

8. INFORMATICS

Complied by : Mansi Nalawade*, Tanmayee Lalit**

1. News

1.1 National Level Seminar on Quality Enhancement in Higher Education and Research

A one day NAAC Sponsored National Level Seminar on enhancement in Higher Education and Research was held at Gobi Arts & Science College Gobichettipalayam recently in October 2010. Academicians, Researcher, Administrators attended Seminar to share their knowledge and experience in improving the quality in higher education in India.

Major Sub themes were:

1. Dimensions of higher education and Research
2. Methodologies, Identification, and Measures for Quality Improvement
3. Role of Teachers and Students in quality enhancement in Higher Education and Research

Following are some important recommendations made:-

1. The need to build a systematic procedure for identifying the problems in higher education and research,
2. The need to develop systematic methodologies, identification and measurement for quality improvement,
3. Developing the methods for self appraisal of faculty, internal and external educational audits.

1.2 International Conference on "Higher Education for Knowledge Based Society: Global Reforms"

The Faculty of Education and Psychology of The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara has organised an "International Conference on Higher Education for Knowledge Based Society: Global Reforms" on 20th & 21st December 2010 on the occasion of its Platinum Jubilee Celebrations. Today as the world becomes highly interdependent, inter connected and globalized there is a critical need of higher education.

Objectives of the The Seminar

- To conceive the broad vision of world realities in Higher Education.
- To understand the governance of higher education.
- To discern the quality assurance parameters in higher education.
- To identify the trends and reforms in financial sustainability in higher education.
- To address the issues and challenges in the context of global higher education.

1.3 National Level Seminar on Quality Enhancement in Higher Education and Research

A national Seminar on Quality enhancement in Higher Education and Research sponsored by UGC was organized recently in October 2010 by the Department of Education, S. N. Sen B. V. P. G. College, Kanpur.

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Recommendations made. :

1. Higher Education: Vision of New World Realities in Pursuit of Knowledge.
2. Academic Autonomy and Political Authority in Governance of Higher Education
3. Quality Assurance Practices in Higher Education.
4. Global Higher Education: Issues and Challenges

1.4 Seminar Cum Workshop on National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education

A two days UGC Sponsored Seminar cum Workshop on National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education was organized by Department of Education, Jamshedpur Women's College, A Constituent Autonomous College Kolhan University, Jharkhand.

Aspects Covered:

1. Context, Concerns and Vision of Teacher Education.
2. Curricular Areas of Initial Teacher Education and Transaction Strategies of Each Area.
3. Sample redesigned Schemes of Current Teacher Education Programmes
4. Evaluating the developing Teacher

1.5 East Zone Vice Chancellor's Conference 2010

East Zone Vice Chancellor's Conference of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) was organized at Mahatma Gandhi Kashi Vidyapeeth, Varanasi, during July 23 & 24, 2010. The conference focused on the Theme 'Higher Education: New Challenges and Emerging Roles' the importance Bill of NCHER was given much imoratnce. In the discussion, Powers and Functions of NCHER were discussed with following points:

1. Collegium of Scholars
2. Appointment of Vice Chancellor
3. Establishment of University and Autonomy
4. Curricular Issues

5. Industry Academia Interface

The details are published in the Aug 30 to Sep 05 2010 issue of University News.

1.6 UGC, HRD Ministry to conduct All-India study on higher education

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has started collating data on higher education which will help in framing academic policies for the future. Simultaneously, the Union Human Resource Ministry has also constituted a task force to conduct an all India survey on higher education. It will submit its report to the Ministry in two months.

UGC has sought details from all universities and colleges in the country asking for details of the examination results in recent years, number of foreign students enrolled in their institutions and figures relating to the doctorate degrees and MPhil degrees awarded to research scholars during 2008-09 in different subjects of study. The apex body has issued a proforma to all universities and colleges. In the meantime, the UGC is also updating its directory of professors.

The HRD Ministry's task force would look at key academic data which will help in planning for growth and development, and to achieve the target of 30% Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in the eligible age group.

