www.ustm.ac.in

USTM Newsletter

UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, MEGHALAYA

Unveiling Excellence

Newsletter, January-May, 2015

Chancellor's column

A humble journey with one computer and four students gave the birth of several institutions including USTM. We at ERDF are trying our level best to support USTM team for creating a competitive culture of teaching, learning and research, following the footsteps of world class institutions. I have a strong desire to see the outcome of the target-oriented and noble efforts put forward by the USTM members. I appeal everyone to join the mission of making this university a centre of excellence in the field of higher education.

M. Hoque
Chancellor, USTM

In This Issue

- ERDF Excellence Award
- North East Teachers Congress
- MoU with BUHS
- Best University Award
- Varsity Week
- Chancellor Award -2015
- National Seminar by Botany
- Students Visit TU
- USTM Hosted Journalists' Meet
- Women's Day Celebrated

From the Desk of the Vice Chancellor

Let me wish one and all greetings of the season.

It gives me immense pleasure to present before you the progress of activities of the University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya, for the last quarter and even semester of the eventful year 2015, through this newsletter. We have just concluded an eventful even semester and are in the process of preparing ourselves for the coming odd semester.

This period has marked important events of the year. USTM has been awarded "University of the Year 2015-East" by the Franchise India under the Higher Education category in the Indian Education Awards 2015 function in June 2015.

Cont. to page -9

Bonding Beyond Borders
North East NSS Festival-2015 at USTM

May 2, 2015: The 2nd North East NSS Festival of the state of Meghalaya & 10th in North East, a programme of the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt. of India in collaboration with the Dept. of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt. of Meghalaya with the theme "BONDING BEYOND BORDERS" was held at University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) from April 28, 2015 to May 2, 2015. The festival was inaugurated by Dr. D. D. Lapang, Chief Adviser to the Government of Meghalaya & former CM, Meghalaya in a glittering ceremony in presence of three hundred fifty participants from all over the North East.

The Inaugural Ceremony was preceded by a colourful cultural procession which was flagged off by Dr. Lapang. The participants from all the eight North Eastern states were welcomed by the student representatives of those particular states studying at USTM & RIST during the cultural procession. More than two thousand students joined the rally.

Cont. to page - 2

VC JNU Speaks on 'Role of Biotechnology'

Prof. S. K. Sopory, honourable Vice Chancellor, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Delhi and a renowned Biotechnologist of the country, visited USTM on January 31, 2015. During his visit he had delivered a talk on "Role of Biotechnology in Agriculture: Biotech crop" at tecno city premises in presence of faculty and students of USTM and the students of Cotton College State University, Guwahati. The research scholars and other higher officials of USTM were also present during the lecture.

While addressing the gathering Prof. Sopory highlighted the importance of Biotechnology in the developing society towards fulfilment of the requirement for food, nutrition and health. He emphasized on the application of biotechnology for the benefit of the society.

Prof. S. K. Sopory,VC, JNU

Editorial

It is my immense pleasure to present you this issue of USTM Newsletter January –April 2015. This current issue will update you with the all round activities of USTM in the past three months. These three months were full of actions where the University has hosted several important events, organized various meets, witnessed the visits of eminent personalities and inked collaborations with international and national level organizations.

One of the major events was hosting of the NE NSS festival 2015, it was a great learning especially for students where around five hundred volunteers participated from all over north east. Former CM of Meghalaya, Dr DD Lapang, Former Governor of Meghalaya Shri R S Mooshahary and many other dignitaries and officials of Government of Meghalaya were present to encourage the youth of NE. The five days of NSS festival were full of activities including various competitions, like quiz, skit, music etc. The cultural programme witnessed and explored the talents of the region in music, dance and other performing arts and was full of colour and flavor of Northeast.

To boost the R&D activities, USTM has crossed the territory to join hands with Bangladesh University of Health Sciences, which will provide scope for the students and faculty members to share ideas, exchange programmes and pilot innovative research works.

To nurture the academic environment, 'North East Teachers Congress', was organized by the university, to help the teachers to adapt the changing scenario of education and needs of the students of present generation, which was attended by around five hundred teachers from various parts of North east. The event brought together eminent academicians, Vice Chancellors of different universities and teachers on the same platform.

Among the noted academicians of the country, Prof S K Sopory, Honorable Vice chancellor of JNU, visited USTM during an event and delivered a talk on the biotechnology and its role in agriculture. It was a wonderful opportunity for the members of the varsity to interact with the eminent scientist.

Past three months were eventful for the university and the goal and function of the USTM newsletter is to highlight all the exciting and newsworthy events; however, the small it might be. I hope the coming three months will be full of new learning, initiatives and activities in our campus.

