

## **A Report on UGC Participation at the NAFSA 2004 Conference**

### **1.0 Background**

During the X Plan, the UGC had projected a vision for promoting Indian Higher Education Abroad as a response to the phenomenon of globalization. The Chairman, UGC had set-up an Expert Committee to promote free flow of students from other nations to India and vice-versa during the X Plan period under the scheme "Promotion of Indian Education Abroad". Subsequently, a Standing Committee was constituted to work out the operative mechanism, which gave its report in January, 2004. The Standing Committee, among other things, had recommended that UGC should participate in the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of NAFSA to be held at Baltimore in May, 2004. A brief history of NAFSA is given at **Annexure-I**. The report of the Standing Committee was considered by the Commission at its meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2004 and the Commission decided as follows.

***"The Commission considered the report and recommendations of the Standing Committee on "Promotion of Indian Higher Education Abroad" (PIHEAD) and, in principle, agreed with the recommendations of the Expert Committee. The Commission further agreed that, in the first phase, the UGC may initiate action on recommendations 2 & 4 relating to:***

- (i) Organization of India Education Fairs in select countries in Africa, Middle East, Gulf, South East Asia as would be decided by the Chairman later based on the response from respective embassies in collaboration with Ed. CIL and/or FICCI/CII, and***
- (ii) Participation in the Exhibition organized during the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of National Association of Foreign Students' Affairs (NAFSA) to be held at Baltimore, Maryland, USA, from May 23 – 28, 2004 and visit of the Indian delegation led by the Chairman, UGC.***

***The Commission further decided that for implementing the other recommendations of the Expert Committee, be sent to Ministry of Human Resource Development to seek their views. It was also decided that UGC should act as a catalyst to facilitate Promotion of Indian Higher Education Abroad".***

### **2.0 UGC Delegation**

In pursuant to the above decision of the Commission, the Chairman, UGC had approved a delegation consisting of the members indicated at next-page to

participate in the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of NAFSA held at Baltimore, USA from 23<sup>rd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2004.

Professor Arun Nigavekar Chairman University Grants Commission Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg New Delhi-110002.	Dr. E. Balaguruswami** Vice-Chancellor Anna University Chennai-600025.
Prof. Bhushan Patwardhan Prof. & Head School of Health Sciences Pune University, Pune-411 007	Dr. P.J. Lavakare 19, Khagol Society 38/1, Panchvati Paghan Road, NCL P.O. Pune-411008
Dr. Kota Harinarayana Vice-Chancellor Hyderabad University Hyderabad-500046.	Dr. K. Gunasekaran Joint Secretary University Grants Commission Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg New Delhi-110002.
Dr. P.N. Razdan, Advisor * AICTE New Delhi	

\* The Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India through their letter No. 5 – 9/2004 UI dated 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2004 had suggested that a representative from AICTE be included in the UGC Delegation. Accordingly, Dr. P.N. Razdan, Advisor (QA), AICTE (nominated by Chairman, AICTE) was included as one of the members of the UGC Delegation. All the expenses of Dr. Razdan was met by AICTE.

\*\* Due to other commitments Dr. E. Balaguruswami, Vice – Chancellor, Anna University, could not join the Delegation to visit Baltimore.

### 3.0 **Associated Members of the Delegation**

Apart from the UGC Delegation many institutions in India have sent their representatives to participate in the NAFSA Conference at their own cost. In order to present a “Team India” concept at the above Conference, all those persons who were attending the NAFSA Conference on their own were included as “Associate Members” of the Delegation. They helped the UGC Delegation in manning the UGC Booth and participating in other discussions. There was no financial commitment on the part of UGC so far as the Associate Members were concerned. The names of the Associate Members are given below:

- (i) Dr. (Ms.) Jane E. Schukoske, Executive Director, US Educational Foundation in India, Delhi – 110 001.
- (ii) Prof. S.P. Thiyagarajan, Vice – Chancellor, University of Madras;

- (iii) Dr. Jenika Doctor, a Fulbright scholar (who was based in Delhi and had undertaken a research study on “A U.S. Study Abroad Programms In India: Current Trends and future recommendations” and presently with George Washington University);
- (iv) Mr. R. Bandyopadhyay, Registrar, Jadavpur University, Calcutta.
- (v) Mr. Vinay Kumar, Country Director, Centre for American Education, Bangalore – 560 095.
- (vi) Mr. Shantilal Mutha, President, Federation of Jain Educational Institutes (FJEI); Pune;
- (vii) Dr. A.G. Bhalwankar, Director, BCUD, SNDT Women’s’ University, Bombay.
- (viii) Dr. Suganthi, Planning and Development Officer, Anna University, Chennai.

