

Constructive course

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IN order to improve the employability of engineering and management graduates in the construction industry, the Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC), a body established by the Planning Commission and the construction industry has launched a set of three training programmes. CIDC has tied up IKRAM, Malaysia's training institute and Asian Concrete Construction Institute, to facilitate an international exposure for its students. "The students shall work at construction sites abroad, probably in Malaysia or Singapore.

The objectives of this internship programme are twofold. Firstly, it envisages to provide an experience in terms of the actual working environment at construction sites and secondly it seeks to enable potential international employers to spot talent among trainees," informs Anil Chaddha, deputy director, CIDC.

The programmes offered by CIDC shall include an orientation programme and training programme in Malaysia and Singapore. "India awarded 2.3 lakh engineering degrees in the year 2006, but only a small fraction of these engineers are actually employable," informs Chaddha. Several independent studies have also indicated the grave situation of poor employability.

"This is because engineering is not industry-oriented due to lack of adequate infrastructure in majority of the engineering institutions. Also the training curricula is not in line with the industry requirements and is not regularly updated," he observes.

The training programme will introduce actual working of construction projects along with an industry overview. The students shall be provided with an overview of various departments that are established in a construction company/project site. They shall also be given information on various types of workers deployed on projects and be exposed to the latest technologies and methods adopted in the industry. "It is recommended that students should opt for this programme from their first year of engineering/management training as it will provide them useful insights into the requirements of the industry," says Chaddha.

CIDC is inviting applications for this course. For more, log on to www.cidc.in.