Dr Alpana Choudhury

Cont. from page - 1

NE, NSS Festival at USTM

The Souvenir of the 2nd NE NSS Festival was released and the IGNSS awardees were also felicitated at the Inaugural Ceremony by the Chief Guest Dr. D. D. Lapang, Chief Adviser to the Government of Meghalaya.

The valedictory function on 2nd May was presided over by Shri R. S. Mooshahary, former Governor of Meghalaya where the chief guest was Shri. Justine Dkhar, Parliamentary Secretary, Dept of Education, Govt. of Meghalaya. Shri Mooshahary, in his speech said that the theme of the event have been rightly quoted as bonding beyond borders. Mr. Justine Dkhar highly appreciated the efforts made by the host University to make this festival a grand success.

ERDF Excellence Award 2014

ERD Foundation like every year confers Excellence awards to eminent personalities from all walks of life in recognition of their outstanding contributions in various fields, which immensely benefited the society at large. Professor Sudhir Kumar Sopory, the Honourable Vice Chancelllor of Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, handed over the "ERDF Excellence Awards – 2014" in a colourful function held at the University premises on January 31, 2015..

Keeping alive its decade long tradition, this year's Excellence Award was conferred to eminent personalities who have achieved excellence in their fields and also contributed immensely to the society. They are Shri. D. N. Bezboruah, noted journalist and former Editor of *The Sentinel*

Prof. Ashok Kumar Goswami, Language expert and Retired Prof. of Sanskrit, GU; Dr. Lakshahira Das, renowned Singer, Lyricist and Writer; Prof. M. H. Hazarika, former Head of Genetics and Plant Breeding, Assam Agriculture University; Prof. Anil Kumar Goswami, former Principal Cotton College;Dr. Nirupama Mahanta, Social Worker;Shri. G. L. Agarwalla, Chairman and MD, G L Publications;Smt. Tayabun Nisha, renowned sportsperson; Er. Isfaqur Rahman Borborah, Social Worker, Gandhian and former engineer of OIL and Dr. U. K. Sharma, former Director, NERIST. Shri.Radhika Mohan Bhagawati, eminent journalist and Editor of *Dainik Asom;* Col. Monoranjan Goswami, Renowned Columnist; Dr. D. N. Buragohain, Founder Director of IIT, Guwahati and Chancellor, Nagaland University; Dr. Justice Aftab Hussain Saikia, Chairperson, Assam Human Rights Commission were also in the list of Awardees but could not attend the function due to ill health and other preoccupations.

Junior College Principals Meet- 2015 Successfully Organized

The second Junior College Principals' Meet (JCPM) 2015 was successfully organized by Regional Institute of Science & Technology (RIST) in association with University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) at Techno City, Ri-Bhoi, Meghalaya on January 05, 2015.

JCPM is an effort of USTM & RIST supported by ERD Foundation to throw light on the various problems faced by the Colleges and Higher Secondary Schools and to come up with solutions. The theme of the Meet was "Infrastructure Development and Image Building of Junior Colleges in the NE Region". More than one hundred Principals of various Junior Colleges and Higher Secondary Schools from all over North East region have taken part in the conclave.

Eminent Educationists Dr. Gayatri Goswami, Dr. Farhana Perveen, Dr. Dinesh Baishya and few others have offered their valuable suggestions on various burning problems and solutions thereof.Dr. Kulendu Pathak, Former Vice Chancellor, Dibrugarh University, Dr. P.G. Rao, Vice Chancellor, USTM. Dr. P. C.Mahanta, Director, RIST; Dr. Alaka Desai Sarma, Dean, Students' Welfare, USTM along with a host of other distinguished and eminent educationists were also present on the occasion.

North East Teachers Congress -2014

The second North East Teachers Congress (NETC) organized during January 3, 4 and 5 by University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya in association with Regional Institute of Science and Technology and CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat and sponsored by ERD Foundation also witnessed the successful conduct of a National Seminar on "Changing Scenario in Academic Performance & Audit" on January 4, 2015.

The congress was attended by around five hundred college teachers from all over the North Eastern states.

The intention behind organizing the congress was to help teachers to adapt to the changing work environment to make the education process more interesting and effective for today's generation of students who grow up with different technologies, IT related skills as well as applications. The NETC 2014 provided a platform for the teachers to deliberate, interact and enrich themselves. The eminent scientists and academicians from the NER and the country, Prof. G. D. Sharma, Honourable Vice Chancelor of Bilaspur University; Prof. Bolin Kr. Konwar, Honourable Vice Chancelor of Nagaland University; Prof. B. C. Goswami, Director of Academic Staff College, GU; Dr. D. D. Ozha, Senior Scientist, Ground Water Dept., Jodhpur; Dr. R. M. Pant, Director of NIRD and many more academicians of repute have attended the congress.

