

# Global bodies sign 'Ahmedabad declaration' on design

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Ahmedabad:** An 'Ahmedabad Declaration on Design Education' was signed at the National Institute for Design (NID) on Friday at the end of the three-day international conference. The first declaration of its kind, it intends to facilitate synergy among design institutes across the world.

The points of concurrence in the declaration are in keeping with the UN's declaration of the years 2005 to 2015 AD as the 'Decade of Education and Sustainability'. The declaration has signatories from as many as 27 countries.

The delegates also resolved that to facilitate dialogue on a regular basis on design education, a 'bi-annual international conference on design edu-

cation' be hosted on rotational basis by design institutes. A conference office would be set up to support this international forum on a regular basis. Apart from physical interaction, virtual conferences will also be held through online exchanges.

The objective of the conferences would be integration and dissemination of design knowledge by creating confluence of academicians, designers, students and other stakeholders.

The design educators and delegates also resolved to understand the key drivers of the future of design and facilitate their incorporation into a responsible design education framework including "life long learning through such discussions.

Among the points of endorsement vis-à-vis design education in the decla-

ration are collaborative networks between design institutes to exchange ideas and design education initiatives; design education must prepare students to be culturally sensitive and respect the local and other contexts; it must draw upon multi-disciplinary and cross-cultural sources to facilitate originality and innovation; it should be geared to improve the quality of our lives through careful consideration of emotional, economical and other real needs; it needs a clear formulation of a flexible and updateable design curriculum with emphasis on theory, research, analysis and synthesis ready for "realisation" and "making".

NID also signed some design agreements with 5-6 institutes on the sidelines of the conference, which would facilitate faculty and student transfer

as well as research and curriculum exchange.

Ninety papers were presented during the conference which would shortly be published in book format. The paper presented by Uday Athavankar of IDC, IIT Powai called for design education that allows an integrated approach with inputs from humanities, technology, management and culture studies.

NID executive director Darlie Koshi proposed a five-tiered design education system which permits percolation of design inputs into school education.

Another delegate Vijay Kumar of Illinois Institute of Technology, US talked about the need for designers for improve the success rate of innovation by adopting new planning process, methods, tools and frameworks.

**CREATING SYNERGY**