

Messenger

Expand Knowledge & Benefit Society



UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY, MEGHALAYA

Promoted by : ERD FOUNDATION-GUWAHATI

Message from the Visitor, USTM

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

His Excellency the Governor of Meghalaya hopes that USTM, in due course of time became a Centre of Excellence in science & technology education and empower the youth of NE region to achieve success in a competitive environment.



From the Desk of Founder

M. Hoque, Chancellor, USTM

USTM is the dream venture of ERDF which came into existence due to the united effort and support of faculty, students, officials, parents & well wishers of ERDF Institutions. With the patronage of every one, the management of the University is trying to give all kinds of efforts to make it a Centre of Excellence to attract the global community so that regional talents can be explored for all round development of our country specially the North Eastern Region. Suggestions, advices and any innovative ideas are most welcome to make this University a 'University of Mankind'.



My special thanks to His Excellency Shri. R.S Mooshahary, Governor of Meghalaya, Dr. Donkumar Roy, Former CM, Meghalaya, Mr. Manash Choudhury, Shri P.A. Sangma, & all other members of Legislative Assembly who have given immense support for the enactment of USTM Bill in the Assembly.

Message from the Principal Adviser

Dr. N.K Chaudhury, Former VC, Gauhati University

The University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya has been launched with the mission of participating in the nation building task of human resource development. It has the vision of emerging as a world class centre of university education in science and technology. It is going to be a university with a difference, in which in addition to creation and dissemination of knowledge due emphasis will be given on development of innovative talent and useful skill.



Northeast India lags behind the rest of the country in creation of facilities for higher education, and this has resulted in exodus of students from the region. There is a historic reason for this. Higher education at the university level started here only in 1948 when the Gauhati University came into existence nearly one hundred years after the universities in the region has now increased considerably, but the deficiency still remains. The University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya is going to help in removing the deficiency. Not only that as one of the very few universities dedicated to science and technology in this region it will play a crucial role by providing quality education of specialized nature.

The Foundation has created top class infrastructure for the university to carry on its research and teaching programmes. The USTM campus is located amidst verdant hills of Meghalaya, not far from Guwahati city, and is ideal for academic pursuit in a pleasant, peaceful and pollution free environment.

Note from Vice-Chancellor

Dr. S.K. Choudhury, VC, USTM

University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya is established to fulfill the expectation of the people of NE region in general and the state of Meghalaya in particular in the field of Higher Education. It is the first operative Science & Technology University of North-East region. We are aware of the fact that in the institute of Higher Education we need to prepare our students for a 'multitasking' world of opportunities where they would be required to carry out different types of jobs. Our responsibility is to prepare young upcoming students with proper knowledge and a professional edge to their talent so that they can establish in life with responsible job discharging ability. Our courses are designed according to such needs and we will see to it that the students are going to have an enjoyable learning experience at USTM.



Message from Eminent Vice-Chancellors

The University is expected to carry out the composite ethos and rich diversity of India and emerge as a Centre of Excellence.

Prof. G.D. Sharma
Former VC, Nagaland University
& Pro VC, Assam University



A new University in our region is a matter for rejoicing by the regional communities. More so, when the new institution focuses on science and technology. My best wishes to ERD Foundation for launching this voyage to the domains of knowledge and wisdom by our young men and women.

Dr. A.C Bhagabati
Former VC, Rajiv Gandhi University



I wish the new University well and quote Tony Blair (Former Prime Minister of UK) as a message "Students cannot be effective in tomorrow's world after they are trained in yesterday's skill".

Dr. Kulendu Pathak
Former VC, Dibrugarh University



The innovative courses of the University will be useful to the prospective students and the academic community of the region. My good wishes to the university.

Dr. Gajendra Nath Talukdar
Former VC, Gauhati University



Let the USTM enkindle the torch of knowledge throughout the entire North Eastern states of India for ever.

Shri Kamaleswar Bora
Former VC, Dibrugarh University



Congratulations to USTM. The University will be of immense help for the aspiring students.

Dr. Kishori Mohan Pathak
Former VC, Tezpur University



Launching of USTM : The Golden Moment for ERDF

At Guwahati:

Educational Research & Development Foundation(ERDF) formally announced the launch of University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya at Hotel Landmark on September 25, 2011 at



Guwahati. Dr. Kulendu Pathak, former Vice-Chancellor, Dibrugarh University, Prof. G.D Sharma, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Assam University, Silchar and Mr. H.N Das, former Chief Secretary, Assam, Dr. Kishori Mohan Pathak, former VC, Tezpur University & Prof. M. Hussain, Gauhati University, were the dignitaries present on the occasion along with several other renowned academicians of the region.

M.Hoque, Chancellor of the University stated that “the university will take its full shape in the next 6 years incorporating more industry-oriented schools of study comprising of employable courses and will try to fulfill the educational aspect of Vision-2020 prepared by Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.” Dr. Kulendu Pathak, added that this time we should have competition with world class universities such as Harvard and Cambridge. Mr.H.N Das talked about innovation and said that “It should be an 'A' grade university.”

Prof. G.D Sharma said that “the new university will offer new subjects which will be employment oriented in nature so that the students need not go outside the region in pursuit of advanced professional courses.”

Dr.Satyendra Kr. Choudhury is of the view that, he believed in dreaming followed by action to transform the dream into reality.

At Shillong:

With the gracious presence of His Excellency Shri R.S. Mooshahary, Governor of Meghalaya as the Chief Guest, Education Research & Development Foundation (ERDF) officially launched the University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) at Hotel Polo Towers on November 4, 2011, in Shillong, Meghalaya.

Mr. A.T. Mondal, Minister of Power, Transport & IT, Prof. K. Ismail, Controller, NEHU, Mr. Khylllep, Director, Technical Education cum OSD, Education Department, Government of Meghalaya, Dr. Nirmal Kr. Chaudhury, Principal Adviser, ERDF and several other high-profile dignitaries spoke on the occasion.