USTM Hosted the IFWJ Meet

University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) organized the "Interaction Between Local and Delegate Journalists" of the 123rd Working Committee Meeting of Indian Federation of Working Journalists (IFWJ) on March 15, 2015 in Techno City campus. More than 300 journalists from all over India participated in the meet.

The interactive session witnessed the discussion of various relevant issues pertaining to the NER amongst the journalists that had gathered from all over India. The interactive session highlighted mainly on the "negligence" issue of North East in the National Media, border conflicts, insurgency, illegal foreigners, etc. Mr. K. Vikram Rao, President; Mr. B. V. Mallikar Junaih and Mr. Manoj Das, Vice Presidents; Mr. Parmanand Pandey, Secretary General of IFWJ were present during the interactive session.

Child Development Program

The NSS Cell, School of Biological Sciences, USTM organized a Child Development Programme (CDP) at Jorbill a remote village of Ri Bhoi district, Meghalaya. A daylong programme with many activities was organized for the 106 children of 4 schools from the three participating villages. Dr. Gayatree Goswami (Professor), Department of Education, GU; Dr. Babli Choudhury (Assistant Professor), Department of Education, GU and Mondalica Chaliha, Lead curator, Discovery Kids Science, North East Region were the invited speakers for the day. The Village Headman of Jorbill and the Headmistresses of the participating schools had also attended the programme. Amongst the various activities planned for the children were Rhyme Recitation, Drawing, Singing and Dancing Competitions, etc.

USTM students at Tezpur University

A team of 90 students and 16 faculty members of USTM have visited Tezpur University (TU) on 28th of January, 2015 for a Two-day visit. It was the first visit after signing the MoU between the two Universities. During the visit the faculty members and students had a useful interactive session with faculty members, research scholars and project staff members of TU.

WORKSHOP & SEMINAR

Workshop on IPR conducted by SBUS in association with Tezpur University

The department of Business Administration of USTM in association with the IPR cell of Tezpur University conducted a day long workshop on "Intellectual Property Rights Awareness" on 4th April, 2015. The coordinator and the research officer of the IPR cell of Tezpur University Dr. Pritam Deb & Dr. Suchibrata Goswami were the resource persons of the workshop.

The workshop started with a inaugural session which was attended by Dr R. K. Sharma, Pro Vice Chancellor, USTM and Prof Alaka Sarma, Dean Student affairs and Welfare.

Two Days Workshop by IIT, Delhi

Association for Computer Engineers and Scientists (ACES), Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), IIT, Delhi organized a two-day workshop on CISCO Networking as a part of India's Biggest Networking Championship (IBNC) 2015 at USTM campus on February 13 and 14, 2015.

Mr. Niraj kumar, from IBNC was present as a resource person. During the workshop a competition was conducted among the participants. Two students from BCA were selected as winners. The winners will get direct entry to the IBNC grand finale round at IIT Delhi.

Workshop on Fuzzy Logic

A workshop on Foundation of Fuzzy Set and Fuzzy Logic was held at Techno City on February 7, 2015 in collaboration with NIT Silchar. The students of USTM and RIST and other institutions have participated in the workshop. Dr. Ashok Deshpande, Founding Chairperson, Berkeley Initiative in Soft Computing (BISC) - Special Interest Group (SIG) - Environment Management Systems (EMS) was the chief speaker on the occasion.

Interactive talk on 'Financial Inclusion'

Coinciding with the launch of Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and Atal Pension Yojana (APY), the School of Business Sciences (SBUS) of University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) conducted an interactive session on "Financial Inclusion and Development" at its conference hall on May 9, 2015.

The interactive session was graced by Pintun Sutar, Deputy General Manager of the Department of Financial Inclusion and Development, Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Workshop on 'Corporate Social Responsibility'

The department of Business Administration and Social Work organized a one day workshop on 'Corporate Social Responsibility, Industrial Dispute Act 1947, Contract Labour Regulation and Abolition Act 1970', on 30th May 2015 at the techno city campus. Mr K Ahmed, Project Advisor, i-STED Project, was present as a guest of honour during the occasion.

The noted resource persons present at the workshop were, Mr Ujjwal Mishra, Deputy Manager Indian Oil Corporation Ltd, Dr Amiya Kr. Sarma, Executive Director Rashtriya Gramin Vikas Nidhi, Mr. Lalan Prasad Thakuria, Advocate Gauhati High Court, and Mr. Samsul Islam, Advocate Gauhati High Court. The students and faculty members of both the departments took active part to make the event a success.

