

Third Annual Conference on Banking and Finance 16 – 17 August 2019

International Management Institute Bhubaneswar hosted the ***“Third Annual Conference on Banking and Finance”*** on 16th and 17th August 2019 at its campus. The conference – in its third year of inception – is fast becoming a valued platform for academicians and practitioners to come together and discuss the issues prevailing in the Banking and Finance sector in India and worldwide. The theme for this year’s conference was ***“FinTech and Banking – The Road Ahead for the Indian Banking and Financial System”***

The conference – which spanned two days – was inaugurated by *Prof. Ramesh Behl* (Director IMI Bhubaneswar). In his inaugural address Prof. Behl discussed how the face of banking has changed over the years and how today blockchain and newer technologies are coming to the forefront to give customers a seamless and a worry free experience. *Prof. Santanu Das* (Associate Professor and Conference Convener) briefed the participants about the genesis of the conference and what to expect in the next two days. *Prof. Rohit Vishal Kumar* (Associate Professor and Co-Convener) gave the vote of thanks.

A total of 13 tracks ran concurrently which each track having about 6 papers providing ample time for presentation and discussion. Each track had a session chair who evaluated the papers in terms of quality and made recommendations for sending the article to either *“Global Business Review”* or *“Emerging Economy Studies”* – reputed journals published by SAGE. The tracks covered a majority of areas ranging from – contemporary issues in banking and finance, Use of technology in BFSI sector, Financial Analytics, Marketing of Banks and Financial Institutions and instruments and HRM and related issues in the sector. The conference provided a single point platform for discussion regarding issues plaguing the banking and financial sector in India.

The conference saw major participation from various top-notch business schools like AMU Aligarh, BITS Pilani, IFMR Chennai, IIM Kashipur, IIM Lucknow, IIM Ranchi, IIM Sambalpur, IIM Trichy, IMT Dubai, IMT Hyderabad, NIT Silchar, NIT Suratkal, NMIMS Navi Mumbai, SIU, Pune, VIT Vellore and XIM Bhubaneswar. A total of 69 papers were presented in the conference.

One innovative aspect of this year’s conference was the panel discussion on ***“Fintech and Financial Inclusion”*** which was chaired by Prof. Devesh Baid. The panelist were top management professionals from various industries like – ZEE Telefilms, Tata Power, Verity, IBM and Ernst & Young participated in the panel discussion. The panelist discussed the new trends in the fintech sector and how the growth in fintech can lead to financial inclusion in the country. Seeing the response to the conference and the enthusiasm of the participants IMI Bhubaneswar is looking into making the conference into a premiere conference for Finance and Banking in the country. The two-day conference ended on a positive note.