

*For Immediate Press Release –*

**Great Lakes Institute of Management, Gurgaon Commencement of the first batch of PGDM (2016-2018) addressed by Mr. R. Balachander, Partner and National Leader- Accounting, Compliance & Reporting – Ernst & Young, India.**

**New Delhi, 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2016:** Great Lakes Institute of Management, Gurgaon, a premier management institute in the country, commenced the academic year of its first batch of PGDM (2016 - 2018) in a ceremony held at USI Auditorium, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi. The august ceremony was addressed by the honourable **Chief Guest, Mr. R. Balachander, Partner and National Leader - Accounting, Compliance & Reporting – Ernst & Young, India.**

The inaugural function began with the lighting of the auspicious lamp by the Chief Guest, Mr. R. Balachander, Partner and National Leader - Accounting, Compliance & Reporting – Ernst & Young, India in the presence of Dr. Bala V. Balachandran, Founder, Dean & Chairman, Great Lakes Institute of Management, Mr. Mohan Lakhamraju, Vice Chairman, Great Lakes Institute of Management, Dr. B.S.K. Naidu, Chairman Emeritus, Great Lakes Institute of Management, Gurgaon, Dr. Himadri Das, Director, Great Lakes Institute of Management, Gurgaon and Dr. Ahindra Chakrabarti, Program Director, PGDM, Great Lakes Institute of Management, Gurgaon.

Delivering the commencement address, Chief Guest, **Mr. R. Balachander, Partner and National Leader - Accounting, Compliance & Reporting – Ernst & Young, India, congratulated students by saying, “you all are taking a giant step in your life, many people aspire to have an MBA education but there are a very few who are lucky to have this opportunity, so, this is a moment of pride for all of you.”**

Later on, he shared with students the disruptive changes happening around the world to give students some perspective about these changes, so that they can gain the maximum from their MBA education. He shared with students the megatrends happening in different areas that are going to shape our near future, covering areas like - Digital economy, Urbanization, Entrepreneurship, Energy, Health, and Global marketplace, so that they can decide which space to opt for once they complete MBA. He also advised students that **“for the next two years you all should decide your goals in advance and keep those goals in mind while selecting projects, subjects and lectures to accomplish those goals.** Mr. Balachander concluded his session with the quote **“never quit upon a dream just because it is taking time in coming true”.**

Delivering the welcome address, Dr. Himadri Das, Director, Great Lakes Institute of Management, Gurgaon, said, ***“a very warm welcome to the first ever batch of PGDM at Great Lakes Gurgaon. It is the third full time program that we have launched at Great Lakes Gurgaon and as we have a custom at Great Lakes to give a unique name to each and every batch of Great Lakes, we have named this batch as Champions”***. Going further, he shared with students the highlights of the history of Great Lakes and also talked about the new campus of Great Lakes, Gurgaon which is the 7.2 acre campus located just off NH8 close to Manesar and is easily accessible from the corporate hubs of Gurgaon. The new campus has world class facilities including state-of-the-art infrastructure. Dr. Das also shared, that ***“at Great Lakes we pursue academic excellence with business relevance”***

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Bala V Balachandran, Founder, Dean and Chairman, Great Lakes Institute of Management, expressed, that ***“secret of success is being energetic in life and one should always be passionate and excited about our work. If you will have immense faith in yourself you will witness miracles happening in your life”***. Further, he added that ***“at Great Lakes you have everything, best faculty, infrastructure, environment and opportunities and you all should make the best of this opportunity”***. He advised students to pursue all tasks in life with integrity and humility as he believes that these two virtues are essential to be super successful in life. ***“At Great Lakes we believe in creating social entrepreneurs, technopreneurs and entrepreneurs so plan, learn hard and achieve maximum in life”***, stated, Dr. Bala.

Welcoming the students, Dr. B. S. K. Naidu, Chairman Emeritus, Great Lakes Institute of Management, Gurgaon, said, ***“MBA is a 360 degree program, having four significant quadrants - technical, finance, marketing and HR and is considered as an all-inclusive program compared to all other post graduate programs. However, there is a whole lot of life beyond this MBA paradigm, there is a need to see life in totality, and the world around you would need your attention on several dimensions”***. He advised students that ***“firstly, a deep acumen is required before jumping in to any area and an in-depth strategy to make entry, secondly, ethics , moral beliefs and value system - so constantly revisit your values and with precise observation on happenings around the word take all your decisions”***. Further, he added, learning is a continuing process and life teaches us every day. He also stated that, ***“the three orbits with intellectual orbit in first, circumsised by emotional intelligence and reinforced by social and spiritual consciousness complete the learning process and is called as great learning”***. ***“Attitude decides altitude - think big, think fast and think ahead to compete and succeed”***, expressed, Dr. Naidu.

