

Proposal for special BTP awards

The IIT's have proven to produce people who have become movers and shakers of the global technological universe. They take on the brightest students and shape them into tecno-wizards who have the guts, the ability and a hard working nature that has made them a leader in many areas.

While IITians have made great progress in the technology spear, India still faces great problems. Unfortunately the bright minds of IITians have been turned towards technology issues in a manner disjointed from the realities of India. This proposal is based on our belief that if IITians are motivated enough they can pay some attention to the problems that plague India. With so many bright minds working on issues, I am sure that we will be able to develop viable solutions to some problems and thus improve our dear motherland.

IIT's have the unique opportunity to be able to attract the brightest young minds to their campus and influence their growth during the critical age of 16-21. Of course the attraction that these minds have for coming to IIT is the prospect of using their talents to gain wealth. We feel that if monetary rewards could be offered as encouragement for young IITians to turn their attention to problems that face India, they will certainly divert their minds towards these issues.

The "Bachelor's Technical Project (BTP)" provides the opportunity for the student to concentrate on an topic for about a year and provide some concrete work at the end of the year. Usually these topics are picked based on what is popular in the technical field.

There are also downtimes during the summer when many students do nothing. We would like to use the opportunity to make a difference. Also students take the national social service (NSS) program, which is a required course, very lightly.

We propose that the IITAlumni associations collect funds, which will be used to give the following awards

- 1) Award for the BTP that most creatively provides a viable technical solution to a problem facing any Indian community. The solution should include and address the socio-political setup affecting the community.
- 2) Award for the best non-technical paper that identifies and provides a viable solution to a major socio-political problem facing the country. (e.g. Dowry, Bride burning, Terrorism, Displacement of Kashmir Pundits, Illiteracy etc). This could be perhaps be used in conjunction with NSS activities and perhaps be a final NSS presentation, which gives credibility to the NSS work.
- 3) Award for the best technical work that can be translated into an immediate business idea in India.

4) A special award(just one) for the best creation by a woman iitian in any of these categories. If a woman wins in the general pool, this award will be added to her earnings.

Cost:

The awards must be large enough to motivate IITians and hence we suggest something in the following range.

- 1) Reward of Rs. 100,000 (\$3000) for the first category
- 2) Reward of Rs. 50,000 (\$1250) for 2nd and 3rd category
- 3) Reward of Rs. 25,000 (\$650) for the 4h category

This plan is just an idea and should be mistaken as an actual implementation proposal. If IITSINE thinks this is an idea worth persuing, further discussions should occur on the defining various parameters and to have an actual mechanism to implement this. We prefer that this award be named the IITALUMNI award so that it truly is free and fair. If we agree to do this, we must get the buy in of all the directors so the awards are indeed given fairly. It should be something that is from within the IIT's and with the full support of the faculty and staff. While IITSINE can be the major force to coordinate this, it would be appropriate to get the buy in from all IIT Alumni associations.

Best Wishes,

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