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AIIMS, CMC graduates eligible for jobs in Singapore

Staff Reporter

Degrees of these institutes recognised from July

- Number of restrictions in the services sector removed
- Possibility of offering mutual recognition discussed



IN DISCUSSION: Jeannette Aruldoss (right), director of a Singapore law firm, making a point to Allan Tay, consultant, International Enterprise Singapore (centre) and Vijay Kumar Bafna of SICCI at a seminar in Chennai on Friday. — Photo: S.S. K umar

CHENNAI: Singapore, under its Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) with India, has started recognising medical degree programmes offered by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, and the Christian Medical College, Vellore.

The recognition, from July this year, means that medical graduates passing out of the two institutions could practise as doctors and become eligible for jobs at hospitals in Singapore, Allan Tay, consultant, International Enterprise Singapore, said at a seminar here on Friday.

The meet on the benefits of the Agreement was organised by the Southern Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI), IE Singapore, an agency under the country's Ministry of Trade and Industry, and Archilex Law Corporation.

Highlighting the benefits of the CECA across various sectors, he said professional bodies governing accounting professionals in both countries were discussing the possibility of offering mutual

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recognition to each other's educational programme. Though it was the respective governments that finally accorded recognition, such interactions were crucial as they laid the foundation towards that.

For the trade, the benefits of CECA included greater market competitiveness, faster customs clearance (for low risk shipments) and cost savings due to tariff concessions. A number of restrictions in the services sector have been removed following the agreement, Mr. Tay said.

Two other consultants with IE Singapore Celine Sim and Meena Chandra also underscored the significance of the Agreement. While Ms. Sim detailed the 'representative office scheme,' a facility offered by the agency to prospective investors in Singapore, Ms. Chandra spoke about the other trade agreements of Singapore.

Director of IE Singapore's Chennai centre Ramakrishna Kukula said the agency intended to sign a memorandum of understanding with SICCI, under which the two organisations would primarily share information and trade leads and work towards business matching. SICCI Secretary S. Raghavan said the chamber was keen to work closely with the Singapore agency. Directors of Archilex Law Corporation Jeannette Aruldoss and Eve Lyn Phang spoke on the benefits of doing business in Singapore. SICCI executive committee member Vijay Kumar Bafna said the CECA was in line with India's 'look east' policy and would hopefully pave the way for the Indo-ASEAN free trade agreement.

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