

Nagaland University Organizes Planner-2008 at SETAM : Dimapur

Nagaland University continues to make waves by hosting Conferences/Seminars/Conclaves at regular intervals. Close on the heels of the SPIC-MACAY Cultural Programme in the 3rd week of June 2008, which attracted talents from large cross-section of the country, the University in collaboration with Inflibnet Centre, Ahmedabad successfully brought to fruition, the 6th convention of Promotion of Library Automation and Networking in North Eastern Region – PLANNER – 2008- on November 6-7, 2008 PLANNER – series of conventions is a special initiative taken up by Inflibnet (Information and Library Network) Centre, to bring awareness among Library Professionals, academicians and researchers in the field of IT and its application to library services.

The speech of the Chief Guest, His Excellency the Governor of Nagaland, Shri. K. Sankaranarayanan, was read out in the inaugural function (His Excellency could not be present due to unavoidable circumstances) which began on the dot on Nov. 6, 2008 at 9.30 AM. The message termed the convention as a ‘novel initiative’ for Nagaland and hoped that the concept of Open Access and Open Learning will percolate deep into information systems of the state and the region and bring about much desired ‘Quality’ in our academia.

The programme began by invocation, followed by the welcome Address by Mr. Manoj Kumar K. Scientist D at Inflibnet Centre Ahmedabad (AHM) and convention’s Convenor. Dr. Jagdish Arora, the Director, Inflibnet Centre Ahmedabad, then delivered the introductory address and outline the objectives of the PLANNER-Series of conventions, responses and experiences of past conventions and reported that the PLANNER-2008 has received unprecedented response to organizers’ request for submission of papers. In all 55 submissions were made which was reduced to 45 after refereeing. The papers, not only, were from wide cross section of the country but a few of them were from neighbouring country- Bangladesh-and one paper was from Swaziland, Southern Africa. The Keynote address was read by Shri Madaswamy Moni, a senior technocrat and presently the DDG, National Informatics Centre (NIC) GoI. It covered everything under the sun in the field of open library and an attentive listener would be so much enriched & rewarded that he/she could safely excuse himself/herself from the proceedings of the rest of the convention!

The inaugural address was delivered by the Prof. K. Kannan, the Hon’ble Vice-Chancellor of Nagaland University (in absence of HE Shri. K. Sankaranarayanan) wherein he wondered whether under present market-oriented ethos, a library could be likened to and developed as a ‘Mall’, having provisions and services for different sections of learners and instructors. The stakeholders in such a library would be either customers (e.g. students) or library service provider-LSP-(e.g. consultants, teachers, library professionals etc). The price tags for various services could be displayed like those in a Kirana Shop ! He recounted his own personal experiences of 40 years, in various institutions and underlined the role played by timely library services & books in his academic and research career. He lamented the shrinking

number of inspiring teachers in colleges and Universities. He outlined the contribution of Nagaland University to the Digital Library Movement by mentioning that in collaboration with IITM-Kerala & IITM Madras, the N.U. has launched "Education Grid Gateway System (EGGS) at its School of Engg. & Technology. With the Server brought from IIT-M and having integrated it with the LAN and Internet, the MHRD, GoI - Funded programme of NPTEL (National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning), has been made available to the students & teachers of the Institute in form of 1400 hours of Video recorded lectures of eminent academicians of IITs and IISc with a view to bring 'Quality Education' at the doorstep of the students and teachers of Nagaland.

Dr. T. Temjen, Deputy Librarian, NU, Kohima and Organizing Secy. Of the the convention, proposed the vote of thanks of inaugural function.

The **Theme** of the convention having been chosen, as Open Access, (OA), Open Source (OS), Open Libraries (OL) with the symbol O³, the four Technical Sessions were run such that one session each was devoted to OA, OS and the last two sessions going to OL. Each session had a Chairman, Co-Chairman and a common team of Rapporteurs. Additionally, there was commercial Presentation too, each day, on such diverse areas as Library 2.0, Open Access Journals in India, IEEE 802.11 b/g Wireless LAN etc. The conference at the end, arranged a Panel Discussion and Valedictory session, as well, not to speak of cultural programme on evenings for aesthetic pleasure of the delegates.

In all, it was a meticulously planned conclave of academic professionals with an impressive **Proceedings** (containing Full Length Papers), short but attractive **Souvenir** and a **Convention CD**, released by the invited experts at suitable intervals. Mementos having local ethnic motifs were presented to the guests and the dignitaries. The food was excellent and the delegates were richly rewarded intellectually as well as with high quality printed materials and a potentially durable container!

(Report prepared by Prof. D.P. Sharma), Editor, NU Newsletter).