



Unveiling Excellence

USTM Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, MEGHALAYA

Techno City, Khanapara, Kling Road, Baridua, 9th Mile, Ri-Bhoi, Meghalaya



www.ustm.ac.in

Quarterly Newsletter, June, 2014

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From the Desk of Vice-Chancellor

Greetings to all. I am happy to inform you that I have become a member of USTM Family from 2nd June 2014, with the responsibility to steer the University in its mission to achieve its goals. I have a very big task ahead and need cooperation from one and all. I assure you all that I will move with team spirit and take us all together.

This issue of the news letter gives you the important events taken place in the university since January 2014 to till date. I am happy to inform our programme of North East College Principals Conclave, will be held on 23rd of July.

I wish an interesting academic session in the next semester to all students, inspiring and fruitful session to the entire faculty and an eventful session, which will make all the staff and management proud. I Congratulate the Editorial Committee and its team for making all efforts to bring this news letter.



With best wishes
Dr PG Rao

BHARAT RATNA DR APJ ABDUL KALAM, FORMER PRESIDENT OF INDIA AT USTM

Missile Man of India Dr A P J Abdul Kalam, former President of India will address the North East College Principals Conclave (NCPC) 2014 at Techno City, University of Science & Technology, and Meghalaya (USTM) on July 23.

The Conclave has been organized by USTM in association with Assam College Principal's Council (ACPC) with an aim to streamline the education institutions, knowing each other's potentials and working together for the promotion of educational scenario in the region.

Over one thousand college principals of all the degree colleges of Assam as well as the other north eastern states, teachers and renowned academicians of the region are expected to participate in the conclave. A large number of college and school students will attend the address of Dr Kalam.

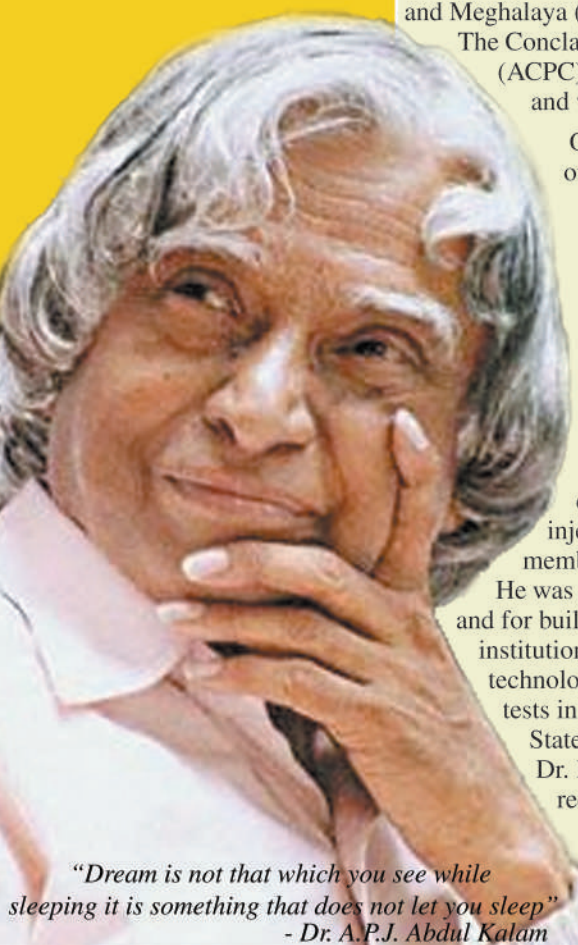
Dr Kalam will address the principals emphasizing on science, innovation and other related issues to be cultured in educational institutions for the greater benefit of the students of the region as well as the country which will be a step towards technological advancements to make India a developed nation.

Know about Dr. Kalam.....

Dr. Kalam is a pioneer in fibre glass technology and led a young team to initiate this effort in ISRO from design, development leading to production of composites rocket motor cases. Dr. Kalam made significant contribution as Project Director to develop India's first indigenous Satellite Launch Vehicle (SLV-3) which successfully injected the Rohini satellite in the near earth orbit in July 1980 and made India an exclusive member of Space Club.

He was responsible for the development and operationalisation of AGNI and PRITHVI Missiles and for building indigenous capability in critical technologies through networking of multiple institutions. One of his significant contribution was creating Research Centre Imarat for advanced technologies. He led to the weaponisation of strategic missile systems and the Pokhran-II nuclear tests in collaboration with Department of Atomic Energy, which made India a nuclear weapon State.