M. Hoque, Chancellor said “with almost two years of focused study on the educational needs of the region by expert academicians, scientists and group of former Vice Chancellors of the region, we have formulated the roadmap, mission and vision document of the new University-USTM”

Dr. Satyendra Kr. Choudhury is of the opinion that “USTM will be a World Class University”. Mr. Feidel War, Honorary Director, USTM offered the vote of Thanks.



M. Hoque in NMCME panel under MHRD

Mahbubul Hoque, Chancellor of University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) has been inducted into the recently-formed National Monitoring Committee for Minorities' Education (NMCME) under the Ministry of HRD, Govt of India. Union HRD Minister Kapil Sibal will head this Committee as the Chairman.

He is also unanimously selected as the President of North East Forum For Technical Institutions (NEFTI), a forum for all AICTE approved technical institutions of the NE Region.

USTM Felicitated Literary and Cultural Stalwarts

Education Research and Development Foundation (ERDF) in association with University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) honored the eminent literary personalities of Assam through a colourful felicitation program to mark the advent of the new year 2012.



The scholars who have made immense contribution to the field of literature namely, Shri Homen Borgohain, Shri Lakshminandan Bora, Shri Atulananda Goswami, Dr.Pramod Bhattacharjee, Shri Arun Sharma, Shri B. S. Narzary and Smt. Eli Ahmed were felicitated on the occasion at the conference hall, Administrative Block, Regional Institute of Science and Technology (RIST), 9th Mile on January 7, 2012.

Dignitaries from all walks of life including Directors, Principals, Deans, and faculty members of all ERDF institutions graced the occasion. Former Vice-Chancellor of Gauhati University, Professor N.K Chaudhury presided over the function.

ERDF has the tradition to felicitate the eminent personalities of different arena, as last year also the foundation felicitated 12 former Vice-Chancellors of North East Universities for their contribution towards the field of education.

USTM Inspiring Higher Education in North East

Amit Choudhury, Registrar, USTM

North-East of India is the land of Blue Mountains, Green Valleys and Red River. Nestled in the Eastern Himalayas, this region is abundant in Natural Beauty, Wild life, Flora and Fauna and its Colorful people. A blend of all these makes it the most beautiful Eco-Tourism area in the country besides being identified as a Bio Diversity hot spot. The same also befits the region's potential of becoming an educational hub of India and may cater towards fulfilling educational needs of not only the region, but also provide for creation of ample opportunities to serve the global audience more specifically to countries in South East Asia. This shall also be in the lines of Government of India's Look-East Policy.

North East India too saw the upsurge in private participation in the field of higher and technical education, with as much 9 private managed Engineering Institutions being already set up in the past 2-3 years. Also, the MHRD, Government of India in its recent declaration has come up with plans to add 6 more NIT's in the region apart from one Central University in each State and several polytechniques. What remains to be seen is how such a quantum leap in establishing Institutions of Higher Learning is supplemented by the required number of qualified trained teachers, adequate infrastructure, facilities etc. More so, when the Higher Educational system in India is already facing acute shortage of technically qualified manpower in terms of Professors, Readers and Lecturers.

Higher education reform on an international scale is having a profound impact on organizations and institutions where there are now mandates and requirements to implement explicit learning outcomes and assessment policies for all undergraduate curricula (Bergen Communique, 2005; Bresciani, 2006; CRAC, 2003; Hubball & Burt, 2004; Hubball & Gold, 20007; OCAV Report, 2005). The same holds true for any level of education as such wherein adequate stress on the "learning outcome" at each level needs to be understood and accordingly appropriate teaching-learning methods and tools be adopted towards producing employable and productive human resources.

There is a growing concern that India is not preparing a sufficient number of students, teachers, and practitioners in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). A large majority of secondary school students fail to reach proficiency in math and science, and many are taught by teachers lacking in adequate subject matter knowledge. Moreover adequate emphasis also needs to be given on matters related to scientific innovation of the traditional subjects so offered in our Universities in order to manifold the benefits accrued in a society from an educational system. Be it culture studies, polity, society, policy analysis etc newer approaches are to be evolved in order to make students from humanities and other allied streams acquire relevant knowledge in today's context.

ERD Foundation, a pioneer group in the field of Education Research and Development; has indeed till date managed to engage itself towards developing an eco-system of Education encompassing

KG to PG, wherein lies the emphasis of appropriately developing the latent Human Resource Potential of the region and thus help bridge the gap that exists in spheres leading to the socio-economic uplift of the region. With over a decade of experience in the field of Primary, Secondary, Senior Secondary and Higher & Technical Education, ERD Foundation is the proud promoter of:

Central IT College, Dispur
Regional College of Higher Education, Hatigaon
Regional Institute of Science & Technology, Meghalaya
Central Public School, Patharkandi
Central Public School, Badarpur
ERDF Junior College, Hatigaon
ERDF Junior College, Badarpur
School of Career Guidance, Dispur
Regional Research & Development Center, Hatigaon

And with the enactment of the University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya Act of 2008 by the Government of Meghalaya, ERD Foundation has seen its dream project of a University coming up at Meghalaya. The academic functioning of the University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) commenced during September, 2011 and is presently conducting various UG, PG and Ph.D Programs under the following schools:

School of Biological Sciences
School of Applied Sciences
School of Social Science and Humanities.
School of Business Studies
School of Media Science and Cultural Studies

Already 40 Research scholars have been admitted in the Ph.D courses in the subjects such as Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Microbiology, Zoology, Botany, Natural Resource Management, Environmental Science and Ecology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Electronics, Statistics, Economics, Sociology, Social Works, Psychology, Commerce, Business Studies and Management Science and Media Science and Cultural Studies.

