Amrita CREATE Wins the Top Award from Computer Society of India in Education and E-learning

December 14, 2013
Visakhapatnam

The project, "Online Labs for School Experiments (OLabs) for Rural Schools", from Amrita's Center for Research in Advanced Technologies for Education (CREATE) won the top prize for Education and E-learning from the Computer Society of India (CSI). The entry won first prize after an exhaustive three tier jury selection process with Deloitte as the knowledge partner. The award carries a citation and prize money of Rs. 1 lakh.

CSI Awards for Excellence Trophy received by Amrita CREATE

The award was presented by Shri J. Satyanarayana, Secretary, Department of Electronics and Information Technology (Deity), Government of India at a colorful function at Visakhapatnam on 14 December, 2013. Dr. S.V. Raghavan, Scientific Secretary to Government of India and President of CSI & Mr. Anil Srivatsava, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India also participated in the awards ceremony.

The Online Labs (OLabs) for science experiments, offered free to schools, was developed to overcome the limitations faced by schools in India, especially rural schools, due to large class sizes and lack of instruments in laboratories. The OLabs project reached a significant milestone earlier this year, when it was officially endorsed by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) for its 14,500 schools.

The research on OLabs has been presented at leading conferences such as ASEE/IEEE Frontiers in Education Conference (FIE 2013), the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE 2013), and showcased at the National Conference on ICT for School Education which was

inaugurated by HRD Minister, Hon'ble Dr. M.M. Pallam Raju. Over 56,000 students and 4,300 teachers have been trained to use Olabs.

Future plans for scaling the OLabs for Pan India include cloud based deployment to support 36 lakh students and the training of 30,000 teachers across India. OLabs is being developed by Amrita CREATE, in partnership with CDAC, Mumbai and is funded by research grants from Department of Electronics and Information Technology, MCIT.