

The Keynote address delivered by the chief guest:

- **How did your education prepare you to be an entrepreneur?**

The first step in adapting this approach to engineering education is to embrace the notion that we need to produce graduates with well developed multiple intelligences and a better balance between left-brain and right-brain abilities. Ideally, this would start by revising the criteria used for engineering school admission to increase the emphasis on evidence among applicants of balance among these multiple intelligences, including “right-brain thinking.”

- **How is the field of engineering changing regarding entrepreneurship?**

The field of engineering is becoming more multidisciplinary. Engineering management skills such as accounting, leadership, international relations, quality management, communication skills, and research—all vital skills for being an entrepreneur and establishing and running your own business.

- **Does being entrepreneurial make you a better engineer?**

Key aspects to being entrepreneurial are vision and opportunity. Being entrepreneurial allows an engineer to be more strategic in a project or in an organization. This means he or she can wear different hats and contribute in multiple ways. Being involved at multiple, cross-disciplinary levels can give an engineer a broader perspective on the end result of the project, sometimes resulting in engineering insights and decisions that improve the final product.

Although an entrepreneur is generally defined as an individual, a group or an organization can also be entrepreneurial. Just as an individual can add other disciplines to his/her technical base, groups can do the same. When individuals of different skills come together and collaborate to pursue a common goal, the team can be entrepreneurial.

This is also a good time to be an entrepreneur. With the globalization of business and the uncertain economy, there are plenty of opportunities to evaluate and pursue. So, the global economy, with its chaos and disarray, is actually a target-rich environment for technology-based entrepreneurs. Recognizing and vetting these opportunities, often within constrained timeframes, are challenges more easily handled by entrepreneurial engineers.