Call for Faculty/Project Consultants/Research Fellows

IDRBT invites applications from suitable candidates for the following positions :

Faculty: The applicants for the positions of Professor/ Associate Professor/Assistant Professor should have outstanding academic background in Information Technology & related areas and substantial experience in the Institute's focal areas such as Electronic Payments, Security Technology, Financial Messaging, Certification, E-learning, Data Warehousing and Data Mining etc. Ph.D is mandatory from the position of Associate Professor onwards. The pay scales will be at par with IIT's/IIM's and in addition, the Institute provides liberal perks.

The Institute will also consider professionals/ bankers with relevant experience for term-based/ deputation as Project Consultants - equivalent to Faculty position.

Faculty Research Associate / Project Associate / Research Fellow: Applicants should be a first class Postgraduate in Electronics & Communication / Computer Science/IT or related areas and possess experience in the focal areas. The above positions are project-based contractual assignments (3-5 years) with monthly-consolidated remuneration ranging between Rs. 15,000 - 20,000/-. *Freshers having the above qualifications with UGC/ CSIR-NET would be considered for Research Fellowship, with a monthly stipend of Rs. 8,000 - 10,000/-*

Candidates can get registered for Ph.D. Programme of University of Hyderabad - with the School of Computer and Information Sciences/ School of Management Studies, subject to fulfilling the selection criteria of UoH and IDRBT.

Applicants may send their complete details, clearly superscribing on the envelope the position applied to:

The Director, IDRBT or
e-mail to: recruit2002 @idrbt.ac.in

IDRBT Journal on Banking Technology

IDRBT proposes to start a Journal on Banking Technology. The Journal will act as an appropriate forum for the academics and the industry experts to publish their innovative ideas, working papers, research papers and research outcomes. Articles, case studies and papers are invited from contributors on all major areas of banking technology like financial networking and communication, payment systems, security and authentication for financial services, e-learning for banks, data warehousing and data mining for banks, customer relationship management etc. The last date for submission of contributions for the First Issue is 31st July 2002. For more details and guidelines for authors please visit our website : www.idrbt.com

WINNERS ALL!

Banking Technology Award Winners with Shri Vepa Kamesam and Dr. V.P. Gulati

Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology
(Established by Reserve Bank of India)
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IDRBT

FAST FORWARD

NEWSLETTER

Volume 5 * Number 1 * February 2002

Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology
(Established by Reserve Bank of India)

IDRBT Presents Banking Technology Awards

IDRBT has taken a major initiative to infuse a spirit of healthy competition among banks through the newly instituted Awards for Excellence in Banking Technology. Now that almost all the Public Sector Banks have crossed the level of 70% computerization of their business, the next logical step for them should be to take a look at technology upgradation, absorption and innovation in all earnestness.

Since the customer is now in the driver's seat and is demanding value added services and innovative products, it is all the more imperative for the banks to take a hard look at their current levels of technology implementation and business-driven future plans.

The Awards from the Institute are meant to act as catalysts by recognising and rewarding the efforts of banks aimed at better use of technology, greater levels of technology absorption and improved levels of customer service and satisfaction.

AND THE WINNERS FOR 2001 ARE:

Excellence in Banking Technology
Best Bank Award
Corporation Bank
Special Award
State Bank of India

INFINET Usage & Applications
Best Bank Award
Indian Overseas Bank
Special Award
Syndicate Bank

There are Four Awards in two categories as follows :

- Excellence in Banking Technology
  - Best Bank Award
  - Special Award
- INFINET Usage and Applications
  - Best Bank Award
  - Special Award

While announcing the awards, Dr. V.P. Gulati, Director, IDRBT, explained in detail the rationale behind the Awards and the rigorous evaluation criteria. He said that the Awards for 2001 were finalized, after a careful scrutiny and evaluation of the inputs on a wide range of parameters, received from all the Public Sector Banks, by a high-level selection committee headed by Shri. N. Vittal, the Central Vigilance Commissioner.

