

impressions

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The IFAN network

The Indo-French Alumni network (IFAN) was created through the efforts of Campus France (a National agency for the promotion of the French Higher Education) in association with the IFAN alumni and the support of the Embassy of France with the aim of strengthening academic cooperation between Indo-French research centers and collaborations, the network 16 Alliance Françaises and the French Consulates.

IFAN did initiate since October 2008 interactive debates called Cafés des savoirs on multicultural subjects in different universities in conjunction with the promotion of higher education done by Campus France during French days. More than 1400 students have been in touch with "Cafés des Savoirs".



IFAN members also contribute in enhancing the bilateral relations between France and India and one of the most striking example is that of Mr. Vikram ARORA and his SUNLIGHT EIFFEL. Refer to the website: www.vikramarora.com.

Vikram ARORA participated in the IIT Bombay Techfest 2010 by exhibiting the Sunlight Eiffel model illuminated with LED Lights powered by energy captured by Solar PV Panels and stored in battery for promotion of Solar Energy, creating the awareness about Solar Energy.

Binit VASA, an IFAN member speaks about his experience in France.

I visited France to pursue my Post Graduate studies in the year 2007-08. I pursued the degree of International Business & Management for Designers from Euromed Toulon situated at Toulon in Southern France. It was an extraordinary experience. The Embassy in France was very generous in giving me a Scholarship that helped me survive on my own in France. Apart from this as students we got multiple financial aids which were very helpful. The cultural life was equally enriching. Since I knew French, I traveled extensively and was even sent by my University as a representative at the Cannes Lions Advertising Festival. France is one of the countries that knows how to strike a great balance between work and play and hence I miss my life there. Currently I am working with Rediffusion Y&R as a Brand Strategist. I got this job immediately on my arrival to India after finishing the course. In fact the course has also helped me gain a considerable advantage as far as my remuneration is concerned and it helped me during my growth in the organisation.

If you can speak a little French and believe in joie-de-vivre, then you must go to study in France for the experience that change you forever!

Rajneesh Rallan, 40, CEO of Synthlube (lubricants sector, a company created in 1978) speaks about his experience. He is a member of IFAN and HEC alumni.

Where did you study?

Engineering in Nagpur university and MBA at HEC in Paris.

How and why did you decide to learn French as a student?

French was a subject at school since class 8. I also took some courses later at the Alliance française de Bombay.

Why going to France for studies?

Europe was my focus for MBA studies. I applied and was accepted at HEC, London Business School, Insead and IMD. I chose HEC Paris, my first choice, after visiting the various schools in 1998.

Did you start working in France? Yes, I got a job on the campus in 1999 and I worked in Paris till 2003. Then I started my own company in Paris which I ran till 2008. Without French I could not have done any of it.

What do you remember of your French experience (as a business person)?

Working in France is a very enriching experience, specially as a non French person you learn a lot about the country and the culture. France is a true gateway to Europe. Doing your own business in France can be a little unsettling for someone like me, who has already set up and run companies in India.

How do you connect to France and French today?

I frequently visit France as I now have a lot of friends there and also many francophone friends in Mumbai. Also there are a few HEC alumni in Mumbai and we meet a few times a year. I think that the Indo-French community of entrepreneurs will definitely grow over the years.

