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## IIM-C grad chosen 'Global Shaper' for work with students

Jhimli Mukherjee Pandey, TNN | May 26, 2015, 12.18AM IST

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KOLKATA: His dream is to work with the displaced and disadvantaged population of the country to make his management degree "more meaningful". So, despite the cushy banker's job that he has landed in Austria, Akilnathan Logeshwaran, an **IIM Calcutta** alumnus who graduated last year, continues to work with young German students with migratory backgrounds to help them with their careers. And this has caught the attention of none less than the Geneva-based **World Economic Forum** (WEF) that has chosen him as its Global Shaper to represent Kolkata.

Akil dreams of starting the first WEF hub at IIM-C and help bring underprivileged-yet-brilliant students within its net so that they are able to realize their dreams through education abroad and then follow up with career support. He currently works with the UniCredit Bank of Austria, and has already been able to initiate several socially relevant projects in his organization too.

The WEF looks out for exceptional graduates with backgrounds in economics and finance in leading global institutions and appoints them as Global Shapers, empowering them to identify areas within their community that need immediate attention. As a Global Shaper, Akil will be expected to create opportunities for the disadvantaged and also platforms that can act as interfaces or windows for them. He will also be expected to help organize international seminars and symposia in Kolkata focused on unique problems ranging from socio-economic and environmental issues to gender specific and health problems, and bring global experts to converge here for dialogues, which can graduate into special fully-funded projects aimed at improving the city.

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A WEF release said it would expect Akil to regularly engage with the city's "political, business, academic and other leaders of society in collaborative efforts to shape global, regional and industry agendas. Together with other stakeholders, Akil will be expected to serve and build sustained communities through an integrated concept of high-level meetings, research networks, task forces and digital collaboration".

Only recently, IIM-C entered into a partnership with CEMS, which is a conglomerate of 28 top global business schools, and has re-designed its flagship course to include teaching-learning time in CEMS campuses abroad. Interestingly, Akil, who was one of the best students of his batch, had enrolled in and graduated from the IIMC-CEMS programme before getting placed in the investment bank in Austria. "It is payback time for me and I will soon visit my alma mater IIM-C so that a WEF hub can start there," Akil said from Austria.

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IIM-C director Saibal Chattopadhyay, who is headed for a CEMS meeting abroad later this week, sounded ecstatic. "It is not only MBAs that we strive to create today. We aim at producing entrepreneurs and global leaders who will make use of their degree to make the world a better place to live in. I am happy that in Akil we have been able to produce such an example and he is welcome to start the WEF hub in IIM-C," Chattopadhyay added.

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