The Awards were given away by Shri. Vepa Kamesam, Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India in the Conference of Chiefs of Public Sector Banks at IDRBT on November 2, 2001.

In future, IDRBT proposes to distribute these Awards during the Institute's Foundation Day Celebrations, in October every year.

Shri K. Cherian Varghese, CMD, Corporation Bank receiving the Best Bank Award for Excellence in Banking Technology from Shri Vepa Kamesam, Deputy Governor, RBI

Inside :

Conference of Chiefs of Public Sector Banks

The Annual Conference of the Chiefs of Public Sector Banks was convened at the Institute on November 2, 2001.

Shri Vepa Kamesam with Dr. V.P. Gulati, Dr. R.B. Barman, Prof D.B. Phatak and Shri Ralph Spring, at the Inaugural Ceremony

Dr. V.P. Gulati, Director, IDRBT, in his welcome address, drew the attention of the audience to the visible changes in the approach of banks in reaching out to the customers through different delivery channels, exploiting technology. The INFINET bears testimony to this, he said, as banks are using it effectively for Inter Branch Reconciliation, Electronic Payment Systems, Cash Management Products, Any Branch Banking and Mail Messaging, etc.

He also announced that the Structured Financial Messaging System (SFMS) would be launched by 15th December, 2002. He requested the banks to get ready for using SFMS by getting the hardware, software and connectivity issues resolved at the earliest at their end. He apprised the august gathering of the various academic and research activities of the Institute and the newly started M.Tech (IT) programme.

Shri. Vepa Kamesam, Deputy Governor, RBI, presided over the conference and called upon the captains of PSBs to pay personal attention to technology implementation and upgradation efforts in their banks. He also exhorted them to take appropriate initiatives to fully exploit the INFINET infrastructure and the technology resources available now. Innovative use of technology to deliver value added services to the customers must be the guiding motto of the banks, he said.

Prof. D.B. Phatak, IIT, Mumbai, delivered a thought provoking talk on Change Management. He dwelt at length on the key issues involved in managing change, with special focus on coping with the ever-changing technology environment and the challenges it poses in the areas of HR policy, IT planning, business strategy and decision making.

This was followed by a presentation on the RBI initiatives, with reference to Technology Upgradation in the Banking Sector (TUBS), by Dr. R.B. Barman, ED, RBI. He dwelt on the need to take a closer look at the strategic issues in Information Systems/IT Policy and to improve the knowledge management systems in banks. He also emphasized the urgent need to set up data warehouses in banks, to enable timely and informed decision-making to squarely meet the challenges posed by the highly competitive market.

There was also a presentation by the team from Price Waterhouse Coopers, on Policy and Implementation Issues for the Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS) and to highlight the level of preparedness and the enabling requirements from the banks' side to participate in the RTGS.

The conference also provided a forum for the Structured Financial Messaging Solution (SFMS) project team to demonstrate the key functionalities of that system to the PSB Chiefs. The Conference ended with a vote of thanks by Shri. Sankara Subramanian, GM, IDRBT.

Shri N. Vittal, Central Vigilance Commissioner

Shri N. Vittal, Central Vigilance Commissioner, visited IDRBT on January 10, 2002. During his brief, two-hour stay in the Institute campus, he took keen interest in acquainting himself with the achievements, activities and initiatives of IDRBT. Soon after his arrival, he had a brief discussion with Dr. V.P. Gulati, Director and then, he was taken around the campus to have a look at the Data Centre, VCC and other facilities.

He had a meeting with the Faculty of IDRBT. Impressed with young faculty group, he exhorted them to work on better ways of using technology not only to deliver faster and better results but also to prevent and detect frauds effectively. He was glad the bankers took the CVC Guidelines on computerization in the right spirit and worked on that and as a result, today, 74% of banking business is computerized.