Dr. Kalam is one of the most distinguished scientists of World with the unique honour of receiving honorary doctorates from 47 Universities and institutions from India and abroad. He has been awarded with the coveted civilian awards - Padma Bhushan (1981) and Padma Vibhushan (1990) and the highest civilian award Bharat Ratna (1997)



"Dream is not that which you see while sleeping it is something that does not let you sleep"
- Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

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North East Graduate Congress 2014

A unique two day congress for the graduate students--North East Graduate Congress-2014 was organized by University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya, sponsored by State Bank of India on 22nd & 23rd February with the aim to enhance all-round development and bring out capabilities of the future graduates through various life skill sessions which is the first of its kind in the country. More than three thousand students from North Eastern States participated in the two day long programme and took part in various events exchanging views and ideas, mixing with each other, virtually making the Congress a melting pot of all North Eastern States.



His Excellency Shri J. B. Patnaik, honourable Governor of Assam, the chief guest inaugurated the North East Graduate Congress which was attended by senior officials, renowned academicians and stakeholders.

The event was marked by debates, quiz, extempore speech, write up and model exhibition competitions for which attractive prizes of lap tops, i-Pads and Mobile phones were distributed to the winners. The most coveted prize of the North East Graduate congress went to Janmoni Borah of Chaiduar College, Gohpur who was adjudged as best participant and was awarded ten thousand cash prize.



UGC-AICTE Joint Inspection

The University Grants Commission (UGC) had paid a two day long visit to the University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) campus on 8th and 9th February, 2014 for the inspection. The delegation was led by Dr. R. P. Dahiya along with his inspection team. The UGC team had highly appreciated the academics and administration of the University.



NCTE approval for B.Ed Course

Professor Qoumrul Hoque School of Education, a constituent college of University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya has got the approval from National Council for Teachers' Education (NCTE), ERC Bhubaneswar to run B.Ed courses.

USTM had already got the approval from All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi to run MBA courses under its School of Business Science.

National Seminar on "Challenges in Higher Education- A North East Perspective"



A National Seminar on the topic "Challenges in Higher Education: A North East Perspective" has been jointly organized by USTM and Madhabdev College, Narayanpur on 29th January, 2014. Seventy research scholars and faculty members from various colleges and Universities of North East have presented research papers in different sessions of the seminar under the sub themes like - Contemporary Trends in Higher Education in India; Status of Higher Education in North East India; Curriculum in perspectives of Social equity; Skill Development and Vocational Education; Globalization of Higher Education: changing scenario in North East India and Governance in Higher Education: Private vs Public.

National Seminar on Educational Status of Minority Women in NE India

The University of Science & Technology Meghalaya (USTM) hosted a national seminar on 'Educational status of Minority Women in North East India: Challenges & Future Prospects' in Techno City on 1st March, 2014 supported by the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Govt of India.

The seminar was graced by Shamsul Hoque Mazumdar, former Director, Planning & Development, Govt. of Assam, as Guest of Honour, and he made a power point presentation on the Role of government departments and organisations in promoting education among minority women. The inaugural session was presided over by Prof PK Abdul Azis, Former, VC, USTM.

All together 25 papers on diverse topics and relating to different states of the North East were enlisted for presentation. Mahbulul Hoque, Chancellor USTM urged the research scholars and stakeholders to direct their work at district and sub divisional levels so that awareness benefits could percolate to the people at grass root level. It is further recommended to draw a roadmap for minority women's education in North East.



On 24th May 2013 the National Space Society, USA has awarded him with its most prestigious award THE WERNHER VON BRAUN MEMORIAL AWARD at San Diego, California.

Dr. Kalam became the 11th President of India on 25th July 2002. After five eventful years he demitted office on 25th July 2007. His focus is on transforming India into a developed nation by 2020. His accent is on constructive networking and excellent human resources for an economically developed, prosperous and peaceful society.

In his literary pursuit Dr. Kalam authored a number of books, such as "Wings of Fire", "India 2020 - A Vision for the New Millennium", "My journey" and "Ignited Minds - Unleashing the power within India", "Indomitable Spirit", "Guiding Soul", "Envisioning an Empowered Nation", "Inspiring Thoughts", "Children Ask Kalam", "You are born to blossom", "Family and the Nation", Turning Points (2012), Squaring the Circle- Seven steps to Indian Renaissance (2013), "Life Tree" and "The Luminous Sparks" a collection of his poems.

