***Criteria 3.3.1***

***Institution has created an ecosystem for innovations, creation and transfer of knowledge supported by dedicated centers for research, entrepreneurship, Incubation etc.***

IMI Bhubaneswar values research as a way of life and accordingly has created an ecosystem for **innovations**, **creation, and transfer of knowledge**. In the line with its strategic objectives, IMI Bhubaneswar **disseminates independent and collaborative research** opportunities available at national and international level through e-mails to all stakeholders and encourage faculty to partake in such opportunities to meet its long-term strategic objectives as envisaged in its mission statement. The faculty members are encouraged to take part in various faculty development programmes. The faculty members are encouraged to attend national/international conferences to present papers. The faculty members are encouraged to conduct **MDP programmes** for enhanced knowledge sharing with the industry. The Institute has endeavored towards **collaboration with counterpart Institutions** as part of its strategic objectives. For example, the Institute has an academic collaboration with the ESC Rennes for student exchange programme. The French students’ study at IMI Bhubaneswar for one term. The Institute has also collaborated with Sichuan Academy of Social Sciences (SASS), Chengdu, China and EGADE Business School, Mexico City, Mexico for hosting international conferences as part of its collaborative initiatives. IMI Bhubaneswar also has an international linkage with Manhattan Institute of Management, New York, USA. The research, innovation and creation of knowledge at IMI, Bhubaneswar heavily focusses on betterment of society.

**Entrepreneurship** assumes utmost importance in current economic environment. The institute grooms its students to become entrepreneurs so that they boast off being job providers rather than job seekers. To enhance entrepreneurial initiatives, E-Cell was established in 2014 which provided a platform for students to create and test ideas for the market. Subsequently a need for **Incubation Center** on campus was felt as students who were actively involved in E-Cell activities and started their own ventures needed mentoring support. This required to tie up with mentors from industry and also in-house faculty involvement from specialized areas. Informally incubation center was started from 2016 and was registered as a section 8 company in 2018-19 in name of **IMI Incubation Foundation.** The foundation promotes entrepreneurship / startups in the areas of Business Analytics, Enterprise Systems, and Renewable Energy. It is supported by team of industry mentors and faculty and has a dedicate space. It is only one in Odisha with business management focus and provides mentoring support to startups who have proof of concept to scale up. The center also provides virtual mentoring to startups located outside Odisha. It carries various activities during the year such as idea hunt, investors’ summit, short term programmes on entrepreneurship development, skill development programmes. It also participates in events organized by state and central government / agencies and other incubation centers. **Institute Innovation Council** was established in 2018 as per the AICTE requirements. The council represents experts from industry and academia from outside the institute. IMI Bhubaneswar has been ranked 66th in ARIIA rankings. Our E-Cell and Incubation foundation are recognized by Start-up Odisha, a Government of Odisha initiative.