Inefficiencies and delays being the breeding grounds for corruption, technology would go a long way in containing corruption, he said. Quoting Oscar Wilde, he said, "The thief is an artist and the police is only a critic" and cautioned that an ever-vigilant administration is a *sine qua non* for preventing frauds. Since those within the system commit 75% of the frauds, it is all the more necessary to strengthen the system and to bring about greater transparency in the functioning of the systems, he said.

Shri Vittal appreciated the role played by IDRBT and wished the Director and his team all success in taking Banking Technology to greater levels of maturity and efficiency.

Shri Azim Premji, CEO, Wipro Corporation

Shri Azim Premji, Chief Executive Officer, Wipro Corporation, visited the Institute on October 31, 2001.

Shri Premji had a meeting with Dr. V.P.Gulati, Director, IDRBT, wherein he was briefed about the pioneering role being played by the Institute in the adoption of Information Technology in the Indian Banking and Financial Sector.

He also went around the Institute to have a first hand experience of its various activities. He visited the VSAT Centre, Data Centre, Labs and Classrooms, and was visibly pleased with the excellent facilities.

Shri Premji assured the Director that he and his team would always be available to provide a helping hand to IDRBT in realising its mission.

Shri S. Ramadorai, CEO, TCS & Shri S.S. Ghosh, MD, CMC

S. Ramadorai

S.S. Ghosh

Shri S. Ramadorai, Chief Executive Officer, Tata Consultancy Services, visited IDRBT on Dec. 15, 2001. He was accompanied by Shri S.S. Ghosh, MD of CMC.

They had a meeting with the Director to update themselves with the priorities and activities of the Institute. They also visited various facilities at IDRBT like the VSAT Centre, Data Centre, various labs and classrooms.

Both of them appreciated IDRBT's efforts in aiding Technology absorption and implementation in the Indian Banking and Financial Sector.

their specialisation and expertise.

- formation of special interest groups of Faculty and experts for knowledge sharing, research and development activities.
- identifying STC's of Banks and Financial Institutions for R&D activities on the focussed areas.
- identifying Projects of Banks and Financial Institutions and Registering Project Guides.
- maintaining Database of IT resources for guiding all Banks and Financial Institutions to frame IT Road Map and Implementation Strategies.

❖ Designing Programmes and Courses, Multimedia Content Development, CBT, WBT, Hosting of Web Based Courses and exploration of multi-lingual learning.

❖ Computer Simulated Learning Game Model development for various applications.

❖ Establishing Collaboration with Frontier Foreign Training Colleges and Institutions of Banking and Financial Sector for development of academic programmes and research activities.

Web Based Learning Management System is a backend tool for conducting various academic and training programmes on an Intranet or the Internet. It helps in the development, implementation and management of programmes, courses, users and instructors' resources.

IDRBT has installed WebCT, a Web Based Learning Management System for conducting various academic and training programmes of the Institute and also for other Banking and Financial Institutions. WebCT supports E-mail, Discussion Forums, Chat, Whiteboard, Breakout Rooms, Online Presentation Mediums, Audio, Bookmarks, Animation, Feedback, Online Search, Online Tests and Secure communication.

M.Tech. (IT) Programme

The Institute in collaboration with the University of Hyderabad offers a unique multi-disciplinary trisemester M.Tech in Information Technology (with specialization in Banking Technology & Information Security). The intake for the programme is open for both **Direct** and **Sponsored** candidates. The eligibility criteria is First class B.E./B.Tech/ M.Sc. (Physics/CS/Maths or closely related area) /MCA. For direct candidates, a valid GATE Score is compulsory for admission. Employees with 3 years work experience in **Banks and Financial Institutions** are eligible to apply under the **Sponsored** category.

For details, please check out our advertisement, to be released in March/April or visit our website: www.idrbt.com

IDRBT proposes to start a WEB Based Post Graduate Programme in Banking Technology Management (PGPBTM) shortly. This is a two-year programme, specially designed for employees of Banks and Financial Institutions.

The Programme covers the entire spectrum of Banking Technology, so as to provide adequate exposure to the students in all key areas and concerns in technology management for financial services.