Dr. P G Rao takes the chair as VC of USTM

Dr Paruchuri Gangadhar Rao took over as the new Vice Chancellor of the University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) on 2nd June, 2014. His association with the institutions of ERDF is not new as he was involved in several international seminars and projects taken up by USTM, RIST etc in recent times. Till recently he was the CSIR-Technical Consultant at CSIR-North East Institute of Science & Technology (CSIR-NEIST) at Jorhat, Assam, formerly known as RRL, Jorhat, where he was also the Director of the Institute from 2002 to 2012.



Junior College Principal's meet



University of Science and Technology Meghalaya (USTM) in association with Regional Institute of Science and Technology (RIST) organized a Junior College Principal's Meet (JCPM) 2014 on May 3, 2014 in the Techno city Campus where almost 60 Principals and senior teachers from various Junior colleges of Assam and Meghalaya participated. The theme of the meet was "Career Counseling and IT Enabled Teaching Learning".

National Science Day Celebrated

University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) celebrated the National Science Day in a befitting manner on February 28, 2014. The theme of the Seminar was "Fostering Scientific Temper".

Dr. N.C. Talukdar, Director, Institute of Advanced Studies of Science and Technology, Guwahati was the chief guest. He presented an insightful deliberation on the topic "Traditional knowledge based Science for North East Indian Part of Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspots" stating that North East should focus on establishing an Institute that offers study and application of Jhum farming and cultivation with the abundance of greenery in the North east region.

Dr. P. K. Abdul Azis, Former Vice Chancellor, University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya remarked on the occasion by saying that "Science has become all pervasive to be enjoyed and applied by an ordinary man".



Dr. N.C. Talukdar delivering his speech

USTM Celebrates Netaji's Birthday

The University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) had celebrated the 117th birthday of Subhash Chandra Bose in the University premises on 23rd January, 2014. Fondly known as "Netaji" by children and adults, Subhash Chandra Bose was one of the stalwart who fought for the Independence of India. The Former Vice Chancellor of USTM, Dr. P K Abdul Aziz, Deans of various schools, faculty members, staff and students were present to celebrate the occasion.

Dr. P K Abdul Aziz lit the earthen lamp and paid floral tribute in the memory of the bygone national leader, followed by a speech.

Dr. Saptadeepa Roy, Assistant Professor, USTM, also gave a speech on the victorious efforts of Netaji to make India the free nation that it is today.

The program was concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Alpana Choudhury, HOD, School of Media Sciences and Cultural Studies, followed by paying floral tribute by the rest of the faculties who attended the program.



Faculties are paying tribute to Netaji

Chancellor's visit to USA



Mr. M. Hoque receiving citation at Chicago

The Federation of Aligarh Alumni Associations, (FAAA) had invited Mr. Mahbubul Hoque to attend the thirteenth convention as distinguished guest. Many delegates from across USA, Canada & India and other countries participated in the Chicago convention. This was a gathering of highly accomplished academicians, technocrats and entrepreneurs-the alumni of Aligarh.

Mr. Mahbubul Hoque, Chancellor, University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya urged upon the Aligarh Alumni living in USA, Canada and other countries to build educational institutions in India and carry forward the Aligarh movement as envisioned by Sir Syed Ahmed and repay their debt to their Alma mater and the country. Mr. Hoque made this appeal to Aligarh fraternity while delivering a talk on the topic "Aligarh Alumni and Institution building" at the convention held in Chicago, USA from 20th to 22nd June 2014. Elaborating on the topic Mr. Hoque said that Aligarh alumni living in USA, Canada and other countries are high achievers in life and have brought laurels to the their University and India. Now time has come for them to contribute to the cause of education back home and carry the Aligarh movement forward.

All the members of FAAA appreciated the effort of Mr. Hoque in building Institutions including the University with humble beginning and felicitated him with citation.

Environment Awareness Rally

World Environment day was observed with a daylong programme by the University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) on 5th June, 2014. An awareness rally comprising of students and faculty from Regional Institute of Science and Technology (RIST) and USTM was flagged off in the morning by Shivam Kumar, Deputy Commandant, Central Reserve Police Force, Group Centre, Amerigog in presence of VC and other senior officials of USTM.