#### **4.0 UGC and other Booths from India**

The UGC had booked a Standard Premium Booth (No.950) at the above conference measuring 100 sq. fit.

Apart from UGC, the Jadavpur University, Kolkata (Booth No. 951) and Federation Jain Educational Institutions, Pune (Booth No.949) from India have also participated at the above Conference by booking independent Booths.

#### **5.0 Exhibition Panels and Brochure**

The UGC had prepared an exhibition material consisting of one back drop and two side panels on a permanent basis which was used at the NAFSA Conference. Subsequently, they were used for the Educational Fairs conducted by UGC at Tanzania, Kenya and Ethiopia in June, 2004. A generic brochure was printed for distribution at the NAFSA Conference and other Educational Fairs. A copy of the Brochure that was printed and displayed is given in **Annexure – II**. **Annexure-III** gives the list of brochures displayed and distributed at the UGC Booth. A short audiovisual presentation was also prepared with the help of CEC, Delhi.

The exhibition material at UGC booth attracted a lot of interest. The visitors were drawn towards UGC booth by the backdrop and message it gave. The audiovisual presentation on the 40” Plasma TV monitor held the visitors captive for the duration of its presentation. The voice of the Chairman, UGC introducing India as a destination for Study Abroad Programme was very well received. The Internet access provided at the Booth was very handy in accessing materials from various Websites of the participating Universities for answering the queries of the visitors and for sending E-Mails. The attractive brochure of

UGC presented a comprehensive information about the participating Universities in a compact form and was printed to international standards.

## 6.0 **Statistics regarding Exhibitors and Visitors**

There were altogether 304 Exhibitors from various parts of the world. Spain, Korea, China, Australia and United Kingdom have booked larger space so as to have greater impact. The total number of delegates who attended the conference was 6200 from 91 countries. Around 1200 visitors visited the UGC Booth. Out of which, around 252 visitors needed more information about the Universities and programmes and had dropped their business cards which are being processed.

## 7.0 **Schedule of the Conference**

May, 23 <sup>rd</sup> 2004	Conference registration Leadership recognition ceremony
May, 24 <sup>th</sup> 2004	International Education Expo Exhibit installation
May, 25 <sup>th</sup> 2004	Exhibition and Special Meetings
May, 26 <sup>th</sup> 2004	Exhibition and Special Meetings
May, 27 <sup>th</sup> 2004	Exhibition and Special Meetings
May, 28 <sup>th</sup> 2004	Exhibition and Special Meetings

Apart from the Exhibition, The conference had multiple sessions going parallel at the Baltimore Convention Center with an expansive and conducive ambience. Star Plenary speakers included Ms. Madeleine Albright, former Secretary of the State, William Kirwan, Chancellor of University System of Maryland, Richard Riley, former Governor of South Carolina and former Secretary of Education, Jean-David Levitte, Ambassador of France to the US and a large galaxy of senior educators, administrators, bureaucrats, diplomats coming from different countries.

## 8.0 **Meetings with various Interest Groups/Institutions**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2004 at 4.00 p.m. a meeting of the UGC Delegation Members along with Associate Members was held so as to work out a strategy for the conference as well as to finalize the roster duty for the UGC Booth.

On 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2004 at 5 P.M. a meeting was organized with US Service Providers at Hotel Hyatt Regency.

On 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2004 at 7.15 p.m. the NAFSA Conference authorities hosted a special reception for the Indian Delegation alongwith Special Delegates from other countries in which fruitful interaction was held for effective internationalization of Indian Higher Education.