This programme consists of six terms, each of four months duration. There would be four terms of theoretical trimesters and two terms of project work. Each term would have four courses and each course in turn is divided into five modules. Each module contains eight sessions. There will be evaluation tests after each session/ module.

Incentives may be provided to the staff for joining the PGPBTM programme by their respective Banks and Financial Institutions in various forms such as, loans, Internet/INFINET connectivity charges, reimbursement of fee on successful completion of the programme, career advancement with special increments, special weightage for promotion etc.

IDRBT will select some Faculty from Staff Training Colleges of Banks and Financial Institutions to act as the Mentors for Students of the PGPBTM at the respective centres. These Mentors would also act as Guides for the Projects to be undertaken by students as part of their course.

Visit our website www.idrbt.com for further details.

Conference of IT Chiefs of Public Sector Banks

A Conference of IT Chiefs of Public Sector Banks was held at the Institute on Oct. 31 & Nov 1, 2001.

Dr. V.P. Gulati, Director, IDRBT, started off the proceedings with his presentation on Banking Technology, Changing Environment and IDRBT's Initiatives. Focussing on the numerous changes in the Indian Banking Industry, he provided a framework for the IT strategy of the Indian Banking and Financial Sector. He dwelt in detail on the issues that need a greater attention like investing in IT, the IT Architecture, what the target of the banks should be and how it can be achieved.

The IT Chiefs were briefed about the progress of the INdian FInancial NETwork and related issues such as IP Revamp, Leased Line Network Integration, DAMA/PAMA Backhaul, and VoIP.

There was also a detailed discussion on the Structured Financial Messaging Solution and Public Key Infrastructure. Right from the salient features of SFMS and PKI, the IT Heads were briefed about various Security & Operational Issues, and the huge advantages the system would bring in.

The discussions on Corporate E-Mail stressed that the Corporate Mail was the catalyst, which would usher in technology culture in the Banking and Financial Sector. And therefore implementation of Corporate Mail should be accorded high priority.

Shri R. Gandhi, GM, DIT, RBI, made a presentation on RBI's Initiatives on Inter Bank Applications. The focus of the presentation was on Applications such as MICR, ECS, EFT, SFMS, CFMS, CDBMS, PDO-NDS, and RTGS.

The issue of Real Time Gross Settlement was taken up in detail by Shri Ralph Spring, Price Waterhouse Coopers. He focussed on the issues and challenges before Indian Banks in implementing RTGS.

Dr. R.B. Barman, Executive Director, RBI, delivered the valedictory address. In his address, he concentrated on Decision Support System as it critically impinges on the health of the banking system.

Stating that the speed with which technologies can be outdated and competitive advantage can shift are important factors in the dynamics of new markets, he reinforced the need for emphasis on research and development of new products and services.

Predicting that knowledge rather than location will define the corporate landscape of the future, Dr. Barman spelt out the key ingredients of the mantra of success in the era of e-business as follows :

- Security - guaranteed safe transaction and record keeping
- Flexibility - the ability to extend e-business solution to accommodate new products and technologies
- Integration of tools, databases and other software solutions that keep you in touch with your customers, partners and supporters.

The IT Chiefs also participated in the Conference of Chiefs of Public Sector Banks, convened in the Institute on the 2nd November 2001.

Structured Financial Messaging System Becomes A Reality

December 14th, 2001, was a red-letter day for the Indian Banking and Financial Sector. It was on this day that the Structured Financial Messaging System was launched by Dr. R.B. Barman, Executive Director, Reserve Bank of India, at the IDRBT.

Dr. V.P. Gulati lighting the lamp during the lauch of SFMS. Also seen are Dr. R.B.Barman, Shri K.R. Ganapathy and Shri N.G. Subramaniam

During the launch, sample messages were exchanged under secured environment with smart-card based user access between the Hyderabad Branch and the Office of the respective Chairman and Managing Director of the three pilot banks - Punjab National Bank, Canara Bank and Bank of Maharashtra.