The mandate for the task force includes exploring the mechanism of conducting an all-India survey on higher education, identifying the implementation agency to conduct the survey, preparing the modalities to conduct the survey and subsequently monitoring its implementation. After compiling the data and analysing it, the task force would give its recommendations to the ministry.

"The task force shall submit its preliminary recommendations to the ministry to operationalise the survey within two months," as notified by the HRD Ministry.

2. Views

2.1 Shortage of Teachers could hamper universal education goal

Views expressed by Prime Minister of India for Higher Education on the Occasion of Teachers Day

New Delhi: As India celebrates another Teacher's Day on Sunday, it comes as a reminder of a major challenge that lies ahead - a massive crunch of teachers, at both the school and university levels that could hamper the goal of education for all. Availability of teachers in fact remains the biggest challenge for institutions as well as the government, which has put in place educational reforms - at the primary level with the Right to Education (RTE) act, and in higher education, with a slew of reforms.

2.2 Invention of New Education System is Need of Hour

Views expressed by Dr. Ram Takawale at Confernce organized by UGC & AIU in Pune.

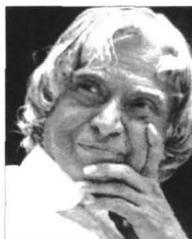
According to him the challenges we are going to face in this decade are very much different than the challenges we had in the past. To face and overcome these challenges we need New Education System. Media and Technology is impacting social life and needs in India. These aspects should be considered while designing New Education System. Globalization is forcing many changes which are also affecting education. These all forces should be considered while planning new system.

2.3 Our Universities Hold Great Potential for Preparing India's Next Generation

Views expressed by A P J Abdul Kalam at Convocation of Mangalayatan University

The 2nd Convocation of Mangalayatan University was conducted in grand fashion on the 2nd of November, 2010 Our universities hold

great potential for preparing India's next generation to face the upcoming challenges. They are the powerhouses of knowledge," Dr. Kalam, Former President of India and a Bharat Ratna awardee, said while addressing students at the Mangalayatan University here.



"The universities not only need to focus on employment generation, but should also make students excel in knowledge and performance" he added, "I am sure the graduates will pursue high quality research and help make India technologically self-reliant"

2.4 Foreign Universities Campuses in India: The talk of the Town:

On March 15 2010 Cabinet approved the Foreign Education Information Bill (Regulating Entry and Operations) . Major provisions in this bill seeks to allow a Foreign Education Provider, with a 20 year experience in providing educational services in any country and which can maintain corpus fund of Rs. 50 crores. to set up off shore campus in India.

Some Assumptions about this bill are:

1. In the long run, the best Indian institutes like IITs, IIMs, NITs, and foreign Universities may collaborate and compete in providing quality education.
2. Higher demand for quality academicians will only attract more aspirants towards these opportunities and is bound to bring in qualitative changes in the educational system in India.

Some Apprehensions Posed by the Indian Stake Holders are:

1. Though foreign universities will have good infrastructure and new technology for innovative teaching but it is uncertain whether

- they will import their best faculty.
2. If the Foreign Universities won't conduct research their utility is limited.
 3. There is no certainty that foreign universities

will not dilute quality of teaching on the pretext that Indian background is poor.

3. Conferences

3.1 One Day Seminar on "Technical University Maharashtra: Quo-Vadis" held on October 26, 2010. at A. G. Patil Inst. of Technology, Solapur.

Introduction

The Seminar was inaugurated by Hon. Dr. Bandgar, V.C. Solapur university, Solapur, who gave an excellent speech and expressed that government should provide an excellent infrastructure and the desired academic environment to the upcoming Technical University.

The seminar was co-hosted by A. G. Patil Institute of Technology, Solapur and Institution of Engineers (Solapur Local Chapter) and was held in the well equipped auditorium. About 150 participants came from different engineering colleges and the speakers also were from different background and presented the audience with rich and varied experiences, and views. It gave a good insight and understanding of the many perspectives that can and should be taken into account when planning a Technical University.

