

# Young better equipped to teach, feel experts at IIT-Gn

**DNA Correspondent**

Grey hair is no more the criteria for the best candidate for teaching job. A new idea was discussed at the first ever Academic Advisory Council meeting at Indian Institute of Technology - Gandhinagar (IIT-Gn) on Thursday. The idea was to get the young people to identify other young, talented and passionate academicians.

The meeting was held to discuss strategies to develop IIT-G into a centre of excellence in research and academics and saw participation of renowned academicians from India and overseas.

Topics like models for faculty recruitment, evaluation of candidates, model for performance evaluation, interpersonal relationships between faculty, improving faculty engagement with the institute, nurturing leadership of tomorrow and techniques in pedagogy were discussed at



Meeting at IIT Gandhinagar to discuss strategies for institute's excellence —Kevin Antao.DNA

the meeting. Besides, the participants also talked about improving the research culture at the institute and building ties with academia.

Highlighting the points of the meeting, IIT-G director Sudhir K Jain said that it was extremely difficult to get good faculties with knowledge and passion for academics. "The first thing I did was to appoint a 27-year-old as recruitment in-charge at the institute. The advantage of having young people in charge of recruitment is that they are well net-

worked, have an eye for quality and can also identify talents in a candidate," said Jain. He added that young academicians help in spreading a good word about the institute and pull bright academicians to the institute.

Prof Paul Jennings from the Institute of Technology, Pasadena, USA, who was also present in the meeting, said that the young people understand their generation better. "They know what the best research is in their times, just like I understand my generation," he said, adding they have a core team looking for talent through the year.

There were also discussions on best practices and suggestions from academicians from other countries. But former director of Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad Prof Bakul Dholakia said that getting right people was not enough. Good faculties should be retained as well.