On this momentous occasion, Dr. V.P. Gulati, Director, IDRBT, drew attention to the fact that the launch of SFMS was a milestone in providing a secure communication infrastructure for transmission and receipt of inter-bank and intra-bank financial communications. He explained the process behind the evolution of SFMS, which started off with a Working Group under the convenorship of Shri K.R. Ganapathy, the then Adviser, IDRBT.

Delivering the keynote address, Dr. R.B. Barman, Executive Director, RBI, exhorted the Banking fraternity to make full use of the facilities offered by the SFMS. Isolation of each bank's own system from the rest of the country should now become a thing of the past and inter-operability of banks' systems with those of constituents and other partners has to become a reality, he said.

Developments in the advanced countries would require that cross-border transactions be closely aligned to straight-through processing. With indications of this already coming from SWIFT and the emergence of newer products, our banks have to gear themselves to this changing environment," he said. Dr. Barman also emphasised on the Security Infrastructure, especially because SFMS is a network that facilitates movement of funds. Shri. Sankara Subramanian, General Manager, IDRBT, proposed the vote of thanks.

Advantages of SFMS

The major advantage of SFMS is that it can be used practically for all purposes of communication within the bank and between banks. The intra-bank part of SFMS, which is most important, can be straightaway used by the banks to take full advantage of the secure messaging facility it provides. The inter-bank messaging part would be useful for applications like Electronic Funds Transfer(EFT), Real Time Gross Settlements System(RTGS), Delivery Versus Payments(DVP), Centralised Funds Management System(CFMS) etc.

The SFMS provides easy to use Application Program Interfaces(APIs), which can be used to integrate all existing and future applications with the SFMS. The banks can develop comprehensive and efficient tools and applications and integrate them easily with SFMS for use on their corporate intranet.

Contd. on Page No. 5

Dr. R.B. Barman formally launching the Structured Financial Messaging System

IDRBT's E-Learning Initiatives

Electronic Learning or E-Learning refers to learning through electronic processing devices, electronic communication and electronic delivery media. It covers a wide range of distributed knowledge applications and processes, including computer-based learning, web-based learning, virtual classrooms and digital libraries. Web Based Learning is a form of E-Learning, which takes place over a network through the web browser.

Education and training form an integral part of every organization, as they are necessary not just to meet the functional requirements of the organisations' business goals but also for the healthy development of human resources.

Organisations in general and large ones in particular find it difficult to meet the training needs of employees because of several factors like insufficient number of training establishments within the organisation, lack of expert faculty and inadequate knowledge of training needs of employees. Awareness on the utility of computers among employees and the rapid technological developments in communication technologies and infrastructure make it feasible to use e-learning technologies as a strategy not just for education and training but also for collaborative conferencing and planning, corporate communications, communicating strategic initiatives, customer training and management meetings.

E-Learning Technologies in its various forms such as CBT (Computer Based Training), CD, Digital Library, Electronic Documents, Intranet on LAN, MAN, Corporate Network, INFINET and INTERNET can be implemented in Banks and Financial Institutions even if they are not fully networked. Moreover, E-Learning offers maximum flexibility in terms of time, location, independence and self pacing of studies.

IDRBT has already conducted two Training Programmes on E-Learning and Web-Based Training (WBT). Another initiative in the area of E-Learning is the Principals' Conference on Web Based Learning, held in November 2001. This Conference has helped open a wide canvas for IDRBT's Initiatives in E-Learning.

