



USTM Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, MEGHALAYA

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Chancellor calls on new Visitor to USTM



Mr Mahbubul Hoque, Chancellor, USTM and Chairman of ERDF called on Hon'ble Governor Dr KK Paul at the Raj Bhawan in Shillong on July 31, 2013. It may be mentioned that Dr Paul had taken over as the new Governor of Meghalaya on July 8, 2013. Besides being the Governor of Meghalaya, Dr Paul is also the Visitor to USTM and hence this meeting was of great significance for the University.

A 1970 batch IPS officer Dr Paul joined as a member of Union Public Service Commission in 2007. The most outstanding part of Dr Paul is that his PhD was amongst the first in Police Service. He was also involved in handling some mega events like the Asian Games in 1982, followed by NAM and CHOGM in 1983.

In his first meeting with the Visitor to the University, Hoque offered him a flower bouquet and conveyed best wishes to him on behalf of the entire USTM family.

In a business like conversation, Dr Paul suggested a few useful points to Hoque for the betterment of USTM. Let's hear it in Dr Paul's own words-

- Ensure that the faculty in the University is well qualified and possess an excellent track record before they are taken in for employment.
- Provide wide exposure to the students with the outside world and make sure they become 'employable' before they leave the University.
- Be very careful with the conduct of examinations, a high standard should be maintained and no room left for criticism at a later date. It is very important for you to ensure that your 'seal' is not utilised for malpractices.
- Develop the courses at the University in such a way that they also serve the local needs and aspirations.
- Submit activity report to the Visitor regularly, every month, so that he could give you the required suggestions from time to time.
- There must be emphasis on Research & Development activities followed by regular seminars, workshops, discussions, symposium and other interactive programmes to keep the faculty and students abreast with the latest developments in their respective fields.

Hoque assured the Visitor that all these points would be acted upon with right earnest and thanked Dr Paul for giving time to him. Hoque also requested the Visitor to make a trip to the University and he assured that this would be done at an appropriate time.

USTM thanks Shri RS Mooshahary



We thank Shri Ranjit Shekhar Mooshahary, Former Governor of Meghalaya for his priceless association with USTM and congratulate him for the successful completion of his tenure as the Governor of Meghalaya from 1st July 2008 to 30th June 2013. He was not only a Visitor to the University but has inspired each one

of us from time to time. We will always be grateful to him for the support extended to us.

Prof Azis joins as Vice-Chancellor



Prof PK Abdul Azis, formerly Vice-Chancellor of Cochin University of Science & Technology and Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) has joined the USTM as its new Vice-Chancellor on 3rd April, 2013.

Prof Azis started his career as Assistant Professor, at the Kerala Agricultural University.

He worked in the University of Kerala as UGC Research Associate, Lecturer, Reader and Professor and in the Research and Development Centre of the Saline Water Conversion Corporation, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as Chairman and Vice-Chairman at the Department of Ecology and Marine Biology. The University of Kerala awarded Prof Azis the most coveted degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) for his contributions in the field of Ecology in 2004. He was the man behind the pan-Indian expansion of the AMU by establishing AMU centers in Murshidabad (West Bengal) and Malappuram (Kerala).

Meghalaya Toppers Felicitated

Over 80 toppers of High School and Higher Secondary School examinations conducted by the Meghalaya Board of Secondary Education (MBOSE) and eight toppers of ICSE examination from the State of Meghalaya were felicitated by ERD Foundation and USTM at Anton Hall, Don Bosco Square in Shillong on 9th July, 2013.



Dr DD Lapang, Former Chief Minister, Meghalaya; Dr Don Kubar Roy, Former Chief Minister, Meghalaya; Dr MA Lyngdoh, Minister of Science & Technology, Urban Affairs; Shri Manas Chaudhuri, Former Education Minister; Prof V Shukla, Vice Chancellor, NEHU & Prof P Myrboh, Pro-Vice Chancellor, NEHU were present on the occasion beside other high level officials, intellectuals, students & Media Person.

