



Friday, July 9, 2021

Online Conference on ‘Quality & Relevance of Programmes’
*In collaboration with the **Association of Indian University (AIU)***

[Virtual Mode, July 9, 2021] Sri Sri University, Cuttack, Odisha in collaboration with the Association of Indian University (AIU), Delhi organized an online conference on “**Quality & Relevance of Programmes**” on 9th of July, 2021 from 10:00 AM to 5:50 PM. The aim of the conference is to derive suitable country-specific recommendations for the **Third World Higher Education Conference 2022** hosted by UNESCO.

The conference has been commemorated with a hearty welcome note by the Master of Ceremonies and virtual lighting of a lamp.

The Hon’ble President of Sri Sri University, Cuttack, Odisha Prof. Rajita Kulkarni deliberated the conference with her Welcome Address. She welcomed all the significant dignitaries at the conference & conveyed her regards for nominating Sri Sri University to develop a country paper. She added that the collaboration with the Association of Indian University (AIU) has given a great opportunity to reflect upon the repercussions of the pandemic under 6 key areas. She added that the first key area of focus should be on **Diversification & flexibility of curriculum, programmes, & courses**. She also added that the OECD Education 2030 project suggests 'creating new value' & 'reconciling tensions & dilemmas' as two important categories for future-ready students.

The second key area would be to **Expand the use of ICTs and AI to enhance learning and collaboration**. She quoted the UNESCO report wherein schools have been shut in over 190 countries due to the pandemic affecting 1.5 billion students. She then highlighted the third key area of focus, which is **the Quality assurance of innovative higher learning modalities and spaces**, and the fourth area of focus should be on building **Partnerships for success: students, teachers, employers, Communities**.

Adding on, she emphasized that the fifth area of focus should be on **Evolving learning skills for evolving workforce paths** & the sixth area of focus on **Innovative post-secondary options in tertiary education**. Emphasizing the same, she highlighted the importance of National Education Policy 2020. She concluded with orchestrating the path towards attaining the goal of ensuring

'Quality & relevance of Programmes' through five critical actions: reflect, recommit, re-engage, rethink, and re-create.

Followed by her welcome address, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ajay Kumar Singh of Sri Sri University, Cuttack, Odisha welcomed all the honourable dignitaries to the conference and addressed the relevance of National Education Policy 2020. He further identified the six sub-themes of the conference, which are:

- Diversification and flexibility of curriculum, programmes, and courses,
- Expanding the use of ICTs and AI to enhance learning and collaboration:
- Quality assurance of innovative higher learning modalities and spaces:
- Partnerships for success: students, teachers, employers, Communities:
- Evolving learning skills for evolving workforce paths.

Proceeding with the Inaugural session of the conference, Hon'ble Secretary-General of the Association of Indian University (AIU), Delhi, Dr. (Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal highlighted the importance of NEP 2020 & the need for country-specific recommendations. The **Chief Guest** of the inaugural session **Hon'ble Governor of Odisha, His Excellency Prof. Ganeshi Lal Ji** then addressed the inaugural session quoting ancient Indian texts & emphasized that learning should be aimed to take us from self-gratification to self-realization.

Dr. Amarendra Pani, Joint Director Research, Association of Indian University (AIU), Delhi marked the end of the inaugural session with his vote of thanks to all the stakeholders of the conference.

Followed by the Inaugural Session, the conference proceeded on the Technical Session-1 where Prof. Manikrao Salunkhe, Former President of Association of Indian University (AIU), & VC Bharati Vidyapeeth Deemed to be University, Pune moderated as the session chair.

The eminent panel of speakers on the Technical Session-1 comprised of:

- Prof. P. C. Joshi, VC, the University of Delhi spoke on 'Diversification and flexibility of curriculum programmes and courses'
- Prof. H. Venkateshwarlu, VC, Kerala Central University discussed on 'Expanding the use of ICT and AI to enhance learning and collaboration'
- Prof. A. K. Bakshi, VC, PDM University, Haryana spoke on 'Expanding the use of ICT and AI to enhance learning and collaboration'
- Prof. Jayrajsinh Dilavarsinji Jadeja, VC, KSKV Kachchh University discussed on 'Quality Assurance of innovative Higher Learning modalities and spaces'
- Prof. Pawan Kumar Aggarwal, VC, Odisha University of Agriculture & Technology spoke on 'Diversification and flexibility of curriculum programs and courses'
- Prof Ambarish S. Vidyarthi, VC Bikaner Technical University discussed on 'Quality Assurance of innovative Higher Learning modalities and spaces'

Followed by that Honorary Professor of Sri Sri University, Cuttack, Odisha Dr. D. K. Hari, Founder, Bharath Gyan highlighted some of the very key points drawing parallel & relevance on Ancient Indian Knowledge System to our present times.

The conference then proceeded with a brief meditation session before breaking for a lunch break. On the Technical Session-2 of the conference on 'Quality & Relevance of Programmes', Hon'ble VC Prof. Ajay Kumar Singh, Sri Sri University moderated as the Session Chair.

The speakers of Technical Session-2 comprised of the following seasoned academicians:

- Prof. Neeraj Gupta, VC, Central University of Rajasthan spoke on 'Partnership for success: students teachers employers communities'
- Prof. Raj Kumar, VC, Punjab University discussed on 'Innovative post-secondary option in tertiary education'
- Dr. Rajani Gupte, VC, Symbiosis International Deemed University spoke on 'Evolving learning skills for evolving workforce paths'
- Prof. Ved Kumari, VC, National Law University discussed on 'Partnership for success: students teachers employers communities'
- Prof. Parimal H Vyas, VC, MS University of Baroda, Gujarat spoke on 'Evolving learning skills for evolving workforce paths'

The session followed a Panel Discussion on 'Quality & Relevance of Programmes' which was moderated by the Session Chair: Prof. (Mrs.) Rajita Kulkarni, President, Sri Sri University

The brilliant panel of speakers on this session were:

- Prof. Vinita Sahay, Director, IIM Bodhgaya
- Prof. Atul Khosla, Vice-Chancellor, Shoolini University
- Prof. N. S. Umarani, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Savitribai Phule Pune University
- Prof. Sasmita Samanta, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, KIIT Deemed to be University
- Prof. Nageshwar Rao, Vice-Chancellor, Indira Gandhi National Open University

The conference was further enlightened through an address by Prof. B. R. Sharma, Executive Registrar, Dean, Faculty of Health & Wellness, Sri Sri University on 'Relevance of Yoga Sutras of Maharishi Patanjali to Education'.

The Valedictory Session of the conference was graced by the **Chief Guest Hon'ble Minister Dr. Arun Kumar Sahoo Ji, Agriculture & Farmers' Empowerment, Fisheries & Animal Resources Development, Higher Education, Government of Odisha.**

The session was further addressed by the following brilliant panel of speakers:

- Prof. Sasmita Samanta, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, KIIT Deemed to be University
- Prof. Ajay Kumar Singh, Vice-Chancellor, Sri Sri University
- Prof. Rajita Kulkarni, President, Sri Sri University
- Prof. (Mrs.) Pankaj Mittal, Secretary-General, Association of Indian Universities
- Col. (Dr.) G Thiruvassagam Ji, President, Association of Indian Universities and Vice-Chancellor, Academy of Maritime Education and Training (Deemed to be University), Chennai

The conference came to an end with a vote of thanks by Dr. Amarendra Pani, Joint Director, Research, Association of Indian Universities.

Sri Sri University
Cuttack, Odisha

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