

US agency, IIT-Gn identify collaboration areas

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Ahmedabad: IIT-Gandhinagar and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) officials on Tuesday started consultations on developing high-level partnerships with American universities and industries. The discussions are framed under the joint agreement signed in advance of President Barack Obama's visit to India, on January 26.

Their discussions covered a wide range of possible areas of support, ranging from strengthening research capabilities, student and faculty exchanges, leadership development, networking and entrepreneurship. USAID and IIT officials will work over the next

few weeks in identifying the major areas of collaboration and prioritizing them for implementation during the three-year term of the agreement.

A team of three representatives, comprising Mitch Kirby, USAID senior education advisor, Sheila E Desai, USAID India senior science and technology advisor, and Eric Johnson, senior research economist with RTI International, visited the institute to assess institutional needs and strategies with senior administrators and faculty.

The joint declaration of intent calls for establishing technical assistance priorities and drafting strategies for further development for IITs and identifies IIT-Gn as the initial IIT for support.