A tree plantation program was also held in USTM campus in which invited guests, faculty and students of the University had participated.



The students in the rally on Environment Awareness

Workshop on Jetropha for Biodiesel and Optimisation of Value Chain

The European Union (European Institute of Asian Studies, Brussels) and the Biotech Park, Lucknow in association with University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya organized a two day workshop on "Jetropha for Biodiesel and Optimisation of value chain" at the campus of University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya on 22nd and 23rd March 2014.

RECENT VISITORS



His Excellency
Shri. J.B. Patnaik
Governor of Assam



Prof. A. K Buragohain
VC, Dibrugarh University



Dr. Mridul Hazarika
VC, Gauhati University



Md. Farooque Shahab
General Manager, NE Circle, SBI



Dr. Dhruba J. Saikia
VC, Cotton College State University

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

1. 2nd January, 2014 - UG Semester End Examination Commenced.
2. 21st January, 2014 - PG Semester End Examination Commenced.
3. 5th February, 2014 - Commencement of Classes of Even Semester (2nd and 4th) UG Programme.
4. 11th February, 2014 - Commencement of Classes of Even Semester (2nd and 4th) PG Programme.
5. 29th March, 2014 - Orientation Programme for the Ph. D Scholars for January 2014 (A) Batch.
6. 28th April, 2014 - Repeat Examination of Back papers (1st and 3rd) UG and PG Programme.
7. 22nd May, 2014 - Issue of Examination form for UG and PG Programs.
8. 26th May, 2014 - Submission of Examination form for UG and PG Programs.
9. 16th June, 2014 - Commenced UG and PG Semester Examination.



A Brief Profile of Dr P G Rao, Vice-Chancellor, USTM



Dr Paruchuri Gangadhar Rao was born on 31 December, 1950, he obtained his B. Tech in Chemical Engineering from REC (NIT), Warangal in 1974 and M. Tech in Chemical Plant Design from IIT, Madras in 1976. He obtained his Ph D from IIT, Madras in 1995 in the area of Polymer Engineering. Dr Rao occupied various positions at CSIR-NEIST and CSIR-CLRI, before attaining the position of Director at CSIR-NEIST. Dr Rao has specialized in chemical process Design & development. He was involved in providing basic engineering packages to eight processes, five of which were commercialized. At Central Leather Research Institute, Madras, Dr Rao's significant scientific contributions were in the area of process development for leather chemicals, design of leather chemical plants, Modernization of leather industries etc. Dr Rao was honorary faculty in Anna University, member of the academic council of Tezpur and Assam universities in the past and currently he Member of Court of NEHU. Dr Rao has 94 publications in peer reviewed international journals, 34 in Indian journals, 70 papers presented in national and international seminars, proceedings, 18 patents (sealed), 3 copy rights, 1 book and 10 chapters in books to his credit. He guided thesis of 9 Ph D students and currently guiding thesis of 1 Ph D student. At NEIST, Jorhat, Dr Rao as Director, apart from improving the performance and visibility of the Institute, has encouraged science popularization especially among school children, and in making the output of science & technology reach to society through knowledge dissemination. Dr Rao is Fellow of National Academy of Sciences, Fellow of Institution of Engineers, and Fellow of Andhra Pradesh Akademi of Sciences, Fellow of Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers and also it's past President. Dr Rao has visited large number of countries as a member of the delegation for business development, as an invitee to deliver lecture and as a member of the project team. Dr Rao has taken over as VC of USTM on 2nd June 2014.

Students Organized Road Safety Awareness Campaign



The students are at Road Safety Rally

Coinciding with the 25th Road Safety Week observed across the country, the students of Regional Institute of Science and Technology (RIST) and the University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya (USTM), took out a road safety awareness rally on 9th January, 2014, in association with Meghalaya Police of Ri-Bhoi district to spread the awareness among the public on road safety keeping in view the accident prone nature of the road stretch in question.

Mahbubul Hoque, Chancellor of USTM inaugurated the rally in presence of Dr. P C Mahanta, Director of RIST and officials of Meghalaya Police in which more than 300 students had participated.

The theme for this year's Road Safety Week was, "When on the road, always say Pehle Aap."