Workshop on Current Application on Remote Sensing & GIS

The Department of Earth Science, USTM in collaboration with North Eastern Space Application Centre (NESAC), Department of Space, Govt. of India had successfully organized a National Level Workshop on "Current Application of Remote Sensing & GIS " from 6th to 11th April, 2015. The workshop was organised with an objective to ignite the interest in space science and technology related research among students & research scholars. Around 50 participants throughout the NE region had participated in the weeklong workshop. The workshop was inaugurated by Prof. A.K. Bora, Director of College Development Council under Gauhati University.

During the workshop 10 resource persons from various renowned organizations working the field of RS & GIS took part. Among them Dr. B. Handique, and Dr.R.Das, Scientists from NESAC, Dr.Panjit Sarmah from Aaranyak, Dr. Narayan Chetry from Cotton College, Dr.K.Sarmah from ARSAC were notable resource persons.

Environmental degradation threatening plant species : Speakers

A one-day national seminar on "Sustainable Utilization of Plant Resources of North East India" was held on May 23 in Department of Botany, GU organized jointly by the Department of Botany, Gauhati University and University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya (USTM). The seminar was inaugurated by Dr Dhruba J Saikia, VC, Cotton College State University.

The seminar was participated by a number of participants and some eminent speakers like professor SK Borthakur, HoD, Department of Botany, Gauhati University, professor RK Sharma, Pro VC, USTM, professor DK Jha, Department of Botany, GU, Dr AA Mao, Joint Director, BSI, Shillong, professor L Sahoo, Department of Bio-sciences and Bio-engineering, IIT Guwahati and others. A advisory body was constituted of M Hoque, Chancellor, USTM, Dr M Hazarika, VC, GU and Dr PG Rao, VC, USTM during the occasion.

Workshop on "Accounting & Tally"

A four-day Workshop on "Accounting & Tally" has been organised by Department of Economics & Commerce, USTM from 14th March, 2015 onwards.

COLLABORATIONS

Regional cooperation gets a boost with USTM signing MoU with Bangladesh Varsity

University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) has signed an MoU with Bangladesh University of Health Sciences (BUHS), a university that strives to create multidisciplinary environment in biomedical research involving biological, chemical, clinical as well as social sciences, on March 15, 2015. Both the universities encoded their resolve to cooperate with each other in advanced research of health and biological sciences in black and white.

The MoU was signed by Mahbubul Hoque, Chancellor, USTM, on behalf of USTM and by Dr. Liaquat Ali, Vice Chancellor, BUHS on behalf of BUHS in the presence of the team from Bangladesh; Dr. N K Choudhury, Principal Advisor, ERDF and former VC, GU; Dr. P. G. Rao, Vice Chancellor, USTM; and other high officials of USTM.

The MoU decrees the exchange of faculty, students, and administrators between the universities. Both USTM and BUHS will facilitate visits and interchange of research staff for research, development, and teaching purposes. Both the universities agreed to cooperate with each other and facilitate R&D activities through joint research given the advantage of natural plant diversity of the NE region and Bangladesh.

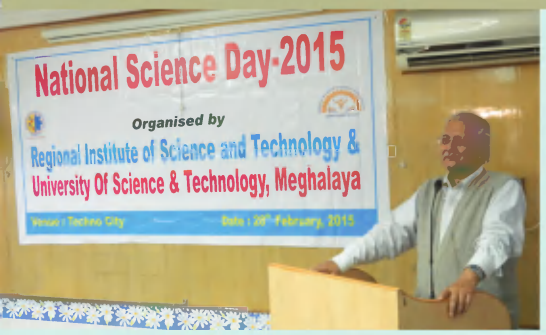
Aaranyak Joined Hands with USTM for Research on Wildlife

USTM has signed a MoU with Aaranyak, a Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation working on the conservation of biodiversity in North East India on March 12, 2015.The MoU was signed by Dr. Bibhab Kr. Talukdar, CEO & Secretary General of Aaranyak on behalf of Aaranyak and by Dr. P. G. Rao, honourable Vice Chancellor, USTM on behalf of the university in the presence of Shri M. Hoque, honourable Chancellor, USTM and Chairman, ERDF and other high officials of both the organizations.

This collaboration will provide all facilities to the scientific and technical staff, project assistants of Aaranyak to enroll for Ph.D programmes at USTM.

MoU between USTM and NESAC

On 27th April, 2015, a MoU was signed between North Eastern Applications Centre (NESAC), Depatment of Space, Govt. of India and University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya (USTM). The MoU was signed by Dr. S. Sudhakar, Director, NESAC and Dr. R.K. Sharma, Pro Vice Chancellor, USTM along with Senior Scientists of NESAC and faculty members of the Department of Earth Science. The main purpose of the MoU is to develop and enhance the academic and R&D activities of both the organizations with space science & technology. Now onwards USTM & NESAC will jointly work for building a scientific tempo among the educated youths of NE regions, in the field of Resource Management & conservation, Disaster Management, Biodiversity & Wildlife, Meteorology, various Environmental & Geographical researches, etc.