Further information regarding Courses/ Programs as offered by various Schools and Departments therein may be had from the official website of the University www.ustm.ac.in

Integrated courses at USTM

It is proposed to introduce an innovative 7 year integrated Ph.D. Programme on Biological Science/Life Science from the session 2012-13, the entry to which shall be H.S./10+2 passed on merit basis. Vertical integration to various professional PG programmes like MBA/MCA/MMC/MBE/MIBM/MIS & MCS will be accommodated to various existing UG courses at USTM.



Dr. Ajit Verma, Former Professor, JNU & Director General Amity University with some faculty members during a talk at USTM

A group of 40+ Scientists & Research scholars from BIRDEM & other Institute of Medical Sciences visited USTM after completion of Seminar. It has been agreed that collaborative research work may be initiated jointly with USTM for common interest.



View of Scientists from Bangladesh participated in a Seminar organized by ANRAP, Dhaka in association with NEIST & ERDF

Endangered Medicinal Plants of North East India and Its Preservation

Dr. S.C. Das, Professor, School of Biological Sciences

The wealth of North-East Indian forests is well known. It is rich with rare plant species of high medicinal and economic values. During the recent years, heavy deforestation is being continued for development of various industries, extension of township, for timber and fuel and the forests are cleared indiscriminately, ignoring the importance of conserving valuable plant species. The created ecological imbalance is leading towards extinction of many valuable plant species along with the change in climatic condition. This situation is well experienced by the people of this region. Under these circumstances it becomes necessary to rescue and preserve the endangered plant species urgently. It is also important to exploit the medicinal and economic values of these natural resources for benefit of the society, with the help of bio-technological and conventional technology.

Taxonomist's exploration studies in the forests of the region have confirmed about the existence of many plant species having very high medicinal and economic values and marked some of them as

threatened, rare and endangered. Further studies revealed that this situation has been created due to drastic harvesting of the species by a group of people for illegal supply to the herbal drug producers of the country and hence it created disturbance in the eco-climate of the forest. These experiences suggest the necessity of exploring all the forest thoroughly to ascertain the location of existing species, then collection of the endangered floras for growing and preserving in the field gene bank as germplasm for their detailed study.

It is important to assess the active biochemical components present in the species and identify the active molecules having curative property of diseases. This knowledge would provide scope of developing technology for exploiting the medicinal and economic values of these natural resources towards human benefit. For this a well planned Research and Development effort will have to be initiated and the University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) can take the lead.

Fellowships on Life and Work of Dr Bhupen Hazarika



Dr. Bhupen Hazarika-for many is a singer of international repute but in reality he was a multifaceted personality, singer, lyricist, music director, film director, a poet, painter, journalist, litterateur and above all a humanist. He wanted nothing more than his people joining hands, disregarding barriers of religion, language and nationality and living in harmony. It is incredible to realize the massive number of lives he touched irrespective of rich and poor. Just after Dr. Bhupen Hazarika's death, ERDF the promoter of University of Science and Technology,

Meghalaya has offered two full time research fellowships to two research fellows to work on various aspects of Life and work of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika. Just after the announcement many research scholars applied for the fellowships. After a rigorous process of screening and selection process Shri. P.J. Baruah, Executive Editor of The Assam Tribune and Ms. Pallavi Barua Sub Editor of The Shillong Times have been selected to offer the fellowships. They have already registered their names to pursue research on the contributions of Dr. Bhupen Hazarika under the supervision of Prof. Amarjyoti Choudhury and Dr. Dinesh Baishya. Respectively in the School of Media science and Cultural Studies, USTM.

NET & IAS Coaching Shri. H.N. Das has joined as Director

ERDF has taken bold initiative to introduce coaching classes for National Eligibility Test & Indian Administrative Services to guide the enrolled students to qualify successfully both examinations. Coaching for other competitive examinations will also be introduced in phased manner. Shri. H.N. Das (IAS), former Chief Secretary, Govt. of Assam has joined as Director of the IAS Coaching Centre. Coaching for IAS will be held at ERDF office & NET Coaching will be held at USTM campus tentatively from the month of September 2012.



33% Reserved for Girl Students

The management of ERDF have taken decision to admit 33% girl students in all the branches under different schools at USTM to encourage girl students for higher education. Special preference will be given to the students from backward, underprivileged sections of the society.



Eminent Academicians & Scientists from various Universities and R&D organizations during Academic Meet



Eminent Academicians seeing the view of USTM from the newly developed Helipad

Social Work : Now A Professional Delight

Dr. Satish Kumar, Assistant Professor, School of Social Sciences

The Social Work profession promotes social change, problem-solving in human relationships, and the empowerment and liberation of people to enhance their independence and happiness. Social work is not just about doing good deeds and helping the under-privileged. It deals with the economical, social and emotional problems arising out of different aspects of today's complex lifestyle.

A person is a net product of interaction between biological, psychological and environmental factors. The unique pattern that emerges from these interactions comprises of his capacities and abilities, attitudes, beliefs and values, feelings and thinking and his approach, or strategies to deal with various situation of life. The problem in one's life may arise either because of his unsuitable approach to social situation he encounter in his life or because of situations demanding something different or more than he possesses. These unresolved problems would affect the social functioning of an individual, which in turn causes stress to the individual, affect his family and community life and all the roles he/she perform in the society.

Social workers work towards the solutions of these problems through counseling, arranging conferences, increasing resources, spreading public awareness and starting social programs and health services. Assessing and treating, mental health and

emotional problems is also the job of a social worker.

Social work diversifies into the streams like Psychiatric Social Work, Community Organization, Clinical Social Work, School Social Work, Medical Social Work, Industrial Social Work, Criminology and Correctional Social Work, and Research Work with social orientation. With issues of disability, drug misuse, poverty, mental ill health, problems associated with ageing etc. rising constantly, social work has become a vital need of our society today.