Dr PG Rao joins as Pro-Chancellor (Honorary)

Former Director and present Technical Consultant of CSIR-NEIST Jorhat, Assam, Dr PG Rao joined USTM as its Pro-Chancellor (Honorary) on 27th May 2013. Dr Rao obtained his B. Tech in Chemical Engineering from REC (NIT), Warangal in 1974, M.Tech in Chemical Plant Design from IIT, Madras in 1976 and PhD from IIT, Madras in 1995. He occupied various positions at CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat and CSIR-CLRI, Chennai before holding the position of Director at NEIST. Dr Rao is Fellow of National Academy of Sciences, Fellow of Institution of Engineers, Fellow of Andhra Pradesh Academy of Sciences and Fellow of Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers.



Padma Bhushan Prof Datta visits USTM



Prof Asis Datta, Padma Bhushan awardee, eminent scientist and former Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, visited the USTM Campus on 9th July, 2013, where he urged upon the students from the Northeast to work towards the development of agriculture and farm products, to see their respective state reach the 'zenith' of prosperity. He spoke extensively on the need for developing genetically modified foods in India. He also interacted with the students, scholars and faculty members and answered various questions regarding Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology. Dr P K Seth, CEO, Biotechnology Park, Govt. of UP, Lucknow and Former Director, Industrial Toxicology Research Laboratory, Lucknow also visited the University campus with Prof. Datta on that day.

USTM Briefs

Academic Meet

Former Vice Chancellors and academic experts from Jamia Milia Islamia, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Tezpur University, Gauhati University, Dibrugarh University, Assam University, Silchar; North Eastern Hill University, Shillong and Rajiv Gandhi University, Naharlagun gathered for an academic meet in March 2012. They assisted in the compilation process of the future academic plan of the University.

North East Graduate Congress 2012

A unique 2-day congress for the graduate students--North East Graduate Congress 2012 was organized by USTM in association with CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat (formerly RRL) on May 29-30, 2012 with an aim to enhance all round development and bring out the capabilities of the future graduates through various life skill sessions which is the first of its kind in the country where senior officials, renowned academicians & stakeholders from industries participated as speakers including the Governor of Assam, His Excellency JB Patnaik as the Chief Guest in the valedictory function. Almost 500 students from different colleges of the North Eastern states participated in the event. Every year this will be organized by USTM as a regular event to groom the future generation.

Freshman Social 2012

The USTM celebrated its Freshman Social with different students' activities on 05/10/2012. The occasion was graced by Shri G M Srivastava, former DGP of Assam and Shri A K Pansari, Chairman, Royal Group of Institutions.

USTM Varsity Week

The university organised its Varsity Week during March 19-23, 2013. Students participated in different sports and cultural events to show their talents which ended with a colourful closing ceremony. Prizes were distributed among the student achievers in different fields in the presence of Dr. R.C. Barua, Director, CSIR-NEIST and other high officials.

Academic Activities

- Ph D Course Work completed successfully on 31st July 2013.
- Semester End Examinations of Undergraduate & Postgraduate programmes completed.
- Next Semester classes resume on 12th August for UG and 19th August for PG programmes.

Highlight ▶ 3 National Seminars on different topics will be organized during October-November, 2013.

Collaborations & MoU's

1. CSIR-North East Institute of Science and Technology (CSIR-NEIST), formerly Regional Research Laboratory, Jorhat
2. CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI) New Delhi.
3. HiTec Education Centre, Ireland and
4. Bamboo and Cane Development Institute, Agartala

USTM Strength

USTM offers Under Graduate, Post Graduate and Ph. D programmes under its different Schools viz. School of Biological Sciences, School of Applied Sciences, School of Business Sciences, School of Social Sciences and Humanities, School of Education, School of Media Sciences and Cultural Studies, School of Engineering and Technology. It presently houses 46 faculties and most of them are either Ph. D holder or NET/SLET qualified in their respective subjects.

