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**Embassy of India**
**Belgrade**

**Press Release**

  **Celebration of ITEC Day**

            Ambassador of India hosted the Indian Technical & Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Day Reception in Belgrade on March 15, 2016 to honour the Serbian ITEC Alumni. H.E. Ms. Roksanda Nincic, State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia along with Mr. Alkesandar Jankovic, Head of the Department for Asia, Australia and Pacific, Ministry of Foreign Affairs represented the Government of the Republic of Serbia on the occasion. Large number of ITEC Alumni attended the Reception.

Under the ITEC Programme, nationals of friendly countries are imparted training in various Technical and Vocational fields in India, on fully-funded basis. Government of India bears the expenditure towards air fare, internal travel, accommodation, medical expenditure and the cost of the training/course fee including study tours/seminars which are part of the Training Programme. Scholars are also paid living allowances and book allowances. Gratis Visa is issued to the applicants.

 ITEC Programme was extended to Serbia in 2008 and so far more than 130 scholars from Serbia have been imparted training under the Programme. The training programmes are demand-driven and subjects selected are of interest to receiving countries for their working professionals on a wide and diverse range of skills and disciplines, including in IT, ICT, Expenditure Management, Entrepreneurship, WTO, Banking & Finance, Renewable Energy, Climate Change, Legislative Drafting, English proficiency, etc. ITEC Training empowers the scholars with not just professional skills, but also helps in preparing them for an increasingly globalized world. Government of India has spent billions of dollars on this programme since its inception in 1964.

         The philosophy of ITEC is equal partnership and sharing of development models. The Serbian institutions have shown a great interest and enthusiasm towards ITEC training courses and the feedback received from the trainees is encouraging.

 Embassy of India, Belgrade has created an ITEC Alumni network at <https://rs.linkedin.com/in/itec-serbia-616231ab>.

**Place: Belgrade**

**Date: 15 March, 2016**

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