Motivating the new batch, Dr. Ahindra Chakrabarti, Program Director, PGDM, Great Lakes Institute of Management, Gurgaon, said, ***“speaking about the excellent teaching system at Great Lakes, I would like to express that in addition of regular teaching our teachers take great personal care of students; we have a system known as personal effectiveness session, where teachers interact with students to find out which direction or company would be more suitable for each student, so it is an individual care process. Our teachers are dedicated and one of the bests in the country”***. Further, he shared, ***“A winner is open to world at large, he/she has his/her own mind, listens to everybody but believes in himself/herself, is very***

***hardworking, has confidence in his/her abilities, is ambitious and determined. Our job starts from today to make a winner out of each one of you”.***

The two-year Post Graduate Diploma in Management (PGDM) has a clear focus on the emerging sectors of the economy and their growth. An AICTE approved program, PGDM offers a unique and nonpareil coverage of emerging sectors like Digital Marketing, Internet Business, and Analytics. The PGDM has been designed by the Great Lakes Academic Advisory Council, which comprises the best in the world of Business School academia. This in turn has been further moulded with inputs from the Institute's illustrious Business Advisory Council, to keep it in sync with the needs of an ever changing market place. The course helps the students to develop into business-ready managers, capable of responding to complex business requirements that arise in a changing global business environment.

**About Great Lakes Institute of Management, Gurgaon-** Great Lakes Institute of Management, Gurgaon is a unique Centre of Excellence in India focused on nurturing managerial and leadership talent for our Country. The Institute's activities include full and part time post graduate management programs in General Management, corporate training programs, consulting services and independent research to enhance the intellectual capital and knowledge base in its areas of focus. The Post Graduate Programs seek to develop motivated management professionals equipped with comprehensive domain knowledge and capable of being productive from their first day of engagement with the corporate world. The 7.2 acre Great Lakes Gurgaon campus is located just off NH8 close to Manesar and is easily accessible from the corporate hubs of Gurgaon and the Delhi IGI Airport. The Campus is located in the vicinity of many educational and research centers including the National Brain Research Center, BML Munjal University, Amity University, planned Indian National Defence University, etc. The Campus is fully residential with Wi-Fi enabled, air-conditioned hostels to ensure students coming from all over the country have a comfortable stay and a great peer learning experience

More details can be found at [www.greatlakes.edu.in/gurgaon](http://www.greatlakes.edu.in/gurgaon)

**About Great Lakes Institute of Management-** Great Lakes was founded in 2004 by Padma Shri Dr. Bala V. Balachandran with a vision of becoming the leading Management Institution in India providing Quality Education at an affordable cost and Human Capital for Emerging Economies. In 2014, Great Lakes was accredited by Association of MBAs (AMBA, UK) for its PGPM and PGXPM programs and became the youngest B-school in India to receive this prestigious international accreditation. In 2015, Great Lakes received international SAQS accreditation from AMDISSA making it one of the few B-Schools in India to receive two prestigious international accreditations. Led by exceptional academic faculty, steered by an outstanding advisory council and buoyed by the international collaborations, Great Lakes has, within a short span of 10 years emerged as a top-ranked business school.

For the year 2015, Great Lakes has been ranked No.1 for its Analytics program by Analytics India, 5th among private B-Schools in India by Careers 360, 7th among India's top one-year executive MBA/PGP programmes by Business Today, 9th under the category top one-year programs in the country by Business



World, 9th among one year MBA program by Outlook India, and 10th among top ten B-Schools in India by Business India. Great Lakes has 50+ full time faculty and 130+ visiting faculty including over 20 international faculty from top global schools like Yale, Kellogg, Stanford, etc. Further collaborations with world's leading institutions like Georgia State University, Nanyang Technological University, University of Houston, University of Bordeaux, Hongkong University of Science & Technology (HKUST) etc.; have helped Great Lakes in globally benchmarking its programs. Great Lakes has a 27.5 acres LEED Platinum rated green campus in Chennai and a second campus in Delhi-NCR. Great Lakes offers One Year full time MBA for experienced professionals, Two year MBA with focus on Emerging Markets, Part Time Executive MBA Program, Weekend Executive MBA Program. Great Lakes alumni currently work at world renowned organizations both in India and overseas across 30 countries.

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