

**SIKKIM UNIVERSITY**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Six Monthly Report**  
(April 15 to October 15, 2016)

**On Skills Development:**

On 18<sup>th</sup> April the University organized a meeting between the Principals of affiliated colleges and the officials of National Skills Development Corporation, New Delhi for a thread-bare discussion on various opportunities and possibilities for the college students in skill development. The university has also given NoC to several colleges affiliated to it for starting B.Voc programme in selected trades but subject to approval of their proposals by AICTE.

**Ministry of External Affairs Distinguished Lectures:**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> May the University organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> MEA Distinguished Lecture and the lecture was delivered by Amb (Rtd) Yogendra Kumar. On 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016, 3<sup>rd</sup> MEA Distinguished Lecture was organized by the university and the lecture was delivered by Amb (Rtd) Rajiv Bhatia.

**Expansion of Academic Programmes:**

The University started from August 2016 three new PG departments – Lepcha, Bhutia and Limbu. Sikkim University is the only university in the whole world to offer post graduate courses in these languages. These three languages have their own scripts and had started producing BA (Hons) students from three government colleges of Sikkim from 2015 itself. These languages are tribal and listed as endangered languages by the UNESCO. The university also started MPhil and/or PhD programmes in some departments from the session starting from July 1, 2016.

**Faculty Development:**

On 17<sup>th</sup> May the University organized a workshop for the faculty members and PhD scholars of our university on the techniques of writing scientific papers in prestigious journals by inviting resource persons from Springer-Nature. This was an important faculty development programme that was pursued further later by inviting resource persons from other prestigious publishing houses like Taylor & Francis, Elsevier and Sage.

Faculty members were also sent for Orientation Course and Refresher Course to various universities, besides sending them for seminars and conferences on Duty Leave.

Seminars and workshops were also organized by the university in collaboration with various institutions outside Sikkim wherein the faculty members, research scholars of the university and college teachers participated.

**Career Advance Scheme:**

During the period under report, Screening cum Evaluation Committee meetings were held for all faculty members who were eligible for promotion from Stage I to II and they were duly promoted. Currently, there are no pending cases of promotion from Stage I to II.

**Central Library:**

Library website was created and remote access provided to all faculty members, PhD and MPhil scholars of the University through a software called Knimbus. Also all affiliated colleges of the

University have been provided with remote access to all e-resources of the University Central Library, including Inflight resources and e-books, which are all integrated and can be accessed from a single window.

**Students' Affairs:**

The election for various posts of the Sikkim University Students' Association was successfully held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2016 for the first time in the history of Sikkim University and strictly according to the Lyngdoh Committee recommendations as approved by the apex court of India.

**Campus Development:**

The boundary wall construction is completed for 265 acres of land in possession with the University. Additional wall will be constructed as and when the remaining 35 acres of land is handed over to the University by the state government.

The university received all statutory clearances for campus construction project and the contract with the construction company called Nagarjuna Construction Company of Hyderabad was signed. In the first package of the first phase of the university campus construction the administrative building, library building and one faculty block are going to be constructed besides link roads to those buildings, water and electricity connections. The campus is planned to be completely horn-free, disabled-friendly, GRIHA-3 compliant, and zero-waste. Responsibility for green mapping of the campus is given to the departments of Botany and Horticulture and the report will be submitted shortly. Planting of 10 times the number of trees felled shall be taken up by the Department of Forest and Environment, Government of Sikkim, for which necessary funds have been earmarked. The university is also looking forward to receiving positive response from the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Govt. of India to our proposal for converting about 40 acres of steep and unbuildable land into solar panel area so that the university can be completely grid-free.

If funds are made available the first phase of the University should be ready by the winter of 2019 and the University could shift to its own campus. Shifting to its own campus will not be without major challenges about shifting the entire university, which include engaging with 40-odd building owners who have already developed vested interests and above all engaging with our own students, faculty members and support staff many of whom find the campus too far from the capital of the state and without proper medical facilities for them and educational opportunities for their children.

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