On 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2004 a joint meeting with Institute of International Education (IIE), Washington was held at Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel, Baltimore. The details of the discussions are given in **Annexure– IV**. At the end of the meeting, a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed by Chairman, UGC & President IIE. This is expected to facilitate international cooperation. IIE agreed to publicize UGC and Indian Universities' information in its publications and website.

On 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2004 at 9.15 A.M. a meeting was arranged with Ms. June Noronha past President of NAFSA. Several issues were discussed including how to make better presence next year, organization of India symposium, creating a database etc. Ms June agreed to help by providing good leads and contacts.

On 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2004 at 9.30 A.M. Ms. Marlene Johnson, Executive Director & CEO of NAFSA visited the UGC Booth and complimented the efforts of UGC for putting up a good show in the first year of participation. Later, a meeting was held with the president of NAFSA. She had suggested that for the forthcoming 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference to be held in May 2005 more space may be booked by the Indian Universities so as to have greater impact and increased visibility among the visitors. Ms. Johnson also suggested formation of International Educators Association of India that can have strategic relationship with NAFSA.

Both, Ms June and Ms Johnson have kindly agreed to visit India during appropriate occasion and it would be very useful to further strengthen PIHEAD efforts.

The Vice-Chancellor of University of Hyderabad was able to establish contacts with the following US Universities with a view to enter into a MOU.

- (1) University of San Francises
- (2) University of California
- (3) University of North Carolina

The Vice-Chancellor of Madras University was able to establish contact with the following US Universities.

- (1) Yale University
- (2) Brown University

## 9.0 **Objectives achieved at NAFSA Conference**

The UGC delegation's visit to NAFSA was able to:

- Showcase successfully India as a destination for short term Study India Programme (SIP).
- Create an excellent platform for providers of SIP to showcase their offerings.
- Establish " Twinning arrangements" with a few US Universities.
- Network with potential institutions and consortiums to envisage their interest in setting up and partnering with program providers in India.
- Demonstrate to the International education community that there is now a formal and sustained effort to ensure that program providers of quality are available from India.
- Increase the visibility of India in the field of International Education.
- Raise India's profile in the International education community
- Familiarize Indian Higher Education leaders with the latest trend in International Education
- Enter into a Bilateral agreement between UGC and Institute of International Education, Washington.

## 10. **Recommendations**

**The recommendations are grouped and given separately for Universities, UGC, AICTE and MHRD, which are given below.**

**The Universities are requested to :-**

- Appoint Foreign Students Advisors, wherever SIP is being offered, so as to offer a single-point contact for all the Foreign Students (FS).
- Create a separate website giving all details about the University, programme, infrastructure available, etc.
- Produce information booklets giving all details including Website and E.mail ID's of the contact persons in the University.
- Liaison with service providers in the area of travel, medical insurance, accommodation, etc. and give all these details in the booklet of the University.
- Produce video programmes about SIP for distribution.
- Provide photographs of past FS alongwith their comments about the programme in the brochure so as to attract more students.
- Send the details about SIP to IIE, Washington for publishing in their "Summer Study Abroad" Book to be published in 2005.
- Redesign the content of SIP taking into account the specialty of the region in which the University is located.
- Customise the courses depending upon the specific requirements of the foreign students.

- Introduce a variety of programme ranging from one month to six months.
- Revise the course structure on annual basis based on the feed back of FS.
- Introduce credit system for SIP with varying options of courses to choose from
- Allow scope for transfer of credit from the University to the parent University of FS.
- Organise field trips to the places of interest in the city or region concerned as part of the programme.
- Provide more scope for discussion, field trips, etc., and minimize the lecturing method so as to make the courses more interesting to FS.
- Organise an Alumni Association of SIP participants so as to keep track of the participants completing the courses.
- Use the amount realized through SIP for creating Infrastructure in the Universities.
- Identify the Indian families, in the city in which the University is located, who could accommodate the FS for short stay ranging from one to six months on payment basis.