Senior Media Persons visits USTM

More than ten senior journalists from various media houses of the region took part in a programme on July 21st, 2013 to put forward their suggestions for making the University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) a people's varsity.

Among the Senior Media persons who attended that programme and gave their valuable suggestions towards making USTM a 'People's Varsity' in true sense were P.J. Baruah, Executive Editor, The Assam Tribune; Samudra Gupta Kashyap of Indian Express; N.I. Laskar, Executive Editor, Eastern Chronicle; Nava Thakuria of The Statesman and General Secretary of Guwahati Press Club; Manoj Agasti of Asomiya Pratidin; Jayanta Ghosh of Dainik Jugasankha; Hiren S Saikia of Niyamiya Barta; S N Misra of Dainik Purvoday; F Mazumder of Dainik Jugasankha and others.



USTM officials with senior personalities from the media fraternity during an interaction program for Incorporating Ideas to make USTM a People's varsity.

International Seminar

An International Seminar on “*Genres of Belief from a Folkloristic Perspective*” was organized in collaboration with the University of Tartu, Estonia during 04-05 February 2013. The event was inaugurated by renowned author and journalist Shri Shibnath Barman. The Chief Guest was Dr NN Dutta, Chancellor, Assam Down Town University. Shri M Hoque, Hon’ble Chancellor of USTM proposed to create a forum for better understanding between the west and east, naming Western-NE India Cultural Heritage Bridge. Around 140 delegates from across the world attended the seminar, including 9 participant from Estonia, 2 from Germany, one each from USA, Russia, Ireland, Latvia and Serbia.



Prof Ulo Valk, addressing the gathering

North East Teachers' Congress

USTM in collaboration with CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat, organized a three day College and University teachers' academic meet - “North East Teachers' Congress (NETC) 2013” during March 22 - 24, 2013. The highlight of the programme was a National Seminar on the theme “Indian Higher Education in the 21st Century: Constraints and Possibilities”.

Apart from the National Seminar the three day meet also provided a much desired platform to the teaching fraternity of North East India to express their views on the changing trends of higher education in the various interactive technical sessions and panel discussions. The seminar was graced by Prof. Umesh Ch Sarma, Vice-Chancellor of Srimanta Sankardeva University of Health Sciences as Chief Guest.

Dignitaries who addressed the gathering included Prof Sai Prakash and Prof Ratan Tookey from Osmania University, Prof N K Choudhury, Prof Kulendu Pathak, Prof PG Rao, Dr L Sahu, Dr Ashwini Baruah, Prof Mrinal Kumar Das, Dr UC Kalita, Dr U R Dhar, Dr Balendra Kr Das and Prof PJ Das.



Prof. Umesh Ch Sarma, VC, SSHUHS, addressing the NETC

National Science Day



Kaushalendra Singh being felicitated on National Science Day for his innovative effort in developing TELEPORTATION THEORY.

National Science Day was observed with day-long activities on February 28, 2013. Dr. D N Buragohain, the Founder Director of IIT, Guwahati and present Chancellor, Nagaland University was the Chief Guest for the occasion. Other dignitaries present on the programme were Prof N K Choudhury, Shri M. Hoque, Dr R K Sharma, Deans of various Schools, faculty members and students of the University.

National Technology Day

The USTM celebrated the National Technology Day in a befitting manner, where Dr G Thyagarajan (FNAE, FRSC), an international scientist of repute, was the Chief Guest. He enlightened the gathering with his insightful deliberation on “science & technology policies of India”. Thyagarajan, former director CSIR laboratory also delivered a talk on “Ask Not what Meghalaya can do for you, ask what you can do for Meghalaya”.