USTM Bids Farewell to the PG Batch

The University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) have organised a farewell program for the outgoing Post Graduates students of 2012 batch on 12th June, 2014. Mr. P Jidung, Director Higher Education, Assam was present there as the Chief Guest to grace the occasion. Dr. P. G. Rao, Vice Chancellor, USTM, Dr. R. K Sharma, Pro VC and Dr. Dinesh Baishya, Dean, Students Welfare were also present to encourage and bless the outgoing students.

Mr. P Jidung in his speech said that higher education must be quality not quantity. He also apprehended that there are many private educational institutions of higher education, which have world class infrastructure but without qualitative values.

Dr. P G Rao, VC, USTM encouraged the students to come forward to join in various research works which the country needed for its all round development. Dr. Baishya wished the students a bright future. Dr. Alaka Desai Sharma, Dean, School of Business Sciences delivered the vote of thanks.

The meeting was followed by a colourful cultural program.



Mr. P Jidung, Director Higher Education, Assam speaking on the occasion

First Ever Techno City Campus News Launched By USTM



Sri D.N. Basumatari, Deputy Director General, Door Darshan Kendra, speaking on the occasion

The School of Media Sciences, University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) launched the first ever "Techno City Campus News," on 8th January, 2014. The Techno City News Service was inaugurated by Sri D.N. Basumatari, Deputy Director General, Door Darshan Kendra, Guwahati in presence of Dr.P.K.Abdul Azis, former Vice Chancellor of USTM, Sri H.N.Das IAS (Retd), Director, Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed Centre for Coaching and Guidance and former Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam in presence of large number of students and faculties of USTM.



The first Techno City Campus News are delivering by the students

SEMINAR ATTENDED PERIOD: 1ST NOVEMBER, 2013- 16TH JUNE, 2014

The University always encourages the faculties to acquire experiences in the field of academics and move ahead. The faculties of the various schools and departments of the University had attended many National and International seminars. The seminars have created a sense of confidence among the faculties and they experienced new insights and knowledge in their respective fields. The students will also be benefited and will be encouraged to follow their footsteps. The teachers from various disciplines have already attended 24 seminars in the academic session of 2013-14.



PUBLICATIONS

The University had started intensive research work since its inception and appropriate facilities have been created to promote innovative and modern need based interdisciplinary research. Research scholars and faculties are greatly encouraged to innovate through quality research in emerging areas of science & technology, social science, media and cultural studies and other disciplines. They have already presented their research papers in various national & international seminars and published the papers in different journals. A summary of total publications as follows :

School	Year 2011-12	Year 2012-13	Year 2013-14
Biological Science	23	20	23
Social Science & Humanities	04	07	19
Business Science	08	13	17
Media Science & Cultural Studies	07	06	4
Engineering & Technology			7
Applied Science			10

SCHOLASTIC DISCOURSE ON LIFE AND CREATION OF DR. BHUPEN HAZARIKA



USTM organised a Scholastic Discourse on Life and Creation of Dr Bhupen Hazarika, at NEDFi House Auditorium, Dispur on the occasion of 87th Birthday of the great artist.

ERDF, the sponsor of the University had announced two research fellowships on the great legend just after his demise. Apart from the two research scholars who won the Dr Bhupen Hazarika fellowships one more scholar is researching on the life and creations of the great artist in USTM.

The Research Scholars Prasanta Jyoti Baruah, Executive Editor, The Assam Tribune, Gitali Saikia, Assistant Professor, Department of English, Nitaipukhuri College, Sivasagar and freelance journalist Pramod Sharma discussed and elaborated on the areas of research.

The Scholastic Discourse was inaugurated by Shri Ranjit Shekhar Mooshahary, former Governor of Meghalaya. The key note address was delivered by Prof. Amarjyoti Choudhary, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Tezpur University.

The welcome address was delivered by the Chancellor, USTM Shri Mahbubul Hoque where he elaborated on the educational progress of ERDF and USTM. Dr. Dinesh Baishya, Dean, School of Media Science and Cultural Studies, USTM elaborated on the educational and research programmes of the School.

In the beginning of the programme the students of the university performed Dr. Bhupen Hazarika's song titled, "Manuhe Manuhor Babe", in Assamese, Bengali, Khasi and Bodo languages.



EDUCATIONAL TOURS AND FIELD WORKS



The students of the Department of Zoology on a field visit with their respective faculties at Manas National Park



The students of the Department of Botany on an field visit to botanical gardens at Sonapur with their respective faculties.



