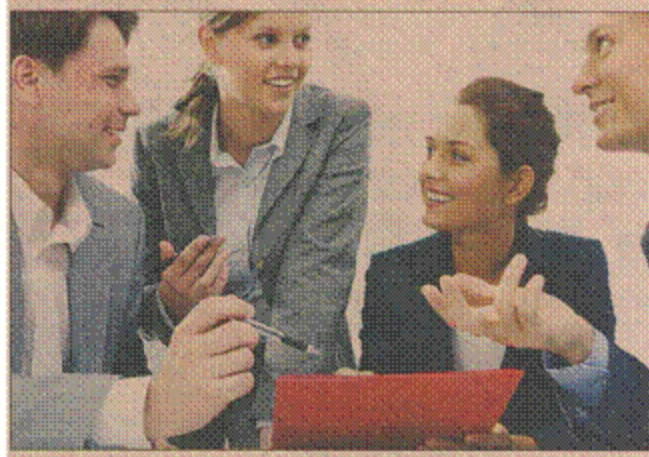


Wharton to Expand Presence in India



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The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, is planning to expand its presence in India in the next one-and-half years, according to its dean Thomas Robertson.

One of the world's top business schools will zero in on either Mumbai or Delhi for the expansion. "Our students are already coming to India. The difficulty is that the world does not know Wharton is in India," says Robertson.

He was in Delhi in connection with the signing of an agreement with Indian School of Business, Hyderabad, to develop Max Institute of Healthcare Management at ISB's new Mohali campus. Wharton School, along with Kellogg School of Management, are ISB's associate schools since its inception.

Wharton, has various points of presence in India – the healthcare institute with ISB, study trips of the executive MBA student faculty to India, and executive education programmes.

"All or some of this could be part of our physical presence model in India," says Robertson. He, however, ruled out plans for a campus in India at the moment.

Wharton's focus is on India and China, two of the fastest growing economies. Over the past two decades, Wharton has positioned itself as a global school. Close to 40% of its students and 35% of faculty are international.

The ISB campus at Mohali will have four specialist Institutes,

termed as Centres of Excellence, for promoting research and offering additional specialisations in the post graduate programme – Max Institute of Healthcare Management; Bharti Institute of Public Policy; BML Munjal Institute of Manufacturing and Operation Excellence and Punj Lloyd Institute of Physical Infrastructure Management.

"We are focusing on four national priorities in the country – manufacturing, infrastructure, public policy and healthcare. We have to build management capacity in all these areas," says Ajit Rangnekar, dean, ISB.

The Max Institute of Healthcare Management will impart industry-relevant skill sets to students in this programme to meet India's growing need for quality healthcare professionals. The Mohali campus will see its first intake of 210 students in April 2012.

On its part, Max Healthcare is transforming itself into an academic medical centre, and has bought 60 acres in Greater Noida to start a medical school. A healthcare provider is forging ahead into education and research in the area of healthcare science, says Anajit Singh, chairman & managing director, Max India. He did not reveal details of the project.

Singh says the ISB venture is aimed at producing MBAs who are adept in managing medicine. "As customer expectations are changing towards healthcare, you need talent to take care of these," says Singh.