

From our Chief Executive



Lt. General Arjun Ray, PVSM, VSM (Retd.)

**Dear Friends,**

One of the most misunderstood phrases in education is ‘international education.’ International schools and international education mean different things to different people. International education in India has spawned stereotypes. Let me just begin by saying what is not international:

- a. Teaching students from different nationalities.
- b. Organizing student-exchange programmes.
- c. Studying the history, geography and culture of other countries.
- d. Having a fair number of expatriate teachers on the faculty.
- e. Embedding state-of-art systems, processes and best practices.

They do help though.

At Indus, we espouse only full-spectrum IB schools. At the very heart of the IBO vision and the epicenter of the Indus idea of leadership, there lies a deep understanding of what is international education and how international schools and international education should be governed – the ‘I’ in the IBO.

International education aims at giving us a cultural understanding of critical issues, like who am I and how I relate to people around me. However, cultural understanding does not imply only approval or cultural tolerance. In order to celebrate diversity and nurture multiculturalism, international education has to be rooted in indigenous culture. While animal minds are the outcome of biology, human minds are the products of social environment which conditions the human mind and gives meaning to life. Culture shapes the mind and determines our attitudes and thinking. Being a good citizen also entails knowledge of other cultures, faiths and traditions. However, one must begin with one's own; that is the only way to have a balanced world view.

At Indus, we lay a lot of emphasis on the ideological dimensions of international education – the learning of universal values; world citizenship founded on active citizenship and community service, understanding of one's culture, and examining other ideas, different ideas that challenge our beliefs; and scientific humanism.

Scientific humanism is a definite goal of international education. It facilitates international-mindedness by:

- Enabling the burden of learning, as also the joy of discovery, shift from the teacher to the student.
- Developing in children a scientific temperament which is universal and cuts across all cultures and time barriers.
- Humanness and Peace

We have to prepare our children to face this new world by nurturing them as good citizens, who are loyal to human beings first, and then their country, and religion, in that order. Our children must grow up to be world citizens with the ability to live together with others.

Then and then only will the 'I' in IBO stand up for international education.

With Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arjun Ray". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Lieutenant General Arjun Ray, PVSM, VSM (Retd.)  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Indus Trust.