Over a period of time, it has evolved into a profession. If you are willing to be a partner, negotiator, supporter, communicator, reformer, confronter and reflector and if you feel a great deal of compassion towards social issues, then this can be an excellent career option for you. It is not a 'conventional' career. If you are willing to take up a profession for emotional fulfillment and if your purpose of working is not just financial, this would be the ideal career for you. If you are

interested in a career that involves helping the ones who are underprivileged and in distress, and wish for a career that doesn't confine your activities into the air-conditioned cubicle, you can consider a career in social work. Increasing instances of child and women abuse, drug consumption, HIV positive cases, mental depression, disability, poverty, old age problems has created the need of nonprofit, social services and NGO jobs.



Conservation of endangered medicinal plants : A growing challenge for NE India

R. K. Sharma, Director R&D, ERDF and G. K. Sarmah, Associate Professor, School of Applied Sciences

North eastern region of India with its vast sylvan expanse of hills, rivers, forest and varied climates is the repository of a number of rare flora and fauna. The total geographical area of this region is 265036 sq km out of which around 27% are covered with forest. This region is represented by 500 flowering plant species and constitutes 34% of the total flora of the country. Most of the tribes of this region use different types of medicinal plants since ages to cure their ailment. The primary mean of livelihood of the people of this region is traditional agriculture.

The medicinal plants used by different tribes of the region to cure various diseases can provide valuable information to get useful and active constituents for development of drug. This requires systematic survey, screening and evaluation of plants of different localities. Although, the forest of this region are rich for a number of medicinal plants of industrial importance, but it has been seen that about 90% collection of medicinal plants is from the wild sources and 70% of the plant collections involve destructive harvesting. Wild and indiscriminate collection of plants are continuing for a long time mostly by the forest dwellers and economically backward classes of the region. These people are neither educated nor trained for collection of the plants. It is reported that huge quantity of medicinal plants are being taken away to different places of the world by indiscriminate collection. Due to this reason, many useful plant species are becoming endangered or threatened.

If this process continues unabated, depletion of medicinal plants is inevitable because of over exploitation. R serpentina of India is an example of this kind. The plant gets plucked and collected from the wild and is exported to USA. This had resulted in over exploitation of the plant and the government had to impose an embargo on its export. As the pharmacopoeia of USA requires only

R serpentina of Indian origin when used in crude form the country had to face major problem of its extinction. Similarly, Coptis teeta of India, an endangered species, has been also over exploited for export to other Asiatic countries

In recent times efforts have been made for tapping and documentation of the medicinal plants of this region used by different ethnic groups with a view to utilize the traditional knowledge bases for drug development. For example, clerodendrum colebrookianum popularly known as 'Nefafu' in Assam, 'Origin' in Arunachal Pradesh and 'Phuinam' in Mizoram is known to have hypotensive effect. Phytochemical investigations of the plant have been made and it was observed that 'Phuinam' grown in a particular altitude bears active component responsible for lowering the blood pressure.

Although a systematic screening has also been made (at different Universities and R&D Institutions of the region) on a number of folkloric medicinal plants of this region to isolate and identify the active constituents present in the plants, but till date a very few plant species bearing medicinal value have been investigated from this region.

Similarly, marketing of raw drugs of medicinal plants being unorganized and unregulated, often quality is not maintained. Since medicinal plants sector has a number of stake holders having divergent interests, without proper co-ordination, sustained growth in medicinal and aromatic plants cannot be ensured.

A group of Scientists from the Department of Biotechnology, University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya initiates to take a strategic planning to overcome the above problems. Their initiative encompasses the purview of conserving the genetically endangered medicinal plants especially from the forests of Meghalaya.

Dr. Dinesh Baishya, Dr. ANS Ahmed and Dr. Alaka Desai Sarma joined USTM



Dr. Dinesh Baishya, ex-Principal of B Borooah College, Guwahati has joined the University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya as Dean, School of Media Sciences and Cultural Studies and Dr. ANS Ahmed, retired Professor of IIT Guwahati joined as Dean, School of Social Sciences.

Dr. Baishya is a gold medalist post-graduate from Gauhati University, obtained his Ph.D degree from Tezpur Central University in Cultural Studies. He is a lyricist, playwright, novelist, essayist and media panelist and columnist. His research contribution in the field of Cultural Studies is remarkable. His research book entitled 'Traditional Science and Material Culture in Early Assam' has been internationally acclaimed. He is an expert in the field of traditional scientific knowledge system of the North East India. He is a research supervisor in the department of Folklore Research Dr Baishya has visited several countries where he has delivered lecture on traditional culture of Assam and NE India. He is also contributing in the field of Heritage conservation, as state Convener of Assam and national core committee member of Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural



Heritage. Dr. Baishya has made several documentary films and audio video serials on traditional culture of Assam.

Dr. ANS Ahmed retired professor of IIT-Guwahati is a renowned social scientist of India. Dr. Ahmed also worked as professor in OKD ISCD Guwahati and Dibrugarh University. His contribution in the field of

research in Social sciences is remarkable. Dr. Ahmed is a regular columnist in several newspapers of Assam. He has done several major research projects in social science in collaboration with several national and international universities. Dr. Alaka Desai Sarma, former professor of Jagiroad college and a social and political activist has also joined as Professor in Economics at the university.