Publication of the Special Issue of the Journal of Engineering Education

A special feature of this Conference was the publication of the XI Special Issue of the Journal of Engineering Education. The topic of the special issue was "Technical University" which is a burning topic in Maharashtra, as the Honourable Minister - Rajesh Tope had just declared that such a University is to be established in Maharashtra, shortly. This special issue was also the 92nd & 93rd quarterly issue on the Journal.

A message for the Conference from Prof. N.V. Ratnalikar the Editor of Journal, who was then at Swansea, (U.K.), was presented to the delegates of the conference through Video Conferencing. This was for the first time that this e-media was used in Solapur.

1. The Inaugural Session.

In the Inaugural Sessions, eminent personalities like the Hon. Vice Chancellor Dr. Bandgar, Dr. Sir. M.S. Gosavi, Secretary Gokhale Education Society, Nashik. Dr. Ajit Thete, Joint director, Technical Education, Aurangabad Region, delivered speeches.

2. Open House Session.

Dr. Halkude, Director, Walchand Institute of Technology, Solapur and Dr. G. K. Deshmukh of MS BTE, Prof. B.M. Naik, Dr. M.S. Gosavi, Shri Tulsi Tawari and Principal Dr. S.P. Kallurkar were the Panelists. The Session was very interactive and the delegates evinced great interest in the topic of Technical University.

Conclusion.

The day long deliberations of the Seminar, could be summed up, in the following words:-

1. The presentations generated a lot of discussion, particularly around the area of quality educational process in the proposed Technical University..
2. Special attention could be given on research in engineering colleges, which is totally absent today
3. The seminar was structured in a way that helped participants to examine all the issues connected with the Technical University in the day long deliberations of the Seminar.

3.2 40th ISTE National Annual Convetion 2010 held at MEPCO Schlenk Engineering College, Sivakasi, During 2- 4 December, 2010.

Inaugural Function

The 40th ISTE National Annual Convention 2010 was organized during December 2-4, 2010 at Mepco Schlenk Engineering College, Sivakasi, Tamilnadu on the theme "Foreign Universities in India: Challenges and Opportunities". The Inaugural Function was held on December 2nd, 2010 at 5 pm in the Mepco Schlenk Engineering College.

Prof.N.R.Shetty, President, ISTE presided over the function and delivered the Presidential address on "Impact on the quality of Engineering Education due to the advent of Foreign Universities". In his speech, he touched upon the challenges and opportunities, educational collaboration in the global context, skills development and training, Quality assurance and accreditation in the changed scenario. The Convention was Inaugurated by Prof. M. Anandakrishnan, Chairman, Board of Governors, IIT, Kanpur, the Chief Guest of the day. He delivered his inaugural address on "Globalization of Technical Education" in which he elaborately enlightened the delegates on the areas of Education export models, Twinning programs, talent flow, adoption of foreign models with regard to the entry of foreign Universities in India.

The ISTE Honorary Fellowships were awarded to six eminent people of technical education namely Prof.D.Balkrishnan(posthumous), Prof.M.L.Mathur, Prof.S.Natarajan, Prof.P.J.George, Prof.A.S.Ghatol and Prof. Vir Singh. The fellows were presented by Prof.Basil Gnanappa. Various ISTE prestigious awards were also presented to the winners during the inaugural function by the Chief guest Prof. Anandakrishnan. The awardees were presented by Prof.Ranjit Singh, Executive Secretary, ISTE. The present & past chairpersons / secretaries of the ISTE Staff chapter as well as present and past faculty advisors of ISTE students chapter of the host institution were honored with mementos by the Chief Guest. Dr.G.Balamurugan, Organizing Secretary, for the convention proposed the vote of thanks.

Key Note Address

There was a keynote address on December 2nd, 2010 by Prof. Deepak. B.Phatak,Subrao Nilekani Chair Professor, Department of CSE, IIT Bombay, Mumbai on "**Building India Where Dreams Come True - Journey to an Exciting Academic Career**".

The 29th Karnataka Convention Commemorative Lecture 2010 was given by Prof.Latha Pillai, ProVice Chancellor, IGNOU, on December 4th, 2010 on the topic "**Skill Development in India - Way Ahead**".