Science Day Celebration

The School of Biological Sciences and School of Electronics and Technology of University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) came together to celebrate the National Science Day enthusiastically under the theme: "Science for Nation Building" on 28th February, 2015 at the university premises.

To encourage the students and to create awareness about the importance of science education the NSS cell of Biological sciences of USTM organized an inter college debate competition on the topic: "Indian Science is lagging behind in developing Nation's Youth Force." Students from different colleges of Guwahati participated in this debate.

Women's Day Celebrated

During the celebration of International Women's Day at USTM on March 9, 2015, those women who have shown exemplary quality in their work during the year 2014-15 were honored by the varsity. Dr. Alaka Desai Sarma, Dean, Students Welfare, USTM was conferred the title "Techno City Ideal Lady" for her outstanding contribution to women's empowerment in USTM. Certificates and gifts were also handed over to the five fourth grade staff, section officers, staff of health centre, senior professors and faculty members for their outstanding and sincere contribution for the growth of this university.

World Social Work Day

The Department of Social Work, USTM celebrated the International Social Work Day on March 17, 2015 with a daylong programme. The event was inaugurated by Dr. B. P. Sahu, Professor, Department of Adult and Continuing Education, NEHU Shillong. The other delegates present in the inaugural session were Dr. M. Gangabhushan, Associate Professor, Dept. of Social Work, Assam University, Silchar; Mr. Manoj Kr. Das, Director, Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship; Dr. R. M. Pant, Director, NIRD, Guwahati; Mr. D. Savio Lakhra, Project Manager, Assam State Child Protection Society.

An Employers' Meet was also organized on the occasion which was attended by NGOs like Action Aid International, Red Cross Society, IIE, NACO etc. The students have organised an Exhibition based on their compiled field work reports during their course till date.

World Cancer Day

On the occasion of World Cancer Day on February 4, 2015, the students of Dept. of Social Work, USTM under the guidance of Mr. Aminul Islam staged a street play in B. Baruah Cancer Institute. The play was based on cancer and its impact on family and awareness about this killer disease in the society.

USTM observes National Technology Day

Along with the whole nation, the University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) also observed the National Technology Day on May 11, 2015 in a befitting manner. Professor Dr Kamal Kant Dwivedi, President of Global Academy of Doctorates, the former Vice Chancellor of Arunachal University and advisor to Ministry of Science & Technology, Government of India was present as a chief guest.

On the occasion, the varsity held an interactive talk on the topic "Building Research and Innovation Eco-System in India". The talk was delivered by Professor Dr Kamal Kant Dwivedi, who specializes in the fields of chemical, nuclear, environmental science and pursued research in inter-disciplinary areas and also published about two hundred research papers.

While addressing the students, Dr Dwivedi urged them to be more specific towards research and innovation oriented studies as India has the potential to excel in the field of research.

Awards & Achievements

USTM conferred with Indian Education Awards 2015

The University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya (USTM), promoted by the Guwahati-based Education Research Development Foundation (ERDF), has received the prestigious Indian Education Awards 2015 at a glittering function held at Vivanta by Taj in Delhi on June 10 and 11, 2015.

USTM has been conferred with the award in the category of 'University of the Year – East'. The award was received at a packed room full of some of the country's best minds, intellectuals and educational entrepreneurs. This year's theme for the Indian Education Congress 2015 was 'Innovation by Uniting Change with Sustainability' - Imparting practical learning that not merely educates but fulfils the needs of Indian youth, whether it is for employment or self-employment.USTM is the first private university on science and technology in the entire Northeast India to receive the award.

The varsity is dedicated to the cause of high quality science and technology education and advanced research in cutting edge areas leading to the creation of an institution where innovation, invention and entrepreneurship remain the cardinal focus and thrust. Creating best graduates, who can think, innovate and invent, is the driving force of USTM.

Chancellor among country's 50 Most Influential Education Entrepreneurs

Mahbubul Hoque, Chancellor of University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya (USTM), has been selected for "50 Most Influential Educational Entrepreneurs" citation by the World Education Congress. The 2015 citation will be awarded at World Education Congress on July 23 at Taj Lands End, Mumbai.

The World Education Congress recognizes that the education entrepreneurs are the future of the world and they are those people who will build the world with a passion for education. This has been communicated by Dr RL Bhatia, Founder, World CSR Day & World Sustainability Congress.