In the Campus



Master Plan



His Excellency Shri R.S. Mooshahary, Governor of Meghalaya inaugurates the Departmental Store at USTM Campus



The Advisory Council Meeting of the School of Media Sciences and Cultural Studies, USTM

A meeting of the Advisory Council of the School of Media Sciences and Cultural Studies, University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya was held in the 2nd week of March, 2012. Several prominent media personalities and academicians of cultural studies of the region attended the meeting and offered their valuable advice for the upcoming wing of the University. The persons who graced the event are **Sri Kulada Kumar Bhattacharyya**, veteran media personality, **Sri Kishore Bhattacharyya**, HOD, Department of Folklore Research, Gauhati University, **Sri Arun Sarma**, former Director, All India Radio and eminent playwright and theatre activist, **Sri Pranjal Saikia**, veteran actor, **Sri Samudragupta Kashyap**, North-East correspondent, Indian Express, **Smt Alaka Desai Sarma**, former professor in Economics, Jagiroad College, political and social activist, **Smt Teresa Rahman**, former sub-editor, India Today and freelance media consultant and **Sri Arupjiyoti Kalita**, freelance journalist.

The committee advised to open short term certificate and diploma courses on radio, television, print media, drama and music as well.



Former VCs & Eminent Professors of Different Universities at USTM

A group of former Vice Chancellors and academic experts in their respective fields from across the country who had gathered for an academic meet at the University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) at Baridua, on the outskirts of Guwahati on March 10, 2012 were unanimous in their view that higher education, to be effective and useful, must be need-based and research-oriented in addition to being innovative and enlightening.

In his welcome address, Mahbubul Hoque, Chancellor of USTM said that the North East occupies a strategic position in the map of India vis-à-vis the 'Look East Policy' of the Government. He further added, "USTM is going to play a pivotal role in the fulfilment of the objectives of this Look East Policy." He appealed to the academicians and experts to extend their wisdom and experience to make the curriculum of USTM useful for its stakeholders and beneficial to the society.

Dr SK Choudhury, VC of USTM, briefed about the present status of the University and also highlighted the new courses to be introduced in the 2012 session under the following schools of Biological Sciences, Media Science and Cultural Studies, Business Sciences, Applied Sciences, and Humanities and Social Sciences.

Taking part in the discussion, Dr AC Bhagabati, former VC, Rajiv Gandhi University, Arunachal Pradesh, said, "No faculty, however knowledgeable he or she may be, should think that 'My ways are the best.' A faculty should be ready to learn and if necessary 'unlearn' also to make room for accepting useful suggestions." Dr Kulendu Pathak, former VC, Dibrugarh University was of the opinion that a person gets 'built up' during the undergraduate studies and hence there should be more emphasis on this stage rather than on PG studies.

Others who took part in the discussion were Dr GD Sharma, Pro VC, Assam University; Dr Kamaleswar Bora, former VC, Dibrugarh University; Dr GN Talukdar, former VC, Gauhati University; Dr Amarjyoti Choudhury, Pro VC, Tezpur University and Dr NK Choudhury, former VC, Gauhati University and Principal Adviser, ERDF moderated the discussion.

Speaking as an expert, Dr Archana Upadhyay, Professor of JNU said that USTM authorities could consider including subjects such as Gandhian Studies, Gender Studies, Human Rights, and Social Medicine in their curriculum in the near future. Dr JU Ahmed, HOD, Management Science, NEHU stressed on inclusion of resource-based courses specific to the North East.

Among other prominent experts who spoke were Prof M Altaf Khan, Department of Commerce and Business Studies, Jamia Milia



Islamia; Dr NN Sarma, Director, Assam Institute of Management; and Dr KV Nagaraj, Professor of Mass Communication, Assam University Silchar.

In phase II of the Meet, a school-wise discussion took place to finalise the department-wise draft incorporating necessary comments thereupon. A Review meeting of deans and experts was held under phase III of the Meet. In the meeting discussion were also held regarding collaboration and understanding with renowned R & D organizations and Universities of the country, already several MOU have been signed in this regard.

It may be mentioned here that ERD Foundation, the sponsor of USTM, is positive in this regard to make USTM a global institute of excellence and a model university for the region.

First Batch Ph.D Admission Completed

40 Research scholars have been admitted in Ph.D in the month of January, 2012 under the supervision of eminent scientists and professors in the subjects such as Biotechnology, Biochemistry, Microbiology, Zoology, Botany, Environmental Science and Ecology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Electronics, Statistics, Economics, Sociology, Social Works, Commerce, Business Studies and Management Science and Media Science and Cultural Studies. Two research scholars have been admitted against the fellowship sponsored by ERDF for research work on Life and Work of Dr Bhupen Hazarika.

ATM Installed at USTM



Free Admission for Toppers

ERDF will sponsor free admission to the toppers of the branches of different Universities of North East region in available courses under different schools at USTM

Study Tour at Hindustan Paper Mills Ltd.

The First semester students from the Department of Biotechnology visited the Tissue Culture Laboratory and the hardening facilities of the Hindustan Paper Mills Ltd., Jagiroad, Nagaon, on November 22, 2011. This is the first commercial infrastructure in North East India, where the Tissue Culture technology is utilized in fulfilling the need of society.

Free Admission for Meritorious BPL Students

The management of ERDF is giving free admission for meritorious students of Below Poverty Line (BPL) in all the institutes run by ERDF. Similarly, decision has been taken to admit meritorious BPL students specially from rural areas in all branches at USTM as per criteria prescribed by both ERDF & USTM. BPL students already passed out from different institutes have been engaged in various reputed organizations making the efforts of ERDF fruitful.

NORTH EAST GRADUATE CONGRESS - 2012

First of its kind in the country

A unique two days Graduate Congress is being organized by the University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) in association with CSIR-North East Institute of Science & Technology (CSIR-NEIST), Jorhat (formerly RRL) to be held on May 29-30, 2012. More than 1000 students are being invited to the Congress to be held in the Regional Institute of Science & Technology, 9th Mile.

University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya is the first State Private University on Science & Technology in the entire North East India which is sponsored by ERD Foundation.

