



## Alumnus in Focus: January 2016



**Hari Tripathy**  
(PGDM Batch 2001-2003)

**Current affiliation: Director, HCL Technologies**

**Alcom: Tell us about your life at IFMR.-Experiences & memories.**

*Hari: I keep telling this to guys who come to me seeking career advice. Graduation and Post-graduation adds an additional value to your personality if it is residential. Early twenties is when your personality is being shaped and staying with students from various cultures and backgrounds really makes you versatile. I studied at IFMR, while the campus was at Nungambakkam; the compact and full of life campus is something which has tons of memories, I will perhaps write a book on it someday. Professors were awesome, some of them are still teaching at IFMR while some of them have moved on to other campuses. I particularly value the sessions by Late Professor and the then IFMR Director Dr. Ramachander a lot.*

**Alcom: What other opportunities did IFMR provide you besides education (in terms of extracurricular activities, personality development)?**

*Hari: It pretty much was an environment to nurture our talents in whatever we wanted to do. While the academics always kept us on our toes, there was much more to life at IFMR. Yoga, Team building exercises, 24 hours computer lab, an awesome library – they all added to making better professionals out of ourselves.*

**Alcom: Tell us know about your most memorable event at IFMR.**

*Hari: I am an engineer and I don't understand accounts (the debit and credit thing), I still depend on my staff for it to a large extent. I was caught copying from a buddy in an accounts exam and was made to write the exam again. The sweet, charming good boy image saved me.*

**Alcom: Who was/were your favorite professor(s)? Why?**

*Hari: Late Professor, Dr. Ramachander was a great orator and used to explain the concepts very well. He used to sing very well too. Among the professors who are still teaching at IFMR, Professor Raghu (OB), is awesome. I met him sometime back and he has not changed a bit – as if time has frozen! I can confidently recommend him to be the brand ambassador of an age defying cream ad!*

**Alcom: What are the work life challenges you face today and how do you manage them?**

*Hari: My responsibilities at HCL as the Director of SAP Practice keeps me busy and with this, work – life challenges come for free. I have a simple principle at work – among hundreds of transactions daily, I worry about only one issue in a day and fix it. That makes sure that I fix 365 issues a year, rather than working on a thousand things and fixing nothing. My wife, Sonal Dhawan Tripathy is my junior from IFMR and has been an awesome support. She works for (Daimler) Mercedes-Benz as a Solution Architect, understands my professional challenges and that makes life a smooth sail.*

**Alcom: How did IFMR help you cope with the challenges at work/ key learnings at IFMR?**

*Hari: I attribute my success to my wife, parents, mentors and IFMR. IFMR made me a better boy then and a better man now– professionally, holistically and personally.*

**Alcom: Any message or suggestion/tips for the budding managers at IFMR?**

*Hari: Do what you want to do, don't get bogged down by pressure, respect everyone around you, give back to the society and always remember – parents and teachers are next to gods. IFMR's PGDM program is far better ranked and placed now, than what it was when I studied. Now the industry compares you with graduates from the top 5 and you need to ensure that you proudly associate yourself with your campus. I've always said this, each alumnus from the campus owes something back and has to return the favor. I ensure that I hire a few IFMR grads every year and I'd urge the alumni to do so wherever they can.*

**Alcom: Your future plans.**

*Hari: I don't believe in jumping companies to make money, so I believe I will stay in HCL and grow here. HCL is an awesome company to work for, perhaps better than what the world thinks it is. This is a company that allows you to do what you want to do and be an entrepreneur while you are employed. We have a whole bunch of IFMR graduates working in HCL now and we kind of have an IFMR alumni here & I'd want to take the IFMR alumni to greater heights.*