Campus Award to USTM

The Campus Preparedness Survey Award 2015 from East Zone was awarded to USTM on 3rd April, 2015 at a ceremony held in New Delhi in presence of the Vice Chancellor of UP Technical University, Prof RK Khandal, Jim Milton, CEO of Campus Management and many other dignitaries. Dr.P.G. Rao, the honorable VC of USTM received the award.

NIT, Warangal Achievement Award-2014" to VC, USTM

Dr. Paruchuri Gangadhar Rao, Honourable Vice Chancellor, University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya has received the "Distinguished Alumni Professional Achievement Award – 2014" on 31st Jan 2015 in a special function organized at NIT, Warangal, as Alumni Day. In recognition of his professional excellence, the Board of Governors and Management of National Institute of Technology, Warangal presented this Award.

Other Initiatives of ERD Foundation

KBWC begins its Journey

Education Research & Development Foundation (ERDF) had recently established the Khairun Nessa Begum Women's College (KBWC) at Badarpur in the district of Karimganj, Assam. On the 24th of May, 2015, this newly started College has organized a huge Women's Rally where more than one thousand girl students, women academicians, guardians and well wishers across the region irrespective of cast, creed and religion had actively participated. Students displayed placards with slogans like "Education liberates a Woman", "Support Women Education" etc. The rally was followed by a Panel Discussion on "Participation of Women in Higher Education -A Barak Valley Perspective" was organized in the premises of the new College at Hasanpur, Srigouri, Badarpur.

Outstanding Result by CPS Badarpur and Patharkhandi

The first batch of students of CPS Badarpur and CPS Patharkhandi affiliated to CBSE have come up with flying colors in HSLC result with 100 per cent success. Among the 38 students appeared from Badarpur and 39 from Patharkhandi, 36 and 34 of them secured first division, whereas 15 students have scored 80 % and above and five of them scored 90% and above in the examination.

Award of Excellence to Padmashree Dr. Mehmoodur Rehman, Former VC, AMU

In a glittering function in presence of the faculty and higher officials of its flagship institutions - USTM and RIST, - ERD Foundation, Guwahati conferred the Award of Excellence to Padmashree Dr. Mehmoodur Rehman (IAS), Former Vice Chancellor, Aligarh Muslim University for his outstanding contribution in the field of Administrative services and especially the social upliftment of the Minority Communities on February 28th, 2014. In the same occasion Dr. Rehman delivered a talk on the topic: "Role of Faculty in Institution Building".

Prof. D. W. Knight of Cardiff University, UK Visits USTM

Prof. David W. Knight, Professor of Synthetic Organic Chemistry, and Cardiff University, United Kingdom visited USTM on March 07, 2015 as a part of his academic visit to India. During his visit to Techno City he had delivered a talk on the topic: "New Acid-Catalyzed Methodology for Alkaloid Synthesis" and interacted with the students. Prof Knight appreciated the whole environment of USTM by praising both the faculty and students as bright, enthusiastic and dedicated. He further went on to state that USTM being a new university has amazing infrastructure in place.

Syed Muazzen Ali, High Commisioner of Bangladesh to India

His Excellency, Syed Muazzen Ali, High Commisioner of Bangladesh to India had visited USTM on the 30th of January, 2015. He highly appreciated the efforts of USTM in providing quality education to the students of the Northeastern India.

Talk on Wildlife Conservation and Management

Dr. Bibhab Kr. Talukdar, CEO and Secretary General, Aaranyak was the key speaker in the talk on,"Wildlife Conservation and Management", organized by USTM on February 05, 2015.

The other speakers of the day were Dr. Bibhuti Lahkar, Elephant Expert; Dr. Abdul Wakid, Dolphin Expert; Dr. Udayan Borthakur, Molecular Genetist; Mr. Pranjal Kr. Das, Molecular Genetist.

Varsity Week-2015

The USTM Varsity Week – 2015 was held during February 24, 25 and 26. "Unity in Diversity" was the theme of this Varsity week. The Inaugural Rally was flagged off on February 24, by Mr. Sunil Basumatary, Youth Officer NSS Cell, NER, Government of India.

Various competitions – cricket (girls and boys), football, volleyball (girls and boys), kabaddi, tug-of-war, mehndi, rangoli, dance, singing, atheletics etc. and cultural events too were organized to encourage the students' community to participate in diverse activities. The prizes for the various competitions were given away by the Chief Guest of the Concluding Ceremony – Prof. N. K. Choudhury, Former VC, Gauhati University.

Faculty Development Programme by EDI, India

A two-week long Faculty Development Programme (FDP) organized by USTM in association with Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDI), Ahmedabad under the aegis of National Science & Technology Entrepreneurship Development Board, Govt. of India that started from March 18, 2015 was concluded on April 2, 2015. Shri Kamruddin Ahmed, Advisor of EDI graced the valedictory session on April 2, 2015 and distributed the certificates among the participants of the programme.