The students of the Department of the Environment Science on a educational trip with their respective teachers.



The students of MBA on a Industrial trip with their respective teachers.



Students of Social Work & Sociology department visiting SOS Village, Azara, Guwahati for their field work along with Faculty members



Department of MRD on field visit at JORBIL Village at Kling Road, Ri-Bhoi, Meghalaya



Department of MPA on field visit at Umnowe Village at Kling Road, Ri-Bhoi, Meghalaya

Orientation Program of the Under Graduates

The orientation program of the UG Batch of 2014-16 was conducted at USTM on July 14, 2014 in the conference hall.

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS



Dr. Dinesh Baishya

Dean, School of Media Sciences & Cultural Studies
appointed as a member Gauhati University Court

He is also appointed as Member, State Music
Board, Govt. of Assam.



Dr. Papiya Dutta

Faculty, Rural Development
Awarded Ph. D by N.I.T. Agartala



Dr. Gobinda Palit
Faculty, Geography

Discovered/Explored new
butterfly species continental green flash.



Dr. Meenakshi Bhattacharjee,
Faculty, Biotechnology.

Published a Paper on "Role of Glutathione S Transferase
Polymorphism in COPD with Special Reference to
Peoples Living in the Vicinity of the Open
Cast Coal Mine of Assam," in the journal PLOS
One, Volume 9, Issue 5.

Innovative Research at USTM work on Protein-Enzyme

Dibyajyoti Ozah, a Ph D Scholar of University of Science and Technology Meghalaya(USTM) who is on the verge of submitting his research work entitled "Isolation, Identification and Molecular Characterization of Extracellular Protine (Coagulase) of microbial Origin" under the vital Guidance of Dr BG Unni, Chief Scientist & Area Coordinator of CSIR-NEIST and joint Guidance of Dr R K Sharma, Pro Vice Chancellor USTM, has already earned appreciation from the various eminent scientists from the respective field. "International Journal Of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Science" which is a reputed science journal has already published a paper on the ongoing experimental works of Dibyajyoti Ozah.

The experimental works have been carried out in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Laboratory under Biotechnology Division of CSIR- NEIST, Jorhat in collaboration with USTM. Isolation, partial purification of Staphylocoagulase has been completed. The basic idea behind the study is that, the bioactive molecules produced by the microbe after isolation and purification will be of high industrial use and will have high impact in health sector. The present study was undertaken with the major objective to Identify, Characterize and Purify the extra cellular protein(Coagulase) from the microbial extract. The protein showing clotting of plasma to be purified for further homogeneity and the clinical bioassay with plasma coagulase.

Upcoming events

Visit of Former President Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam at USTM

The Former President of India, a great scientist and educationist Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam will visit University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) on 23rd July, 2014



North East College Principal's Conclave (NCPC)

University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) in collaboration with Assam College Principal's Council (ACPC) will be organising North East College Principal's Conclave (NCPC) on 12th July, 2014 at the University itself. ACPC is an apex body of the Higher education both in academic decision making and implementation of programmes of higher education in the grass root levels.

The primary objective of this conclave is to provide a common platform to facilitate discussions amongst various stakeholders in the field of Higher Education. The day long conclave will witness the presence of Principal's of colleges and Administrations from higher education as well as academicians of repute. The areas to be covered in this conclave are Higher Education in North East India, Rashtriya Uchchatar Siksha Abhiyan (RUSA) An Overview. Principals of the Colleges and institutions of higher Education in NE India will be participating in this conclave.

The conclave will be inaugurated at 10 am on 12th of July, 2014. The program then will be followed by various technical sessions.

Orientation Program of Post Graduates 2014

The University of Science and Technology will be conducting the Orientation program of the new undergraduates on 11th August, 2014. This orientation program will be organized for the new students who had taken admissions in the 2014-16 batches.

US Based NRIs at USTM

A Team of US based NRIs will shortly visit USTM to see the oppourtinites for student exchange programmes' specialized lectures to students, faculties & scholars; creating avenues for students; short term training in USA universities, fellowship in innovative research, placement services to eligible candidates and eventually collaboration in specific areas.

Editorial Committee : Dr. Alpna Choudhury (Editor), Ranjit Kaur (Member), Mr. N. Laskar (Member)

For any information & suggestion on USTM Newsletter contact : 098540-23060, Email : ustm_erdf@rediffmail.com