**The UGC is requested to :-**

- Set up a Separate Division to promote SIP and other activities under PIHEAD Programme.
- Identify and encourage more universities to offer SIP
- Organise a workshop to enable the Universities to share their experiences under SIP and to evolve a course structure for the SIP programme.
- Enable more Universities Offering SIP to book individual Booths at the 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference to be held at Seattle, Washington, USA from 29<sup>th</sup> May-3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2005
- Organise an 'India Pavilion' consisting of at least 10 Universities at the NAFSA 2005 Conference.
- Coordinate with NRI's and Indian Diaspora in US to establish contact with the potential US Universities.
- Provide a structured networking platform with special invitees from US and other International institutions to come and learn about Indian programme and meet Indian participants at the NAFSA 2005 Conference.
- Submit proposals for organizing a Workshop and/or sessions at the next NAFSA Conference in Seattle before the deadline prescribed, viz; 1<sup>st</sup> August 2004.
- Coordinate with AICTE and other national level agencies and put up a combined effort to project Indian Universities at the Seattle Conference to be held in 2005.
- Produce the improved publicity material on behalf of participating Universities in the print and electronic forms.
- Provide few scholarships to students coming to India for SIP to cover only the tuition fees.
- Monitor flow of foreign students to India on annual basis.

**The AICTE is requested to :-**

- Set up a separate division in AICTE to coordinate the activities under the PIHEAD programme.
- Identify the Potential Technical Universities/Management Institutions to offer SIP.
- Coordinate with UGC to put up a 'India Pavilion' at Seattle Conference in 2005.
- Produce a combined publicity material relating to technical Institutions in print and electronic forms for display at NAFSA 2005 Conference.
- Provide a few scholarships to students coming to India for SIP to cover only the tuition fees.
- Monitor flow of foreign students to India on annual basis.

**The MHRD is requested to :-**

- Participate at the 57<sup>th</sup> NAFSA Conference in Seattle in May, 2005.
- Provide single window approach for extension of visa and clearance by Ministry of External Affairs, wherever required.
- Advise State Governments to provide adequate safety measures to FS.
- Advise Indian Embassy, Indian Diaspora in US to help in identifying the potential Universities for partnership with Indian Universities.

**11. Acknowledgements**

The delegation would like to thank the Chairman, UGC for his foresight in implementing the PIHEAD Programme and for his dynamic role in the entire preparation and presentation at the Conference.

Thanks are due to the Director, CEC & his staff for the excellent video programme prepared by them.

Thanks are also due to the officials of the Indian Embassy at Washington for their timely help during the Conference and preconference phase. Special thanks are due to Mr. V. Venkateshwara Rao, Counsellor, Indian Embassy for his timely intervention during preconference phase and his personal attendance at the IIE signing ceremony.

**Joint Secretary (DC/DU/NS)**

### History of NAFSA

NAFSA pioneered the concept of providing professional services for post-secondary exchange students. Early efforts to enhance living and learning environments for exchange students have blossomed into today's active association of accomplished professionals whose numbers continue to grow worldwide.

NAFSA was founded in 1948 as the National Association of Foreign Student Advisers to promote the professional development of American college and university officials responsible for assisting and advising the 25,000 foreign students who had come to study in the United States after World War II. The academic institutions, government agencies, and private organizations that combined to form NAFSA knew that meeting the needs of students from diverse educational and cultural backgrounds required special knowledge and competencies.

The association's scope soon expanded to include admissions personnel, English-language specialists, and the community volunteers who played an important role in helping foreign students become acclimated to American college communities. To reflect this growing and increasingly diverse membership, in 1964 the association changed its name to the National Association for Foreign Student Affairs.

By 1990, as the number of foreign students in the United States approached the 400,000 mark, there were 6,400 NAFSA members on 1,800 campuses, and increasing numbers of U.S. students were studying abroad. To reflect the now well-established role of NAFSA members in all aspects of international education and exchange, the name of the association was changed once more: In May 1990 the membership formally renamed the organization NAFSA: Association of International Educators. The acronym was retained to reflect NAFSA's proud past and broad name recognition.