Invited Lectures

There were six invited lectures spread over the 3 days of the convention.

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| 1. 2 nd Dec. 2010 | Prof. R Natarajan,
Former Chairman, AICTE. | Analysis of Issues relating to entry of Foreign Institutions in India. |
| 2. 2 nd Dec. 2010 | Prof. Kannan Moudgalya,
IIT Mumbai. | Spoken tutorial. |
| 3. 3 rd Dec. 2010 | Prof. S. Natarajan,
Director (Retd.),
Govt. Data Centre, Chennai, | The Learning Student: A core participant in the emerging hub of our Technical Education. |
| 4. 3 rd Dec., 2010, | Prof. M. U. Deshpande,
Former Director VNIT, Nagpur, | E-Learning Secnario for Technical Education. |
| 5. 3 rd Dec., 2010, | Prof. Rajneesh Arora,
Vice-Chancellor,
Punjab Technical University,
Jalandhar, | Foreign Universities in India. |
| 6. 4 th Dec., 2010 | Prof. N. V. Ratnalikar,
President,
Engineering Education Foundation,
Pune, | Foreign Universities in India -
- A Challenge. |

Vice Chancellors Panel Discussion

During the 40th ISTE National Annual Convention at Mepco Schlenk Engineering College Campus, Sivakasi, as a special program, a Panel Discussion on the theme of "Foreign Universities in India: Challenges and Opportunities" has been arranged with Vice Chancellors of Technical Universities in India on 3rd December 2010. Prof.R.Murugesan, VC, Anna University of Technology (AUT), Madurai had been the Convener, with Prof.M.S.Palanichamy, Vice Chairman, Tamil Nadu State Council for Technical Education (TNSCTE), Prof.H.Maheshappa, VC, Vishweshwaraiya Technical University, Bangalore, Prof.Rajneesh Arora, VC, Punjab Technical University, Prof.K.Karunakaran, VC, AUT, Coimbatore, Prof.N.Ramachandran, VC, Periyar Maniammai University, Vallam, Prof.S.Gowri, Registrar, AUT, Chennai and Prof.T. Kishen Kumar Reddy, Director, Academic Audit Cell, Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad, as panel members.

Technical Sessions

The paper presentation was held in totally 8 parallel sessions on all the three days of the convention. There were about 80 papers for presentation on the various sub themes of the main theme: "Foreign Universities in India: Challenges and Opportunities". The papers had been contributed by professors of different parts of the country and there were very meaningful discussions in the sessions. 56 Authors delt with Challenges, where as 26 months opportunities offered by the entry of Foreign Universities in India.



40th ISTE National Annual Convention 2010
Inaugural Function - Dignitaries on the dais



Prof. N. V. Ratnalikar President, Engineering Education Foundation, Pune. Delivering his Invited Lecture in the 40th ISTE National Annual Convention on 4th December 2010.

3.3 14th State Level ISTE Convention Maharashtra & Goa to be held during January 17- 18, 2011. at Mahatma Gandhi Mission's Jawaharlal Nehru Engineering College, N-6, CIDCO, Aurangabad.

Thrust areas of the Conference

- Experiences in autonomy in India and abroad
- Setting up responsible Board of Governors
- E-governance
- Public private partnership
- Industry Institute Participation
- Research, Innovation, Patenting & IPR
- Entrepreneurship, Hi Tech Start Ups
- Making institutes world class
- Technical University
- Faculty Development in India and abroad
- Networking of Institutions and R & D Labs in India and abroad
- Balanced output of Diploma, UG, PG, and PhD.
- Quality assurance
- Public and private financing
- Does the leader matter, how?
- Characteristics of a good academic and

Submission Procedure for Papers

Authors are invited to submit their paper (strictly in MS word/PDF) in IEEE format. All paper submissions will be handled electronically and would be reviewed by eminent reviewers. Please submit your paper to the following e-mail address:

istejnec2010@gmail.com

For details visit: www.istejnec.ac.in

Important Dates

Paper Submission : December 31st, 2010

Acceptance Notification : January 04, 2011

Conference Date : January 17 & 18, 2011

