

Press Release

International Seminar on Tourism for Community Empowerment: A Sustainable Perspective

Date: 14th April, 2025

Venue: Sikkim University, Yangang

In a historic achievement for Sikkim University, the inaugural International Seminar at Sikkim University, Yangang was held on the 14th April 2025 by the Department of Tourism, Sikkim University in partnership with the Yangang Tourism Development Committee with the theme 'Tourism for Community Empowerment: A Sustainable Perspective under the leadership of the Vice-Chancellor (Officiating) Professor Dr. Jyoti Prakash Tamang. This significant event featured the presence of Shri Bikash Basnet (Political Secretary to Hon'ble Chief Minister, Govt. of Sikkim) as the Guest of Honour, Prof. Durga P. Chhetri, Director, Yangang Campus, Prof. Yodida Bhutia, Dean School of Professional Studies, SDM Yangang, Executive Members of Yangang Tourism Development Committee, along with International and National Delegates from Nepal, Bhutan, and different states of India. Shri Basnet expressed appreciation to Sikkim University for being a partner in the International Youth Conclave alongside the Yangang Tourism Development Committee. Dr. Amit Kumar Singh, the Head, Department of Tourism, Sikkim University, welcomed the Vice-Chancellor and all delegates. Dr. Jigmie W. Bhutia, Associate Professor, Department of Tourism, Sikkim University emphasized the goals of the International Seminar at Yangang aimed at promoting Yangang on the global tourism map.

The Vice-Chancellor presented memento and traditional khada to guest and all delegates. Prof. Tamang presented the Keynote Address, emphasizing how ethnic foods can enhance food tourism in the Himalayan areas of India, Nepal, and Bhutan. He stressed the importance of presenting healthy ethnic foods attractively to tourists for regional economic benefits and the promotion of local food culture and eating habits globally, while also referencing various fermented foods from Southeast Asian nations like Myanmar, Thailand, Japan, Korea, and China, and sharing the journey of these fermented foods from Southeast Asia to the Himalayan region of India. Following the Keynote Address, an interactive session took place wherein Prof. Tamang adeptly addressed the inquiries raised by the International and National delegates. The Post-Technical Session was chaired by Prof. Durga P. Chhetri, Director, Yangang Campus, featured notable speakers such as Shri B. T. Pote, Airport Director, Pakyong Airport, Shri Robin Basnet, Entrepreneur and Executive Member, Yangang Tourism Development Committee, and Prof. N. Suresh of Department of Tourism and Hospitality, SRM University. The Department of Music, Sikkim University, led by Dr. Bilambita Banisudha and Dr. Jayanta Barman, along with the master and PhD students of the Department, beautifully performed the folk musical extravaganza during the seminar, which received great applause from the audience.



