

SIKKIM UNIVERSITY
10th Six Monthly Report
(Apr 16, 2017 to Oct 15, 2017)

Centre for Endangered Languages:

The Centre has already conducted the first round of fieldwork on Magar, Gurung and Bhujel languages and, on the advice of the advisory committee members, two more endangered languages, viz., Sherpa and Rokdung have been included in the scope of the Centre. Documentation of the selected languages with the goal of preparing primers, dictionaries, grammars, etc. is going on in full swing.

New Academic Programme:

The University started B.Voc courses in five of its affiliated colleges and permitted two PG colleges affiliated to it have been permitted to start PhD courses.

MoUs signed:

Sikkim University signed memorandums of understanding during the period under report with the following two institutions to promote mutually agreed goals:

1. Namgyal Institute of Tibetology, Gangtok, is a premier institution of Sikkim for Buddhist studies and is identified as the seed institution for establishment of a Buddhist University in a couple of years.
2. National Research Centre on Orchids, Pakyong, is one of its kind centre for research and development of orchids in India.

Distinguished Lectures:

On 19th October the Ministry of External Affairs Distinguished Lecture was organized by the Department of International Relations and the speaker was Amb. Bhaswati Mukherjee. She spoke on “India & the UN: Its Reforms and Role in a Globalised World”. The next distinguished lecture was organized on 4th October. The Ananta Aspen Distinguished Lecture was delivered by Vice Admiral (Rtd) Pradeep Chauhan and the title of his lecture was “Driving Foreign Policy: A Viable Pan-Regional Alternative to China's Maritime Silk Route/ Brick-and-Road Initiative”. Vice Admiral Chauhan is Director, National Maritime Foundation & Advisor, Ananta Aspen Centre.

Brainstorming Sessions:

The following two brainstorming sessions were organized during the period under report:

1. *Yeh India ka time hai: India 2022*. 15 students participated in the brainstorming session held on 15th of September 2017 to know how and where they want to see India in 2022, on completion of 75 years of India's independence. The programme was held at the auditorium of Sikkim Government College, Tadong and conducted by the RJ of RED FM, media partner of the event.
2. On 18th of September 2017, another brainstorming session was organized for teachers, specially HoDs and Deans of Schools, on what lessons the University can learn from the experience of Admission 2017 for Admission 2018. Almost every one present in the hall gave their suggestions for improvement in 2018. The session was conducted by the Vice-Chancellor himself.

Workshops conducted:

The University conducted the following workshops:

1. Workshop for Statistical Officers of the Government of Sikkim. This workshop was conducted from 20th April onwards by the Department of Economics, Sikkim University, on the request of the Department of Economics and Statistics, Government of Sikkim.
2. Writing Workshop for Faculty Members and Research Scholars. This workshop was conducted on 15th June by the Resource Persons from Elsevier. Similar workshops were conducted earlier on by experts from SAGE, OUP, and Taylor & Francis.

X Foundation Day Celebrations:

On completion of 10 years of its existence, Sikkim University celebrated its foundation day with the Foundation Day Lecture by Professor Chandrakala Padia, Chairperson of the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla. The occasion was also marked by cultural programmes, award ceremonies for best publications, best staff, etc.

IV Convocation:

The IV Convocation of the University was held on 22nd July 2017. The Convocation Address was delivered by Prof. Shamnad Basheer, Honorary Research Chair Professor of Intellectual Property Law, Nirma University and Visiting Professor of Law, National Law School, Bangalore. The Chancellor Justice (Mrs) Ruma Pal and the Chief Rector & Honourable Governor of Sikkim Shri Srinivas Patil also addressed the awardees on the occasion.

Recruitment

Recruitment of all vacant teaching and non-teaching posts was carried out during the period under report. About 250 candidates were interviewed from 31st of July to 7th of August and about 30 candidates were selected. With this round of interviews the University has only 28% of its sanctioned posts lying vacant.

Students' Affairs:

The second election to represent the Sikkim University Students' Association was successfully conducted on 8th September 2017, three days after the election debates were organized under the supervision of the Chief Election Officer Professor Nawal K. Paswan.

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.

Vice-Chancellor
Sikkim University