discussions.

This was revealed at a press conference held at Singapore Management University (SMU) on March 5.

The IIM alumni speakers who will attend the conference include chief economic adviser to the Indian government and former chief economist of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Raghuram Rajan, MasterCard president and chief executive officer Ajay Banga, DBS Bank chief executive officer Piyush Gupta and Infosys chairman K.V. Kamath among others.

Organised by the Pan-IIM Alumni Association and supported by the Economic Development Board and SMU, the event will also feature non-alumni speakers such as

Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean, former president of Singapore S.R. Nathan and Unilever chief operating officer Harish Manwani.

Some of the main topics to be discussed at the conference include entrepreneurial ecosystems, leadership, new frontiers of growth and social entrepreneurship.

Speaking at the press conference, IIMPact 2013 organising committee chairman Girija Pande explained that the event is a huge milestone for the IIM alumni community.

He said: "It is the first time we are holding a global IIM meet of this kind. We wanted our distinguished alumni from around the world to come together and share ideas on how to create an impact on the new frontiers of growth and we couldn't think of a better place to do it than in Singapore.

"Not only is Singapore the major centre of business in Asia and home to 1,000 IIM alumni, we have also great support from the Singapore Government and related organisations."

Business leaders in Singapore will also benefit from this event.

Mr Nathan, who also spoke at the press conference, said: "This will offer Singaporeans an opportunity to meet and exchange views with them and also, hopefully, learn and collaborate with them in other projects. In fact, it is a kind of roadshow for Singapore that they are coming here and that many of these people are very prominent people who have succeeded in their various enterprises."

The IIM comprises a group of 13 autonomous management education institutes in different parts of India.

The first two institutes, in Ahmedabad and Kolkata, were set up in 1961.

The IIMs are globally reputed for producing top business leaders and entrepreneurs and also for its strict selection in students. The IIMs have an acceptance rate of only 1.5 per cent, one of the lowest in the world.

jamunas@sph.com.sg