

Sikkim University
6th Six-Monthly Report
April 15 – October 14, 2015

1. The Master Plan and DPR of the Sikkim University campus at Yangang are finalized and approved by the Building Committee, Finance Committee and Executive Council. However, the Finance Committee has advised that the University may issue work orders to contractors only for that much of Plan money which is available with the University. The total cost for the first phase of the campus at current rates is 827 crores. Since Yangang is about 3 hours' journey by bus from Gangtok it is not possible to shift there till the first phase is completed. But the chances of getting 827 crores from the UGC, including 110 crores available from XII Plan allocation by the UGC, do not appear very bright. Therefore, the University must explore other potential sources of fund such as the ministries of DONER, Tribal Affairs, Social Justice and Empowerment, Non-Conventional Energy, Sports, and so on. However, the total fund generated from other sources may not cross 100 crores. Hence, the UGC has to make provision for building the campus under the XIII Plan failing which the academic progress of the University will be stunted and it will unnecessarily have to spend a colossal amount of money on payment of house rent.

The University has also taken necessary steps for clearance of the building project from various regulatory bodies like Forest & Environment Department, Pollution Control Board, Building and Housing Department, Urban Development and Housing Department, and Civil Aviation Department. The only stumbling block for starting construction work at the moment appears to be lack of water supply to the campus. The obligatory clearances are likely to be obtained in another one month or so, but when will the water be provided for campus is uncertain.

The construction of boundary wall is progressing well and the same is expected to be completed by the middle of January 2016. The drawing of a dedicated electrical line for the campus is completed.

2. The University established the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Centre for Northeast Studies with funding from the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Kolkata. The Centre was inaugurated on 19th June 2015 by the Chief Rector of the University & Hon'ble Governor of Sikkim, Sri Srinivas Patil. The inaugural lecture was delivered by Professor A.C. Sinha, National Fellow of the Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi.
3. The 8th Foundation Day of the University was celebrated on 2nd July 2015 at the auditorium of Sikkim Government College, Tadong. The chief guest on the occasion was Professor Prabhat Patnaik, Emeritus Professor of Economics at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Prof. Patnaik spoke on "The Current Juncture and the Erosion of Higher Education".
4. Online applications for 81 teaching and 74 non-teaching posts were sought but there were hardly any eligible candidates for the posts of Professor and Associate Professor in most departments. Interviews were held for the short-listed eligible candidates for teaching

posts every day, including holidays, from 19th of September to 9th of October but only 21 teaching posts could be filled up. The next round of interviews is planned in the end of February 2016. It was also not possible to fill up some non-teaching posts like Executive Engineer, Internal Audit Officer, Public Relations Officer, and Librarian due to lack of eligible candidates but most lower non-teaching posts were filled up.

5. The University established three laboratories in the Department of Computer Applications, one each in Chinese and Mathematics departments, and one computer lab and one moot court in the Department of Law during the period under report. The process was started during the 5th six-monthly report period.
6. On 27th September 2015, the University organized a national workshop on “Addressing Regional Disparity in Higher Education in India” under the aegis of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. The recommendations of the workshop have been sent to the Ministry for consideration of inclusion in the National Educational Policy.
7. The University prepared the Annual Report and Annual Account for 2014-15 and the same were approved by the Executive Council in its meeting held on 31st October 2015. The Annual Accounts, along with the Separate Audit Report (SAR) issued by the C &AG, New Delhi were also approved by the Finance Committee in its meeting held on 12th October 2015 at New Delhi.
8. The Horticulture Department of the University collaborated with the state government in testing some crops for organic certification, thereby helping the Sikkim to achieve the status of an organic state by the end of this year.
9. The National Assessment and Accreditation Council sent a peer team to our university in May and the result was announced in its website in the end of June 2015. The University was accredited ‘B’ with 2.60 grade points. The University needs to go for 2nd cycle of assessment in 2020. Hopefully the Yangang campus would have come up by then and the University would get an ‘A’ grade.
10. The University Central Library crossed the threshold of 40 thousand books during the period and also started an e-library of its own with about 3000 e-books donated by the incumbent vice-chancellor and a few hundred e-books donated by some faculty members of the University.
11. Vertical access was provided to Master students for MPhil programme in 9 departments and PhD programme in 11 departments.

T.B. Subba, Vice-Chancellor
Sikkim University, Gangtok