

# A tribute to IITs - the intellectual treasures of India

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way so that we can all have a great reminder not only for us but our friends who visit us," said Rajat Gupta talking in his capacity as co-chair of American India Foundation (AIF), co-Chairman of PAN IIT Organization and an IIT alumnus.

Terming the book a "wonderful placemaker" Gupta said all those who graduated from the IIT must get a copy of the book. "Those of us who have been through the IIT experience can easily classify it as the most formative experience of our lives. I say that with conviction

not only for learning what I did there but also because I was fortunate enough to meet my wife there and I owe much of what I have done in life to education I received in IIT," Gupta said.

Brand IIT in general has lagged behind the quality of the alumni, and it is time to correct this discrepancy, Gupta felt. This private initiative by the authors to raise awareness of IIT and



Suvarna Rajguru



Ranjan Pant

the incredible contributions made by its graduates is highly com-

mendable and provides a ready resource to promote the PAN IIT movement globally, he said.

"I think what is gratifying is to see that the IIT alumni are coming together now and in this country where there are quite a large number of us are giving back not only to IIT but to India and I think the same is happening in India too,"

Gupta added.

Paul Fireman, founder and CEO of Reebok flew in from Boston for the event. In all his humility, Fireman, who is not even a college graduate, saluted the IITians for the experience that they bring to the world of technology and innovation.

"All one needs to do is pick up a business magazine which talk of IITs that have revolutionized global technology."

"At Reebok, we were the first to set up in India. Today India is a country we are proud to work with. Not many people might know that Reebok was the first international company to give Infosys its first assignment in 1989," Fireman informed.

Muktesh Pant, an IIT Kanpur graduate, currently a senior executive at Reebok, said, "The IITs have done a great job of teaching us what we know and making

us eligible to run management positions of various corporations but equally the credit goes to the United States and to various corporations here which allow the atmosphere and culture in which people who look different, have a different accent and a different cultural background to succeed.

Indian Ambassador to the US Lalit Mansingh in an earlier statement praising the book said, "The Indian Institutes of Technology are an enduring tribute to the vision of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India. In the five decades after the first IIT was established in Kharagpur, India has progressed well beyond the goal of self-reliance to breach the new frontiers of modern science, especially in areas like Information Technology, Biotechnology, Space and Nano-Technology. The alumni of the IITs have established international brand equity for excellence-most notably in the United States. *IIT: India's Intellectual Treasures* is an excellent guide for those who seek to explore and view the crown jewels of India's higher education system."

The authors will be making appearances in San Francisco, Washington DC and Chicago to promote the book in the coming weeks.