The Congress is aimed to empower undergraduates and graduates of this region in respect of socio-economic, intellectual and all-round development. They will be exposed to the strategies towards enabling them to take up challenges advanced by the contemporary world. Capacity building programme will help them in cultivating leadership qualities in activities which are intended to ensure growth and development of their communities and societies at large. Practical guidance will be provided to the participating youth to handle negative consequences of the modern life.

They will experience exchange of ideas to develop a sense of self-esteem that will help build their personalities; and offering youth advocacy through talks and interface with experienced and seasoned personalities, who will inspire them to be aware of true values of youth and their role as facilitators of social change.

Brainstorming session on Higher/Professional Education and Research, Entrepreneurship, Counselling sessions on different topics, Vocational Training, Micro Finance & Business Loan, Small Scale Industry and Govt Schemes, Capacity Building in priority areas,



Personality Development and Soft Skills, Employability Problems and Prospects, Competitive Examinations, Business Model Presentation will be organized in the Congress where experience persons in different fields will participate as resource persons. Attractive book fair and job fair will be organized in the venue for exposure of the participants towards intellectual information and job opportunities.

Special awards and scholarships will also be conferred to the talented Graduates in each field. 3-5 students will be nominated from each college/institutions. Out of the nominated students, a maximum of 25 students will be selected from each district by the appointed district co-coordinator. Each college will have one college co-coordinator who will shortlist the candidates and will forward it to the District co-coordinator for final selection. The District co-coordinator will forward the final list to the organizer.

All participants attending the Congress are required to fill registration form and submit to the Organizing Secretary, North East Graduate Congress on or before April 30, 2012. Registration Fee is Rs. 300 which will cover the kit, bag, T-shirt, breakfast,

lunch, and high tea and dinner during the Congress days. All students will be awarded Certificate of Participation. All Participants will be provided free of cost accommodation by the organizer. The participant shall bear their own TA/DA.

Filled-in Registration form along with the Registration fee of Rs 300.00 either in Cash or DD should reach us before April 30, 2012. (DD should be in favour of **"North East Graduate Congress, ERD Foundation"** payable at Khanapara). Students should attest the registration form from the Head of the Institution. Venue Registration will start from the evening of 28th May 2012. Registration Forms are also available at website www.ustm.ac.in

Building Dedicated in the name of Prof. S.D. Phukan



Science Block has been renamed as Prof. S.D. Phukan Science Block after his death. Prof Phukan was the former Principal JEC, Director, NERIST, Technical Advisor, NEC & finally he devoted his last part of life for the promotion of ERDF Institutions.



Celebrating Moment after the enactment of USTM Bill in Meghalaya Legislative Assembly

Food Science and Technology courses introduced at USTM

A meeting of higher officials of University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya (USTM) along with Professor, Head of the Department, Food Science and Technology of Tezpur University Professor Sankar Deka was held on December 27, 2011 at USTM premise.

In the meeting it was decided that B.Sc course on Food Science and Technology will be soon included in the USTM syllabus and near future. Post Graduate and other diploma courses will also be a part of the curriculum.

Biomass based power unit at USTM campus

Mr. Subroto Chatterjee, SEO of the Company Adn Energy based at London UK visited USTM on December 27, 2011. He was accompanied by Dr. Pinakeswar Mahanta Professor, Mechanical Division, IIT Guwahati and Dr. Muniruddin Ahmed, Sr. Scientist NEDFI, R&D Centre for MAP, Khetri for probable installation of renewable energy / technologies especially Biomass based power generation unit. He has expressed his interest in installation of a biomass based power unit in the University campus.

Workshop on : “Perception of Educational Need of NE India towards creation of Knowledge Based Society and Sustainable Livelihood”

A daylong Workshop titled “Perception of Educational Need of NE India towards creation of Knowledge Based Society and Sustainable Livelihood” was held at USTM on December 17, 2011. The event was attended by Eminent Educationists, Scientists and Teachers from various Colleges of North East India. Prof. Satyendra Kumar Choudhury, Vice Chancellor, USTM welcomed the delegates and highlighted on the importance to have such brainstorming



Vice-Chancellor presenting a memento

exercises and stressed upon the need to Institutionalize courses/programs on emerging areas of Science & Technology, Social Sciences and Humanities and Economics, Commerce and Business Studies. Prof. Nirmal Kumar Choudhury, Former Vice Chancellor, Gauhati University and Principal Adviser, ERDF and Prof. Kulendu Pathak, former Vice Chancellor, Dibrugarh University and Chief Academic Adviser, USTM also

spoke during the inaugural session.

Dr. N K Chaudhury emphasized that the knowledge is not sufficient for success. It should be supported by hard skills for enabling a person to earn livelihood and by soft skills which enhances one's

Special course in TV Production, Direction & Broadcast Journalism

Under the School of Media Science & Cultural Studies, Short Term Certificate Courses and PG Diploma in TV Production, Direction & Broadcast Journalism is being offered looking to the growing demands in the sector.

In the Campus



Reference Library

communicability with others.

Dr. K Pathak talked about new courses which will empower the students to serve the society. There should be two way systems to involve the College Teachers and University in developing curriculum.

Dr Hiranya Nath, Associate Prof, Sam Houston



Dr Hiranya Nath, Associate Professor, Sam Houston University, Texas, USA

University, Texas, USA presented the First Technical Session; which highlighted on the need for innovations in the field of education and its role towards creating a Knowledge Based Society. He also stressed upon establishing appropriate linkages and assured his whole-hearted support and association with the University. Mr. M Hoque, Chancellor USTM and Chairman ERD Foundation spoke at length on various issues related to educational development in the region and stressed that ERD Foundation is committed to the cause of Education, Research and Development.

