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Top deans from India and China addressed the China-India Panel discussion at the 4th Shanghai MBA Conference and agreed that collaboration between the two Asian giants can help improve MBA education in both countries.

It is ironic that Indian and Chinese faculty teach Indian and Chinese students, but at the Euporean and American campuses! It's time the leading B-schools from India and China collaborated and created centres of excellences in Asia: FMS Dean

It was a historic moment for Chinese and Indian MBA education, when, for the first time ever, top deans from both countries agreed that collaboration between the two Asian giants can help improve the scenario and also make a big impact on global MBA education.

Top deans from the two countries were addressing the China-India panel discussion at the 4th International Business School Shanghai Conference (IBSSC) on October 19, organized by Antai College of Economics & Management, Shanghai Jiao Tong University and co-organized by MBAUniverse.com.

China was represented by its top deans: Dr ZHOU Lin, dean, Antai College of Economics & Management, Shanghai Jiao Tong University; Dr CHEN Chao C, dean, School of Business, Nanjing University; Dr Lu Xiongwen, dean, School of Management, Fudan University; Dr LI Shu-hsing, dean, College of Management, National Taiwan University; Dr ZHANG Wei, dean, College of Management and Economics, Tianjin University.



Indian panelists were Dr Raj S. Dhankar, dean, Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi, New Delhi; Dr MJ Xavier, director, Indian Institute of Management, Ranchi; Dr R. Sessa Iyer, director, SP Jain Institute of Management & Research (SPJIMR), Mumbai; Dr H Chaturvedi, director, Birla Institute of Management Technology (BIMTECH), Delhi NCR; and Mr Sanjay Verma, CEO, Asia-Pacific, Cushman & Wakefield.

The session was chaired by Amit Agnihotri, chairman of MBAUniverse.com. The theme of the session was 'how B-schools in China and India can collaborate to create next practices'.

Setting the context for this historic discussion, Mr Agnihotri said, "No one disputes that China and India are the economic powerhouses, propelling the global GDP and business. Yet, the two giants have only taken tentative steps in the areas of economic cooperation, and in another strategic area, education. The world of management education can greatly benefit if the two giants, the dragon and the elephant, join hands. As they come together, the two nations can give new definitions to the discipline of management theory and education."

Dr ZHOU Lin, conference host and dean of Antai College of Economics & Management, endorsed this view when he said, "It isn't easy to offer quality management education in this era of rapid change and rising expectations of all stakeholders like industry, government, students, and international research community. In this context, by collaborating with India, Chinese B-schools can develop the next practices for the world. Chinese B-schools are open to discuss with their Indian counterparts specific areas of long-term collaborations, and I am sure that today's discussion will pave way for future collaboration."

Dr Dhankar said, "It is ironic that Indian and Chinese faculty members teach Indian and



Chinese students, but at European and American campuses! It's time that leading B-schools from India and China collaborate and create centres of excellences in Asia that attract the best students from the world."

Dr Lu Xiongwen, dean of School of Management at Fudan University, said, "China and India are fast becoming major players in the global MBA education. For example, a big number of GMAT takers are from these two countries. Both countries need to learn from each other to move forward. For example, Chinese B-schools have expertise in developing executive MBA (EMBA) programs, where we are ranked among the best in the world. We are also developing our own quality accreditation system. We will be happy to share these expertises with India."

Presenting the unique strengths of India in the area of value-based holistic education, which has been nurtured over centuries, Dr Sessa Iyer said, "The future of MBA education lies in combining the Western efficiency with Asian ethos. In the world ridden with chaos, India and China can certainly offer an alternative model of co-existence, rather than just the Darwinian notion of 'the survival of the fittest'."

Dr CHEN, Chao C, dean, the School of Business, Nanjing University, emphasized joint research when he said, "We need to codify and disseminate our learning for the West. This can only be done by a systematic focus on research."

Dr LI Shu-hsing, dean, College of Management, National Taiwan University, and Dr ZHANG Wei, dean, College of Management and Economics, Tianjin University, also emphasised the need for collaboration between the B-schools in two countries.

Tracing the origin of education in Asia, Dr MJ Xavier, director, Indian Institute of Management, Ranchi, said, "We need to re-create the Nalandas and Taxillas. Hundreds of centuries ago, India and China were thought leaders. We need to go back to our roots, and not merely teach the convenient but inadequate Western models."

Dr H Chaturvedi, director, Birla Institute of Management Technology (BIMTECH), Delhi NCR, said, "Sustainability is the biggest issue facing the planet earth, and the Western management thinking doesn't have an answer. Age-old Indian practices like conservation and restoration must be practised by corporates and countries across the world. The Sino-Indian alliance in MBA education can contribute to solving the problems of 2 billion people living in stark poverty."

Earlier, the much awaited Shanghai MBA Summit got off to a star-studded start on October 18. MBAUniverse.com led a delegation of Directors and faculty members from leading B-schools like IIMs, FMS Delhi, SJIMR and BIMTECH.

The focus of Day 1 was on B-school rankings, BRICS and internationalization. The president of prestigious Asian Institute of Management, Manila, along with editors from Financial Times and Forbes, spoke at the special session on October 18.

A galaxy of global management education leaders, including Sally Blount, dean, Kellogg School of Management, North-western University, USA; Pascal Morand, dean, ESCP



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Europe, France; Arnoud De Meyer, president, Singapore Management University; John A. Quelch, vice-president and dean, China Europe International Business School addressed the 4th International Business School Shanghai Conference (IBSSC) on October 19.

Distinguished thought leaders deliberated on the opportunities and challenges in management education in the emerging markets. Experts also spoke on the development, reform, and transformation of business education in emerging countries, and explore curricular innovation, pedagogical approaches, and strategic alliances in the context of emerging economies.

Other noted personalities who addressed the conference include Alojzy Z. Nowak, dean, School of Management, University of Warsaw, Poland; Merson de Almedia, dean, Fundacao Dom Cabral, Brazil; Leonid Evenko, rector, Graduate School of International Business, Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, Russia; WU Xiaobo, dean, Zhejiang University School of Management, China; Geoffery Garret, dean, University of Sydney Business School, Australia; and David Saunders, dean, Queen's School of Business, Queen's University, Canada.