Dr G Thyagarajan addressing on National Technology Day



Students and Teachers of USTM taking out rally on World Environment Day

World Environment Day

The university organised an Awareness Rally and Sapling Plantation drive on the occasion of World Environment Day on June 5, 2013. The rally was the highlight of the day. Around 250 students with colourful placards and slogans participated in the programme. Saplings were planted in 9th Mile area and inside the USTM campus by the students and faculty members. On that day Prof Chandan Mahanta, Dept. of Civil Engineering, IIT, Guwahati and Prof H P Sarma, HOD Dept. of Environmental Science, Gauhati University, delivered talks and interacted with the students.

Union Minister lays Foundation Stone

Mr K Rahman Khan, Hon'ble Union Minister of Minority Affairs laid the foundation stone of a new building on April 03, 2013, at the USTM campus in the presence of Shri Ninong Ering, Hon'ble Minister of State for Minority Affairs, Govt of India; Hon'ble Chancellor of USTM Mr M. Hoque and Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor designate of USTM Dr PK Abdul Azis. Deans of Schools and faculty members, higher officials and students of USTM were also present on the occasion.



USTM Reports Submitted

Report to the UGC - A report on the status of USTM has been submitted to the UGC in June 2013.

Report to Govt. of Meghalaya - A detailed report on USTM has been submitted to the Government of Meghalaya in July 2013.

Annual Report – Annual reports and Audited statement of Accounts (2011-12 and 2012-13) have been submitted to the Govt. of Meghalaya in June 2013.

Educational Tours and Field Works

1. Eight students of MSc (Chemistry), 2nd semester, visited CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat during 22-24 May 2013, accompanied by Dr G K Sharma, HoD of the department.
2. The students of Management visited the manufacturing unit of Coca-Cola for Northeast, Tea Auction Center, NEDFi haat etc., during the current session.
3. The students of Social Work visited the National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD), SOS Children's Village, Helpage India and Assam State AIDS Control Society (ASACS) etc., during this session.
4. The students of Biotechnology and Biochemistry visited the Hindustan Paper Mill, Jagiroad
5. The Students of Media Sciences, Cultural Studies, Mass Communication and Public Relations visited the office of Dy365 News Channel.
6. The students of Public Administration and Disaster Management had their field visit at Jorbill Village and NIRD.



Students of USTM during a field visit

Felicitation of Senior Citizens

USTM felicitated eminent senior personalities in recognition of their contribution in different fields. Among the senior personalities felicitated were **Smt Nirupama Borgohain**, noted writer; **Shri Abdul Mazid**, eminent film and theater personality; **Prof Md Taher**, retired Prof Gauhati University; **Dr DN Barua**, President, Guwahati Management Association; **Shri Hareswar Talukdar**, former Chief Engineer, PWD, Meghalaya; **Abdul Khaleque Mazumdar**, retired ACS officer and ex-president of Minority Welfare Society; **Shri BK Nath**, Chairman, Sankha Press Pvt Ltd; **Shri HN Das IAS (Retd.)**, an able administrator and former Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam; **Mr. Abdul Malik IAS (Retd.)**, former Chief Election Commissioner, Assam and **Mr DN Singh**, Office Secretary, Guwahati Press Club. **Prof A C Bhagabati** former VC, Rajib Gandhi University and **Prof N. K. Choudhury**, former VC, Gauhati University and Principal Advisor, ERDF handed over the mementos and certificates to the senior citizens as mark of respect and love for their distinguished services to the community and wished them good health and long life so that they can continue their service to the society.