CONFERENCE ON 'TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN THE CONTEXT OF INDIA'S NORTHEAST'

With an aim to ensure professional development of NE students through academy- Industry meet, The Senior Engineers' Forum of Greater Guwahati organized a conference on



'Technical education in the context of India's North East' in the conference hall at RIST at 9th Mile on December 22 last, which was attended by academicians, engineers, and students of different engineering colleges. Dr. Gautam Barua IIT, Guwahati as Chief Guest spoke in great length on the need of more of science schools(10+2) in the region and emphasizing on good communication skills of the north east students. Sri M. Hoque, Chancellor, University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya, reiterating the views of Dr. Gautam Barua said that there is really a strong need for establishing more science colleges in the remote areas to facilitate the potential students for study of science. Dr. N. K. Chaudhury, former Vice Chancellor of the Gauhati University and Ms Radha Sinha , Principal, Guwahati College of Architecture , both emphasized on the quality of technical education and experienced faculty.

Dr. Gautam Barua, Director IIT-G releasing souvenir

USTM Faculty's Visit to Foreign Universities

Dr. Dinesh Baishya, Dean of the School of Media Science and Cultural Studies is being invited by the University of Tartu, Estonia, to attend several academic programmes in the country. He will also attend the **6th International Nordic-Celtic-Baltic Folklore Symposium on Supernatural Places** to be held in Tartu to be held in June, 2012, where he will present a paper. Dr Baishya will also screen a film on Magic and Witchcraft of Assam, which has been researched, scripted and made by him. This film was also screened in Spain last year at an International Folklore Film Festival, representing

Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage, where the film was much admired by the western critics. One of the research scholars of Dr. Dinesh Baishya has also received invitation from the University of Tartu, Estonia for a research exchange programme.

Recently Dr. Dinesh Baishya visited Bangladesh and participated in the South-Asia Social Forum held in Dhaka University. He has visited and interacted with 14 community radio stations of Bangladesh. The School of Media Science and Cultural Studies, USTM looks forward to give a boost to community radio initiative in the region.

Recent R&D Achievements of some Faculty members of USTM

Dr. R. K. Sharma, Director (R&D) ERDF has attended seminars and presented papers as follow:

- Visited Glasgow University and The Environmental Research Institute, Scotland on educational programme during July-August, 2009.
- Attended a national seminar on “Commercial cultivation of Medicinal Plants in North East India” held at Institute of Science and Technology, Meghalaya on February 9-10, 2010.
- Organized an International Conference on “Global Warming, Climate Change vis-à-vis Management of Natural Resources in North East India” held at Regional Institute of Science and Technology, Meghalaya on March 22-23, 2010.
- Attended and acted as a Chair Person in the International Conference on “Plants in Diabetes: Prospects and Challenges” held at Gauhati University on April 8-9, 2011, organized by Asian Network of Research on Ant diabetic Plants (ANRAP), Dhaka, Bangladesh
- Attended 2-days National Workshop on “Brainstorming on exploration, conservation and sustainable utilization of Rare, Endangered & Threatened (RET) medicinal plants of Northeast India” organized by National Medicinal Plants Board, New Delhi and NEDFi, Guwahati, on November 10-11, 2011.
- Attended and International conference “17th Diabetes and endocrine Conference” organized by Bangladesh Endocrine Society and Diabetic Association of Bangladesh during December 13-15, 2011 at Dhaka Bangladesh.
- Attended and acted as a Chair person in an eight days workshop on “Training on Documentation, Assessment of Local Health Traditions and Survey of Flora used in Local Health Traditions of Lower Assam” during January 18-25, 2012, organized by Gauhati University, Assam.
- Attended International Conference and Expo 2012 on “Essential Oils in Changing Global Scenario” during February 17-19, 2012 at Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh, organized by Essential Oil Association of India.
- Attended International seminar on “Biodiversity, Conservation and Environmental Health during March 16-17, 2012 at Assam University Silchar, India, organized by Department of Life Science and Bioinformatics, Assam University Silchar, India.

Dr. Gautam Kumar Sarmah, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, under the School of Applied Sciences, USTM has attended Seminars as follow :

- Attended a national seminar on “ Commercial cultivation of Medicinal Plants in North East India” held at Institute of Science and Technology, Meghalaya on February 9-10, 2010.
- Organized an International Conference on “Global Warming, Climate Change vis-à-vis Management of Natural Resources in North East India” held at Regional Institute of Science and Technology, Meghalaya on March 22-23, 2010.
- Attended 2-days National Workshop on “Brainstorming on exploration, conservation and sustainable utilization of Rare, Endangered & Threatened (RET) medicinal plants of Northeast India” organized by National Medicinal Plants Board, New Delhi and NEDFi, Guwahati, on November 10-11, 2011.
- Attended a one day Brainstorming Workshop on “Perception on Education Needs of NE India towards Creation of Knowledge Based Society and Sustainable Livelihood” organized by University of Science & Technology, Meghalaya on December 17, 2011.
- Attended eight days workshop on “Training on Documentation, Assessment of Local Health Traditions and Survey of Flora used in Local Health Traditions of Lower Assam” during January 18-25, 2012, organized by Gauhati University, Assam.

Mr. Monjoy Choudhury, Assistant Professor, Department of Biotechnology, USTM has attended following Seminars:

Attended an International conference “17th Diabetes and endocrine Conference” organized by Bangladesh Endocrine Society and Diabetic

Association of Bangladesh during December 13-15, 2011 at Dhaka Bangladesh.

Dr. Mousumi Das, Assistant Professor, Department of Zoology, USTM has published the following paper recently

“Use of Medicinal Plants for Fertility Regulation and its Prospects for Drug development: Evidence in In-Vivo Study on Targeted Reproductive Organs”. Abstract published in ABSTRACTS of the International seminar on “Biodiversity, Conservation and Environmental in Health” during March 16-17, 2012 at Assam University Silchar, India, organized by Department of Life Science & Bioinformatics, Assam University Silchar, India.