IDRBT is establishing the Centre for E-Learning Technologies and Applications (CELTA) to provide quality Web Based Education to the Banking and Financial Sector. Its main objectives are to:

- provide modern Education Technology Services to the Banking and Financial Sector through:
  - creating awareness of E-Learning Technologies and their Applications (ELTA)
  - empowering Faculty and Trainers with the latest instructional techniques and Information Technology tools
  - creating interest for knowledge enhancement through continuous education, long-term learning programmes and electronic publications
- promote Research, Development and Consultancy activities on ELTA.
- conduct Training and Customised Executive Development Programmes (EDP), Seminars, Workshops and Conferences on ELTA.
- support all Banks and Financial Institutions in:
  - Strategic application of E-Learning Technologies
  - Library Automation, Design and Implementation of Digital Library.
  - Development of Local Area Network (LAN), Intranet and learning resources repository, mainly for Staff Training Colleges/Centres (STC) and Integration with the Digital Library.
  - Networking of STC's of all Banks and Financial Institutions in India with IDRBT to evolve a strong relationship among them for sharing of Information, Knowledge and Technological resources.
  - Knowledge Management System development by:
    - maintaining a Database of Faculty from all Banks and Financial Institutions in India with details of

INdian FInancial NETwork

The guidelines given below have to be strictly and scrupulously adhered to by all users.

IP Addressing

- All IP addresses should be applied for in the specified format, which is available on the website **infinet.org.in** within INFINET.
- All banks putting up Metropolitan Area Networks (MAN) and using or planning to use 10.x.x.x IP addresses of INFINET should get the entire IP address plan approved by IDRBT before implementation. There should be an appropriate strategy for their MAN routing.

Leased Line Network

- All applications for Leased Lines to INFINET from banks, should be applied for in the name of IDRBT. The completed forms should be sent to IDRBT for signatures.
- In general, all connectivity to the Leased Line Network should be established using static routing (no routing protocols).
- At remote INFINET leased line locations (where there is no simultaneous connectivity to the INFINET VSAT network) routers must be necessarily connected by a static route (no dynamic routing protocol is to be ported on the router port connected to the INFINET leased line network).

VSAT Network

- All routers and other routing services (servers and PCs enabled with routing protocols) configured at VSAT nodal branches should run only on RIP V2. In addition, a default route entry should be created pointing to the VSAT IDU's IP address.
- All Data Centres and ATM switch sites (sites which require more than 25 Kbps bandwidth) should be connected on INFINET via a Leased Line or/and PAMA/DAMA backhaul link only.
- TDMA VSATs should not be used as traffic aggregators for a number of banks, especially if bandwidth requirements are substantially high.
- At remote VSAT locations (where there is no simultaneous connectivity to the INFINET leased line network) the router can be connected to the Ethernet port or serial port of the IDU. If serial port of IDU is to be connected, IDRBT must be informed beforehand (at least 48 hours before actual implementation) and proper detailed IP addresses must be worked out and submitted to and approved by IDRBT.
- If router is connected to the serial port of the IDU, then PPP sync encapsulation should be configured on the router port connected to IDU with higher keep alive values.

Leased Line - VSAT Integration and General Network Guidelines

All router configurations must be sent to IDRBT immediately for approval and steps taken to inform IDRBT of entire router and network configuration at least 48 hours before implementation or modification.

- All routers configured at nodal branches should disable Automatic Route Summarisation (ARS). ARS is enabled as a default configuration and hence needs to be explicitly disabled by executing the command 'no auto-summary'.
- Porting of any application on INFINET has to be necessarily preceded by a pilot testing and details of application should be submitted to IDRBT for approval. You may fill in the earlier circulated bandwidth and application profiling form.
- At remote VSAT locations, where connectivity is available to both the INFINET Leased Line Network and INFINET VSAT network, routers must be configured as follows:
  - The serial ports of the router should be connected to the VSAT IDU and the Leased Line Modems respectively.
  - The serial port of the router connected to VSAT should be defined as backup to the serial port connected to the Leased Line.
  - RIP V2 should be enabled on the router.
  - The serial port connected to the Leased Line shall be configured as passive to block any RIP updates to the Leased Line network.
  - Since router is connected to the serial port of the IDU, PPP sync encapsulation should be configured on router port connected to the IDU with higher keep alive values.
  - In the router, the primary default should be defined as the Leased Line Link and the secondary default as the VSAT link.
  - The router should be configured with a static route 10.0.0.0/8 pointing towards the Leased Line port.