The aim of organizing the twelve days faculty development programme was to create awareness about entrepreneurial opportunities and supporting and sustaining entrepreneurial behaviour among the students and also urged the participants to become more entrepreneurial teachers in the present day situation. The resource persons from various fields have delivered useful insight to the participants. Dr R M Pant, Director NIRD, Mr Anupam Dutta, Project Officer SIRD, Dr Sunil Saikia, former Director, IIE have shared their valuable suggestions with the participants.

Cont. from page - 1

Desk of the Vice Chancellor

This period has also marked the visit of important guests from abroad and India. The Distinguished personalities like Prof SK Sopory, VC, JNU, Delhi, Prof Liaquat Ali, VC, Bangladesh University of Health Sciences, Dhak, Prof Mehmoodur Rahman, Former VC of AMU, Prof DW Knight, of Cardiff University, UK, His Excellency, Sri Syed Muazzen Ali, High commissioner of Bangladesh to India, Prof, B Konwar, VC Nagaland University visited our university. The university has celebrated the National Science Day, World Women's Day, World Cancer Day, World Environment Day and World Social Work Day, which witnessed active participation from all.

The exams of the Even semester are in progress and the results will be declared as per schedule.. The preparation for the starting of odd semester from 6th July 2015 is in progress.

The Annual event of North East Teachers Congress -2014 and the Junior College Teachers Congress have been conducted successfully with the participation of large number of Teachers and Principals. The activities with the organizations where we had MoU's like Tezpur University, NIT Silchar, CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat are progressing well by the exchange of faculties and students with those organizations. We have also signed Mou's with more organizations like, ARANYAK, Guwahati, Bangladesh, University of Health Sciences, Dhaka and ISRO, NESAC, Shillong.

My congratulations to the students who have excelled in the schools under ERD Foundation at Badarpur and Patharkandi. A special welcome to Khairun Nessa Begum Women's College faculty and students at Badarpur, which has started its journey beginning under the leadership of ERD Foundation. I am happy to congratulate the editorial team and advisors of the newsletter for their sincere efforts in bringing the newsletter in time. I extend my warm welcome on behalf of USTM to all the prospective parents and their wards to be part of our USTM family.

Dr. P.G.Rao
Vice Chancellor, USTM

National Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Awareness Week

The Department of Public Administration and Rural Development, USTM, organized an awareness camp on the occasion of 'National Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Awareness Week' from March 16 to 22 at Jorbil village in Baridua, Ri-Bhoi district.

In the awareness camp, the students interacted with the villagers and given them valuable information related to cleanliness and hygiene.

The students have gathered information on the problems related to sanitation, hygiene, health and drinking water in the village through their interaction with the villagers and tried to provide solutions by sharing tips related to cleanliness.

EDUCATIONAL TOURS AND FIELD WORK

The students of Botany on a field visit at Rajapara, Boko

The students of Zoology on a field visit at Nameri National Park

Health check-up organized by deptt. of Social Work, USTM

Awareness camp at a rural village of Baridua, Meghalaya

EDUCATIONAL TOURS AND FIELD WORK

The students of Zoology on an educational tour to Orchid Research Centre, Tippi with the faculty members.

The students of Botany on an educational tour to Indian Botanical Garden, Kolkata with the faculty members.

The students of Public Administration on an education tour with the faculty members to IIE,Guwahati

The students of Rural Development on an educational tour to Rural Resource & Training Centre, Umiam, Meghalaya

The students of Department of Business Administration on an educational tour to Brynihat

The studentst of Social Work organized a Rural Camp at Dihina Village

The students of Department of Sociology & Social Work on educational tour to Nazirakhat

Students of PQH School of Education on educational tour to NEHU, Shillong

Health Awareness Camp in Association with Govt. Ayurvedic College

An extension programme in association withAkshar Foundation (NGO) was organised at Pamohi Village, 9th May' 2015. A health camp was held for creating awareness on Herbal Medicine and Yoga. A team of Doctors from Govt' Ayurvedic College joined the camp. Some Ayurvedic medicines were also distributed among the villagers.

Research Scholars and Guides Meet

On January 03, 2015, an interactive meet of Research Scholars and guides was organized in USTM. The meet took place in the presence of Dr. D. D. Ojha, Sr. Scientist, Ground Water Department, Rajasthan. Dr P G Rao, VC USTM, Dr R K Sharma, Pro VC USTM and also the higher authorities of the university were present on the occasion.

Educational Tour / Industry Visit

On 16th May 2015 the student with the faculties of the Department organiseda educational tour to Rajapara, Boko to see the Citronella cultivation and the MS Aromatics indusrty . There they have seen learned the practices of citronella cultivation and harvesting and processing and extraction of oil.