A DST, govt of India, sponsored Research Project entitled “Studies of Microbial Diversity of Three Watersheds of Arunachal Pradesh” is running at USTM under Dr. P. Azad, Dean School of Biological Science, as Principal Investigator.

In the Campus



Justice M.S.A. Siddique, Chairman, National Commission of Minority Education Institutions (NEMEI) is being felicitated by Chancellor M. Hoque in presence of Dr. Shabistan Gaffar, Chairperson Committee on Girls Education, NCMEI along with USTM officials.

Mahesh Bhatt visits USTM



Tej Hazarika visits USTM



Tej Hazarika, the son of late **Dr. Bhupen Hazarika** visited USTM to take note of the Fellowship Programme announced after his father by the University. He expressed his desire to preserve his father's legacy through the help coming his way by means of initiative that has been taken by USTM to promote the music maestro's timeless creations.

Editorial

Higher Education in Private Sector

The Indian education system has witnessed remarkable growth in terms of infrastructure development over the past couple of years. The enrolment of students in higher education had already surpassed the mark of 12 million, with the number of universities and colleges surpassing 400 and 20,000 respectively. However, the current education infrastructure is insufficient to meet with the growing demand for higher education in the country.

The private sector is a key constituent of the higher education segment in India accounting for more than a third of all higher education institutions and more than two thirds of all professional Higher education institutions. A Report on 'Private Sector participation in Higher Education, 2011' says 91 percent engineering schools, 95 percent pharmacy schools, 64 percent business schools, and 50 percent medical schools in India are non-government institutions. The scene is the same in hotel management, dental colleges, teaching colleges, architecture and computer application colleges. The statistics show that the private sector is not only cashing in on school education but in professional disciplines too. Over 52 percent students of India are studying in private higher educational institutes. Over 1.4 crore students are enrolled in 31,000 higher education institutions across the country. "To meet the 30 percent gross enrolment ratio by 2020 as per the Centre's target, 4 crore students will need admission and 2.5 crore additional seats would be required. These need an investment of Rs.10 lakh crore, of which, half would come from private sector. But despite of the initiative and potential, private institutions are not supported enough by the government.

Exodus of large number of students from North Eastern part of India creates social and economic problems in the region. Public sector institutions in Higher Education in NE have failed to meet the aspirations of the young people of this region. In private sector there are few institutions in Higher Education Sector, for which student exodus is increasing alarmingly. For improvement of Higher Education in North East, State Governments have passed Private University Bills in their respective Assemblies. Now Higher Education sector is opened to private sector and it is expected that private sector with the help of Government will be able to solve problems of higher education in this part of the country.

University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya (USTM), a

recently instituted private sector university in the North Eastern part of India is aimed to provide all modern facilities with quality education for the deprived students of this region. USTM has already appointed senior experienced faculty members with a view to render high quality education to the students. USTM has introduced many job oriented courses in under graduate, post graduate and research level with modern outlook in curriculum.

Dr. Dinesh Baishya

Dean, School of Media Science and Cultural Studies

MOU Signed Between CSIR NEIST & USTM

A MOU between CSIR North East Institute of Science and Technology (NEIST), Jorhat, and USTM has been signed on February 24th, 2012. The MOU was signed by Dr PG Rao, Director, NEIST and Mr M. Hoque, Chancellor, USTM in presence of several high officials from both the organizations. One



of the main objectives of the MOU is to motivate the upcoming science students, technocrats, research scholars & faculties to contribute towards research & innovative works for the scientific & technological development of the region. NEIST has partnered with USTM in all its developmental activities by making available its resources for educational use by the University along with other institutions of ERDF, by organising regular programmes in which scientists from NEIST would get opportunity to work together with faculty and research scholars from USTM & ERDF institutions and evolve new strategies for joint action by both the organizations in all kinds of research, development and project implementation to make the region Science & Technology vibrant.

The process is already initiated as research scholars from USTM has started Ph.D. works under the Guideship of renowned Scientists & Professors from CSIR-NEIST.

In the Campus



Prof. Marie McAndrew, University of Montreal, Canada addressing faculty members.



Dr Justice Aftab Hussain Saikia, Chairperson, Assam Human Rights Commission & Former Chief Justice, J & K is delivering at USTM

Centre for Natural Resource Management & Rural Studies at USTM

A Centre for Natural Resource Management & Rural Studies will be started at USTM at UG, PG and research level to develop trained manpower, judicious management of natural resources and foster sustainable socio-economic development of the region by maintaining a synergetic approach to conserve as well as appropriately utilize natural resources with proper scientific intervention and management of the same.

Centre for International Studies to be opened at USTM

A centre for International Studies will be started at USTM to promote interdisciplinary learning for social, political & economic development and to create collaborative efforts towards understanding core developmental issues of the region as well as economies around the globe. At the inaugural programme of the same, a Panel Discussion on "Look East Policy" will be organized where Ambassadors & High Commissioners of neighbouring countries will participate. Necessary communications are in process to make it effective.

Visits of AICTE Team

A high level team of 3 members from All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), New Delhi had visited the University on 10th March, 2012 for inspection of necessary infrastructure & other requirements as per norms to start MBA programme under the School of Management Science from the session 2012-13.

MOU between CSIR-CRRI & ERDF-USTM soon...

After signing the MOU with CSIR -NEIST, Jorhat, CSIR-Central Road Research Institute, New Delhi (CRRI) also agreed to undergo collaboration with ERDF & USTM for joint research training & higher studies for students & scholars of the University, specially the engineering students & faculty members will be benefitted. Dr. S Gangopadhyay, Director CSIR-CRRI, J. Parasar, Controller of Administration & A. Saurikha, HoD PME will arrive on 1st May 2012 to attend the MOU signing ceremony to be held at Guwahati.