Important Visitors till Date

His Excellency J B Patnaik, Governor of Assam
His Excellency RS Mooshahary, Governor of Meghalaya
His Excellency Tariq Ahmad Karim, High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India
Arshad Madani, President of All India Jamiat Ulema-e Hind (AIJUH)
Justice MSA Siddiqui, Chairman, National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions, New Delhi
Late Asghar Ali Engineer, Renowned social scientist,
Mr. Mahesh Bhatt, Renowned film maker & Social activist
Tez Hazarika, Social Worker and Son of Dr Bhupen Hazarika
Prof Ülo Valk, Vice President, International Society for Folk Narrative Research
Dr N N Dutta, Chancellor, Assam Down Town University, Guwahati
P A Sangma, former Lok Sabha Speaker and MP from Tura
Dr D N Buragohain, Founder Director of IIT, Guwahati
Prof. Umesh Ch. Sarma, Vice-Chancellor, Srimanta Sankardev University of Health Sciences, Guwahati
Prof Sai Prakash, Osmania University, Hyderabad
Dr K. Rahman Khan, Union Minister of Minority Affairs, GoI, New Delhi
Mr Ninong Ering, Minister of State for Minority Affairs, Govt. of India,
Dr Fazal Gafoor, President, MES, Kerala
Dr Ashish Deshpandey, Renowned psychologist from Mumbai
Dr G Thyagarajan, Renowned international scientist
Padma Bhushan Prof Asis Datta, an eminent scientist and former Vice Chancellor of JNU, New Delhi
Dr P K Seth, CEO, Biotechnology Park, Lucknow
Dr. KK Jhunjhunwala, Editor in Chief, Eastern Panorama, Shillong
A group of delegates from Turkey visited USTM and inaugurated the 1st Wall Magazine of the university

Seminar on Interest-Free Banking



Dr. Shariq Nisar addressing the seminar on Interest Free Banking

USTM on 17th August 2013, organized a Seminar on Interest free banking where the key note was addressed by Dr Shariq Nisar, Director (Research & Operations), Taqwa Advisory and Sharia Investment Solutions Pvt Ltd (Tasis).

Dr Nisar, who is also a visiting faculty of Islamic Finance at AMU, Aligarh; BSAR University, Chennai; and BSE Institute, interacted with the participants which includes students, scholars, faculties and members of USTM, Gauhati University, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Planning Commission of Assam and other renowned bodies and institutes based in the region. He is among the senior most professionals of Islamic Finance in India and is closely associated with both the academia as well as the industry, who has been offered a one year fellowship by the Harvard University USA to do research on 'Indian financial regulations' commencing from September 1, 2013. According to Dr Nisar, Islamic Finance is a trillion dollar plus industry today and is emerging as one of the fastest growing areas of international finance.

PhD Awards to USTM Faculty

Dr Saptadeepa Roy, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Zoology, USTM has been awarded the Ph.D Degree on October 1st, 2012 by Dept. of Zoology, Gauhati University. The Title of the thesis was- "*Studies on effects of Bisphenol A on Heteropneustes Fossilis (Bloch).*" Research Guide: Prof. Jogen Chandra Kalita, Department of Zoology, Gauhati University

Dr. Shafiqul Islam Bhuyan Assistant Professor, Dept. of Botany, USTM has been awarded the Ph.D Degree on November 20th, 2012 by the Dept. of Forestry, North Eastern Regional Institute of Science and Technology, Arunachal Pradesh. The title of the thesis was "*Soil Nutrients Dynamics and Associated Microbial Biomass under different agrosystems of East Siang district, Arunachal Pradesh*" Research Guide: Dr O P Tripathi, Assistant Professor and Prof ML Khan, Professor, Department of Forestry, NERIST.

Dr Bornali Boruah, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Chemistry, USTM was awarded the Ph.D Degree on May 24th, 2013 by Dept. of Chemical Sciences, Tezpur University. The title of the thesis was- "*A Study on the Interactions of some Synthetic and Natural Dyes of Different Charge Types with Surfactants and Polymers.*" Research Guide: Prof Robin Kumar Dutta, Department of Chemical Sciences, School of Science, Tezpur University.

Dr. Sanjay Sinha, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Economics, USTM was awarded the Ph. D degree from Deptt. of Economics, Assam University, Silchar on May 30, 2013. His thesis was titled "*Health Status and its correlates; an empirical study of North Tripura district.*" Research Guide: Dr Sumanash Dutta, Professor Department of Economics, Assam University Silchar.