New Initiative of USTM : School of Law and Research to be launched

USTM is introducing the Legal education under "University School of Law and Research" from the session 2015-16. The School will start 3 years LLB and 5 years integrated BA LLB courses. A team of Bar Council of India (BCI) conducted the inspection on 31st March 2015. Dr. Anil Kumar Sinha, PhD, LLM, M.Sc., former Director, Directorate of Forencic Science, Assam has already joined as the Dean of School of Law and Research. Dr. Sinha has a wide range of exposure in the field of Law education. He is also a research guide and Visiting Professor of Gauhati University.

Apart from this, over the past few years, seeing the need of technical advancement in Remote Sensing and Geographic Information software; and greater availability of data at usable scales, USTM is introducing the P G diploma course in 'Geo-informatics', under the School of Applied Sciences from the session 2015-16.

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 publications for last three years as follows :

School	Year 2012-13	Year 2013-14	Year 2014-15
Applied Science	04	10	20
Biological Science	20	23	47
Business Science	13	17	35
Engineering & Technology	02	07	10
Prof. Qoumrul Hoque School of Education	-	01	04
Social Science & Humanities	07	19	29

Achievements

Dr Abdul Wahab, HOD, Department of Chemistry, USTM has received an invitation to join the "Institute of Organic Chemistry & Biochemistry, Prague, Czech Republic for two months as a visiting researcher. This opportunity will open up the scope to develop a relation with this institution to carry forward the innovative research in the field of chemistry.

USTM Public Lecture on Diabetics

University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) in association with Cotton College State University; Assam Down Town University (ADTU); CSIR-NEIST, Jorhat; and Asian Network of Research in Anti-Diabetic Plants (ANRAP), Dhaka organised a Public Lecture on "Herbal Medicines and Diabetic Care: an experience and success story from Bangladesh" at Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra in Guwahati on March 15, 2015.

A team of 35 scientists and academicians from Bangladesh University of Health Sciences (BUHS) and Bangladesh Institute of Research & Rehabilitation in Diabetes, Endocrine and Metabolic Disorders (BIRDEM), Dhaka led by Prof Liaquat Ali, Vice Chancellor, BUHS graced the occasion and interacted with doctors, researchers, patients and academicians of Guwahati city.

Call of Brahmaputra : Cycle Rally

Call of Brahmaputra" - A Mega Cycle Rally organized by Sarhad, Swanand Adventures and Prospective Repertory Theatre Manipur (PRTM), Nambol had visited USTM on March 21, 2015 (Saturday). This rally was flagged off from Imphal by the Chief Minister of Manipur Okram Ibobi Singh on March 13, 2015. USTM felicitated the cyclists and encouraged them to fulfill their objective of spreading the significance of peace and brotherhood across northeast.

International Day of Biodiversity

Biodiversity Day on 22nd May was celebrated in the Department. The Associate Prof' Dr.RanjanK Bora of PragjyotishCollege deliver a talk on "Environment and orchid in relation to habitate". He discussed how natural habitate of orchid destroyed due to deforestation. A lively discussion was held by Dr. S.C. Das, Dean, School of biological sciences on particular topic.

Talk on "Indo-France Relations"

A group of twelve French Delegates from Perspective Asienes visited USTM on 14th February, 2015. The delegates had delivered talk on "Indo-France Relations" and interacted with the students. The Speakers gave deliberations on Scope of Cultural and Social exchange between India & France. They also promised to extend their help to the students who want to pursue their higher studies abroad.

FDP on "Research Methodology"

USTM in association with IBS Business School organized a Faculty Development Programme (FDP) with special emphasis on "Research Methodology" for faculty members of renowned colleges of Guwahati on 15th February, 2015.

RECENT VISITORS

Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
Former President of India

His Excellency Shri R.S. Mooshahary
Former Governor of Meghalaya

Prof. S.K. Sopory
VC, JNU, New Delhi

Prof. W. David Knight
Cardiff University, UK

Prof. Bolin Kumar Konwar
VC, Nagaland University

Dr. Ashok Dutta
Member, NEC, Shillong

Dr. Mridul Hazarika
VC, Gauhati University

Padmasree Dr. M. Rahman
Former VC AMU

His Excellency Syed Muazzem Ali
High Commissioner of Bangladesh to India

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE :

Chief Editor : Dr. Alpana Choudhury
Editor : Surajit Talukdar

Layout and Design : Giasuddin Ahmed
Jitu Mahanta

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

Published by : USTM Centre for Publications

Address : Techno City, Khanapara, Kling Road, Baridua, 9th Mile, Ri-Bhoi, Meghalaya-793101
Ph. 0361-2895030/098540-23060, E-mail : ustm2011@gmail.com