IDRBT proposes to monitor all routers connected by banks at VSAT locations and at the Leased Line Nodal Branches for better manageability and control of the network.

If the banks do not comply with these, IDRBT would not be responsible for any network disruption and IDRBT may suo motto close network operations of sites where there are problematic router configurations, which are affecting the overall network performance and uptime.

Advantages of SFMS

Banks can link all their important, high volume branches, irrespective of their category, to the SFMS through appropriate connectivity like PSTN/ISDN or Leased Lines. Use of SFMS is not restricted to computerised or partially computerised branches or offices.

Key Features

- A modularized Web-enabled software enabling financial messaging within and between the participating banks.
- Template Builder to support flexible definition of messages similar to SWIFT, like user-to-user and systems messages.
- Flexible architecture that facilitates centralized or distributed deployment.
- Directory services for maintenance of IFSC directory, network configuration.
- Secured messaging and routing based on store and forward principles governed by push technology.
- Messages can be clubbed and exchanged as a batch of files.
- Smart card based user access.
- Messages will be secured via standard encryption and authentication services conforming to ISO/SWIFT standards.
- Complete auditing, logging, time-stamping and warehousing of messages.
- Periodic computation of charges and billing of the services offered to the participating banks.
- Multi-tiered solution covering INFINET HUB, Bank Gateways and Bank sites
- A modularized Web-enabled software to facilitate the participating banks to send and receive financial and non-financial messages through Bank Gateways and INFINET HUB
- Deployment of COMS-Enabler®, object oriented, event-driven asynchronous parallel processing communications software for the implementation on INFINET

Benefits

Following benefits will be realized with implementation of SFMS

- Well partitioned and layered architecture facilitating pipelining, parallelism and event - driven messaging
- Open solution based on SWIFT like messaging, transport control for communication, ISO standards on security and privacy, ISO data dictionary and IFSC code for participant identification.
- Highly secure solution supporting digital signatures, message and network level encryption, Registration/ Certification services.
- An interoperable solution that facilitates n-tier deployment and API's for connecting to bank applications.
- Object oriented and component based solution that facilitates maintainability.

Latest on SFMS

The pilot test has been successfully completed with the three pilot banks and Certification Authority services created for integrating PKI with SFMS for Smart Card based user access. All the gateway servers of pilot banks have been shifted to the respective banks.

The process of making the product available on the other platforms and with certain additional features is in progress. While the three pilot banks are going ahead with the implementation of SFMS, the roll out of SFMS to other Public Sector banks, SBI and its Associates is expected to start shortly.

Banks have already been advised to be ready with the necessary hardware, software and networking infrastructure in this regard. All the banks are expected to immediately start implementing the SFMS for their intra and inter-bank transactions by integrating their own applications with the SFMS.

The SFMS is available on SUN Solaris at the SFMS Bank Gateway Server and on Windows 2000 at the SFMS Branch Server. For other platforms and also with certain additional features, the Road Map for SFMS implementation would be as under :

- SFMS 2.0 (IBM AIX at SFMS Gateway and also additional features such as off-line message creation etc) - 31st March 2002.
- SFMS 2.1 (HP UX at SFMS Gateway IBM S/390 porting for RBI's SFMS Gateway, PDO CCIL integration, File Transfer facility) - 30th April 2002
- SFMS 3.0 (SQL Server Support at SFMS Branch Server, Hindi language support, Alternate SFMS Gateway implementation and Web Safe implementation) - 30th September 2002
- SFMS 4.0 (RTGS and XML support) - after 30th September 2002

Networking Technologies

This six-day programme on Networking Technologies was conducted at the Institute from October 15-20, 2001.

A range of topics including LAN, WAN, TCP/IP, Network Security, IP Addressing, ISDN, and OSPF were discussed threadbare. Participants were also provided hands-on exercises on these topics.

