

SIKKIM UNIVERSITY
9th Six Monthly Report
(Oct 15, 2016 to Apr 15, 2017)

New Academic Programme:

The University Grants Commission sanctioned four adhoc posts of Assistant Professor and four technical posts for our M.Ed. programme and the National Council of Teacher Education has accorded its approval to our proposal to start 2-yr M.Ed. programme from 2018-19. The Department of Education will run both MA in Education (which is a general degree) for the sake of the students from government colleges and M.Ed. (which is a professional degree) from the next year.

Distinguished Lectures:

On 21st October the 1st Distinguished ASEAN Lecture was organized by the Department of International Relations and the speaker was Dr. Munmun Majumdar of the Department of Political Science, North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong. She spoke on “Indo-Myanmar Relations”.

Review/Revision of Syllabus:

A massive exercise was undertaken during the Even Semester 2017 to review/revise the UG, PG and MPhil/PhD coursework syllabi of 28 UG and 32 PG subjects. First, draft guidelines for review/revision of syllabi were drafted and circulated among all the HoDs, Deans and Principals of affiliated colleges. After receiving their feedback consultative meetings were held with them following which the guidelines were finalized and circulated for uniform compliance. A Syllabus Review Committee (SRC) with at least two experts from outside Sikkim was constituted for each subject. The recommendations of SRCs were taken to the Boards of Studies for each subject, which were then placed in the School Boards. The School Board recommendations will be placed in the forthcoming meeting of Academic Council scheduled on 31st May 2017 for consideration of approval.

While minor revisions of syllabi were taken up periodically, such major exercise was last taken up during the Odd Semester 2013 (PG + MPhil/PhD syllabi) and Even Semester 2014 (UG syllabi). The exercise becomes really challenging for us due to huge logistic problems and lack of proper infrastructure.

MA in Tourism to MTTM:

The University has changed the MA programme in Tourism (which is a general course) to MTTM (Master of Tourism and Travel Management, which is a professional course) from 2017-18. Accordingly the syllabus has been revised and a computer lab with necessary software is under process of establishment. With this change, the fees of the students will be at par with the fees of other professional courses.

Expansion of Academic Programmes:

The University Authorities have approved the proposal of the Department of Political Science to start a Certificate Course on Human Rights and proposal of the departments of Law and Commerce to start a study centre of the Indian Council of Company Secretaries from 2017-18.

On 26th October 2016 a Bioinformatics Centre funded by the Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India was established along with a virtual lab established in collaboration with Tokyo University, Japan. During this period the faculty members and staff of the Centre for Endangered Languages, funded by the UGC, were recruited and the Centre started functioning in full-fledged manner according to the guidance provided by the members of the Advisory Committee consisting of renowned linguists like Prof. Anvita Abbi, Prof. K.V. Subbarao and Prof. Tanmoy Bhattacharya. During this period the Govt. of Sikkim sponsored two projects for undertaking studies on suicide and road conditions of Sikkim. The other centre called Maulana Azad Centre for Northeast Studies, funded by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies (funded by the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India), Kolkata, also started functioning in full-fledged manner after appointment of two Research Associates and release of its newsletter titled *Bodhi* by Shri P.D. Rai, Member of Lok Sabha. During the period under report, the University also permitted two PG colleges affiliated to it to start MPhil and PhD programmes within the existing Ordinances of the University.

Recruitment

Screening of various teaching and non-teaching posts lying vacant in the University is going on and interviews for some officers' posts have been completed. The written examinations for various categories of non-teaching posts and interviews for faculty positions are scheduled in the next couple of months.

Central Library:

Library hours have been extended from 5.30 to 7 pm on all days, including Saturdays, in response to the request of the Students' Association. A canteen, subsidized for students only, has also been opened in the ground floor of the Library.

Students' Affairs:

The Sikkim University Students' Association successfully organized various academic, cultural, musical, and sports activities during March-April 2017. The Association also sent a 11-member team of sports persons to Delhi for all-India competition and out of 11, 8 of them won silver or bronze medals.

Campus Development at Yangang, South Sikkim:

At present the construction of three buildings – Administrative Building, Library Building, and Faculty Building – is going on at an outlay of Rs.106 crores. The University has constituted a Campus Construction Monitoring Committee under the chairmanship of the Vice-Chancellor and it meets at the site on 1st Saturday of every month. The Committee includes some important local people, the local Sub-divisional Magistrate, and a representative of the Department of Environment and Forests, Govt. of Sikkim. The next package of construction plan will be taken up when the UGC sanctions funds for the same.

T.B. Subba
Vice-Chancellor, Sikkim University