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Education may put an end to global woes

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A DELEGATION from one of the top engineering universities in the US is visiting India this week to stress the importance of partnerships with the country to solve global issues.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) president Susan Hockfield and deans, directors and faculty from the prestigious school, are touring Delhi, Bangalore and Mumbai to announce new educational collaborations with India that aim to solve problems such as energy shortages, hunger and clean water.

Currently MIT is home to 229 Indian students, and more than 40 faculty members at the institute regularly collaborate with scholars in India.

According to Gururaj Deshpande, who helped develop MIT's Deshpande Center

for Technological Innovation, MIT is in the business of training global leaders, so it must ensure that its students are familiar with India's scientific community and rapidly advancing technological landscape.

"MIT has to reach out to India to make sure that their education has enough India content for their graduates to become global leaders," Deshpande said. "They need to tap into the innovation that's going on in India. And in the process, they can also be a part of solving some of the problems that India faces."

Among the announcements made by MIT this week is the International Innovation Initiative (I³***I-cubed***), which works with countries around the world, and now India, to identify innovative research projects that are still in nascent stages, with the goal of transforming them into actual products with real-world applications.



Massachusetts Institute of Technology