**List of Brochures displayed at the UGC Booth during the NAFSA Conference held at Baltimore from 23<sup>rd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2004**

1. The New Knowledge Destination India - UGC
2. University of Madras-International Centre of Madras University
3. University of Hyderabad
4. Anna University
5. Jadavpur University
6. Goa University
7. Symbiosis
8. SNDT Women's University
9. Technical Education in India – AICTE
10. Directory of Accredited Programmes, National Board of Accreditation - AICTE
11. Manual of Accreditation (AICTE) - National Board of Accreditation
12. Directory of approved Institutes for PG Programmes in Management studies - AICTE, New Delhi
13. Directory of approved Institutes for PG Programmes in Computer Applications (MCA) - AICTE
14. Sardar Vallabhai National Institute of Technology, Surat
15. National Institute of Technology, Rourkela
16. Harcourt Butler Technological Institute, Kanpur
17. National Institute of Technology, Karnataka, Surathkal
18. National Institute of Technology, Kurukshetra
19. IIT, Delhi
20. TKM College of Engineering, Karicode, Kollam
21. Malvaiya National Institute of Technology, Jaipur
22. Veermata Jijabai Technological Institute, Matunga, Mumbai
23. National Institute of Technology, Warangal
24. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar National Institute of Technology, Jalandhar

### **Annexure-IV**

#### **Details of the discussions with Institution of International Education, (IIE)\* Washington, held on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2004.**

A joint meeting of the IIE and UGC was held on 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2004 from 2.20 to 3.30 p.m. at Sheraton Inner Harbor Hotel, in which the following persons were present.

<b>UGC Delegation</b>		<b>IIE Delegation</b>	
1.	Professor Arun Nigavekar Chairman, UGC	1.	Dr. Allan E. Goodman, President & CEO, IIE
2.	Dr. K. Gunasekaran Joint Secretary, UGC	2.	Ms. Tina Ravitz, Executive Vice President, IIE
3.	Prof. Bhushan Patwardhan Pune University,	3.	Mr. Jack Bailey, Director, International Operation, IIE
4.	Dr. Kota Harinarayana Vice-Chancellor Hyderabad University	4.	Dr. (Ms.) Irid Agoes, Director, Indonesian International Education, IIE
5.	Dr. P.J. Lavakare Pune-411008	5.	Ms. Peggy, IIE
6.	Dr. P.N. Razdan, Advisor (QA), AICTE		
7.	Shri V. Venkateswara Rao Counsellor, India Embassy, Washington		
8.	Associate Members		

\* IIE is the world leader in the exchange of people and ideas. IIE has a network of 22 offices worldwide, over 800 college and university members and more than 6000 volunteers. IIE designs and implements programme of study and training for students, educators, professional and trainees from all sectors with funding from government and private sources. IIE also designs exchange programme and technical training for other governmental agencies, corporations

and foundations. IIE conducts policy research and provides advising and counseling on International Education and opportunities abroad.

At the outset, the Chairman, UGC gave a panoramic picture about the Indian Higher Education giving statistics about the number of Universities, Deemed to be Universities, Institutions of National Importance, the number of colleges, teachers, students coming out of education system and other National level coordinating agencies. He also explained about the INFONET project of the UGC which is designed for creating “virtual enhancement of academic infrastructure” in various institutions of higher learning. He gave a detailed account of various Inter University Centres established by UGC-IUCAA,CEC, INFLIBNT, NSC & DAE facility at Indore. The recent initiative of UGC with regard to “University with Potential for Excellence” and “Colleges with Potential for Excellence” were also mentioned by the Chairman.

Dr. Allan in his remarks indicated that around 700 US students are at present going to India. He was of the opinion that 70% of the students are going because their parents are in India. He wanted to increase the number of students going to India in future. He felt that US students have to work/study in other countries so as to get to know their culture and can become a good International outlook oriented persons.

The Chairman, UGC indicated the UGC’s catalytic role in PIHEAD programme which was appreciated by the IIE delegates.

After the Brainstorming session which followed, the Chairman, UGC and the President of IIE signed a MoU a copy of which is at **Annexure - V**.

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