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NID, IIT tie up for 'eco design' project

28 Jan 2002, 2330 hrs IST,TNN

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ahmedabad: iit-delhi has joined hands with nid and two foreign universities to develop the curriculum for a course in environment-friendly design, better known as 'ecodesign'. a two-day workshop will be held at nid from tuesday with academicians from across the country to chalk out the curriculum. it is part of a series sponsored by the european union to create awareness on the need for ecodesign. previous workshops have focused on product designers, ngos and the small and large scale sector. foreign participants include the delft university of technology, netherlands and instituto nacionalde engenharia e tecnologia, portugal. says iit delhi associate professor g v soumitri, who is on the expert panel of the united nations

environment programme, "industrial design in india has remained development-oriented with not attention given to environment issues. as the world has united on the issue, we can no longer ignore these concerns." soumitri has been running the european union-funded indian european ecodesign programme at iit delhi for the past six years and would now like to see it spread to other prime institutes having industrial design programmes. among them are iit- guahati, the indian design centre- mumbai and the indian institute of science, bangalore. soumitri, who passed out of nid in 1985 carries an example of ecodesign with him: a wind-up radio by a major electronics company which uses no batteries. all you need to do is wind up the lever for about one minute for one-hour listening pleasure. the radio is already available in the us and europe. "many product design functions are changing," says nid faculty shashank mehta. "today, designers are not only expected to increase the life of a product, they are also expected to look at their after life. how certain components of a product can be reused once its life is over and then how it can be recycled. the aim is to save both energy and resources."

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