Managers and executives responsible for Network Management, from various Public Sector Banks participated. The programme was co-ordinated by Shri Varghese Jacob, Faculty, IDRBT.

Principals' Conference on Web Based Learning

The Principals' Conference held on Nov 12 & 13, 2001 at the Institute was of special significance because IDRBT will shortly be launching its Web-based Post Graduate Programme in Banking Technology Management (PGPBTM).

Right from the basics of Web-based Learning, WBL Technologies and Standards, WBL Courseware Design, Project Planning, Content Creation and Development to Virtual Classrooms and Case Studies, the programme provided a forum to thrash out a host of issues and helped lay the basic framework for WBL.

Dr. V.N. Sastry and Shri M.V. Sivakumaran, Faculty, IDRBT, co-ordinated the programme.

Information System Audit

This programme, held at the Institute from Nov. 05-07, 2001, aimed at familiarising the participants with various aspects of Information System Audit such as Application Controls Review, General Control Review, Business Continuity Plan, DRP, CAATS, and COBIT.

This Programme was the first-of-its-kind conducted by the Institute. Executives from RBI, PNB, SBBJ, Indian Bank and Bank of Rajasthan associated with safeguarding the IT Resources both at the administrative and operational level participated.

Shri D.P. Dube, Project Consultant, IDRBT, co-ordinated the programme.

Payment Systems and Security Technologies

This six-day programme was conducted at the Institute from Nov 19-24, 2001. It introduced a process-oriented approach, which helps in verification and authorization of on-line transactions.

Issues related to Security in Electronic Payment Systems, Risk associated with Payment Systems and their management, Legal and Statutory framework to define rights and liabilities of the parties involved and Cryptography Systems were dealt with in detail.

Dr. Ashutosh Saxena, Faculty, IDRBT, co-ordinated this programme.

Intranet & Corporate E-mail

This programme aimed at suggesting the ways and means for effective implementation of Corporate E-mail and Intranet from a Bank Specific point of view.

The major issues discussed included Internet & Intranet Technologies, How E-Mail Works, Designing Intranet, Mail Management, Intranet Security, Installation & Configuration of Exchange & IIS Servers etc.

The programme, conducted from Nov 26 - Dec 01 2001, was co-ordinated by Shri M. Varadaraja Iyer and Shri D.P., Dube, Project Consultants, IDRBT.

Applications on INFINET for SBI

An exclusive six-day programme on Applications on Indian Financial Network was conducted for the State Bank of India from Jan. 03 - 09, 2002.

Structured Financial Messaging Solution, Messaging Standards and Formats, VSAT Network, Mail Messaging, RBI Applications, Security and Certification and Data Mining and Data Warehousing were some of the major topics covered. Participants were also provided hands-on exercises on these topics.

The programme was co-ordinated by Dr. N.P. Dhavale, Faculty and Shri A.P. Raja, Project Consultant, IDRBT.

SFMS for Pilot Banks

A six-day exclusive programme on Structured Financial Messaging Solution was conducted exclusively for the Pilot Banks - Bank of Maharashtra, Canara Bank and Punjab National Bank from Dec. 10-15, 2001.

The programme was the first-of-its kind and the focus was on providing hands-on experience so that the participants can implement the system smoothly in their banks.

Right from System Overview, Bank Transactions using SFMS, Message Creation and Processing to Gateway Functionality, the participants were provided detailed inputs on the complete functionalities of SFMS.

Dr. N.P. Dhavale, Faculty, IDRBT, co-ordinated the programme.

Programme for Bank of Maharashtra

This Customised Executive Development Programme held exclusively for Bank of Maharashtra from Jan. 15-20, 2002, had 28 participants.

The programme aimed at disseminating knowledge on Internet Banking, Mail Messaging, Networking Technology, Electronic Funds Transfer, ATM Networking and Change Management etc. It provided theoretical inputs as well as hands-on experience to the participants.

Shri V.Visweswar, Faculty, IDRBT, co-ordinated this programme.