

AN AIFUCTO MONTHLY

Teachers' Movement

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Views expressed by individual in this magazine are of their own and need not necessarily be taken as policy of the Federation

EDITORIAL

"Earth has everything for man's need but not for his greed"

- Mahatma Gandhi

The reports published by international bodies show greater and growing awareness about creating a more favorable ambience for supporting Green Economy, a term, recently receiving considerable attention from different quarters. Its key ingredients are: an insistence that economic development should have a distinct orientation to be nature friendly; helpful to the poor and the marginal people; and ensuring sustainable economic development globally. This is more so, looking at the universality and timelessness of the issues at stake: issues governing the present and the future. The players are all types of stake holders - from big corporate to low income people, from governments, local to national to foreign, from international regulatory agencies to rogue elements beyond any regulation, and the United Nations .

For its part, the UNO launched the Green Economy Initiative in 2008. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), along with other international bodies have been drawing attention to the issues. The next month's UN sponsored RIO+20 Summit has generated lot of interest and it is hoped that a definite and concrete action program will be charted out there.

GREEN GROWTH AND ECONOMY - known as GGE- is all about sustainable development, about providing safe drinking water to billions of people, and about generating jobs by working on micro level clean energy systems rather than polluting the air by exhausting fossil fuel or generating nuclear energy. GGE being pro-poor, low-carbon is projected as alternative to high carbon, iniquitous 'brown' economy. GGE is not only about growth and poverty, but is really about reconnecting with what is real wealth - nature .It is about producers' responsibilities to reduce and recycle waste and cut down on emissions. It is about making technology more efficient in appropriation of nature and get market based allocation under expert management.

But some sensible opinion questions the efficacy of the much-touted GGE. " The challenge today is to find sufficiency in a finite and deeply inequitable world". The Capitalist class, ever greedy for more and more profit, cannot be asked to behave and it " will be constantly revolutionizing production" unmindful of the fact that nature will strike back with uncontrollable rage. Such opinion laughs at the naiveté of GGE which thinks that just by tinkering with rules of the market it can save nature, forgetting that capitalism does not take into account nature as forming part of capital. Environmentally friendly business is not enough to save the environment. Point to not is that access to water and land two prime resources necessary for empowering our women are rapidly getting privatized and commercialized. Less than 2% of land is owned by women and the majority of the world's poor are women.

However the college and university teachers in India have a onerous duty with regard to GGE. We must build a strong public opinion , interact with NGOs of credibility and demonstrate that the Western Model of Development is a disaster. And once inside the class room we must draw the attention of our learners to the UNEP document "Towards a Green Economy: Pathways to Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication". We must inculcate in our youngsters a desire to adopt

The Green Lifestyle.-a concept championed by social, political and religious thinkers for ages who emphasized a lifestyle in consonance with nature.

The students ,in schools and colleges are the soft targets of those who show scant respect to the values conducive to a Green Lifestyle so vital for a Green Economy. Here lies the duty of teachers-to sensitise them to the impending danger.. The task is even more urgent in less developed countries since with the picking up of economic development ,the damage to environment is accelerated.

The world environment day, observed on 5th June every year provides an opportunity to ponder over the grave issue and renew our pledge to protect the environment. Many of Our members have been making valuable contributions to the environment movements. Let all of us join the campaign to help grow our economies in a way which benefits all and save our dear planet for our future generations..

The teachers have duties to draw the attention to the danger of the state policies and the corporate greed to serve the present at the cost of future.

AIFUCTO

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अखिल भारतीय विश्वविद्यालय एवम
महाविद्यालय शिक्षक महासंघ
ALL INDIA FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY
&
COLLEGE TEACHERS' ORGANISATIONS
(Regd. Under Act XXI of 1860)

Dear Friends,

CIRCULAR NO. 05/2011-12

Date: 10-06-2012

Congratulations to all members and leaders, past and present on the occasion of the completion of 50th year of AIFUCTO on 24th April, 2012.

While celebrating The Golden Jubilee of the AIFUCTO, we once again salute our visionary leaders and countless activists and members. The occasion also reminds us of our sacred duty to remain united, focused and dedicated to the cause of teachers, students and the country.

I have informed you through my communication posted in our website all the latest developments. Please visit the website on a regular basis.

Meetings with MHRD & UGC

The General Secretary accompanied by Prof. V.S. Nehera, Vice President and Prof. Biswajit Bhuyeon, Zonal Secretary. North East held a meeting with Sri R.P. Sisodia, Joint Secretary, HRD and discussed many of the pending issues, most notably the payment of arrears. Sri Sisodia assured us that MHRD had been trying to resolve the matter and there was progress in the issue.

The delegation urged him to talk to the UGC on the early notification of removal of anomalies. The General Secretary requested him to take initiative so that the extension of dates of RC and OC is notified, in the light of the anomaly committee having agreed to the AIFUCTO suggestion. He promised to look into the matter. His attention was also drawn to the serious problem of vacant teaching posts in all States, which cuts at the root of quality of higher education given in public funded institutions. Many States have not filled the posts for many years; some States have not created new posts for nearly a decade. The universities and colleges, resorting to appoint part timers, guest lecturers and contractual teachers to tide over the crisis is detrimental both to quality and equity. Later the General Secretary wrote a letter to Sri Sisodia.

The General Secretary met UGC officials and placed the AIFUCTO demands to notify the anomaly rectification immediately. The sense of the NEC Meeting, to extend the dates of RC/OC and make the PH.D Regulations prospective were conveyed to the UGC. The General Secretary was assured that work was expected to be completed soon.

We learn our demands - rectification of anomalies and scrapping of the point system for CAS will be accepted by the UGC Committees.

Initiatives by the General Secretary in Delhi

The General Secretary has been mostly staying in Delhi. He met and discussed our demands with many Members of Parliament and sought their support. He also met the central leadership of different political parties and submitted memorandum to Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, Chair Person UPA..

Letter from the office of Sri Pranab Mukherjee

You will please remember that we met Sri Mukherjee a number of times and sought his intervention in resolving the arrears impasse. He assured us of his cooperation. Now I have received a communication from his office that Hon'ble Minister had written to Sri Kapil Sibal, Hon'ble Minister, HRD on this issue and received a reply that the matter is under consideration. The General Secretary has thanked him and requested him to ensure the payment.

Court Arrest Program stands

Following the Gulbarga NEC decision we have already organized court arrest program. The next

program ,if the arrears problem is not resolved, is HUNGER STRIKE in Delhi and state capitals in the month of August. All units are requested to finalize the names of Hunger Strikers and submit them during the next NEC meeting in Patna to be held on 8th July, 2012.The dates will be finalized in the same NEC meeting.

Golden Jubilee Programs

We are receiving news about the Golden Jubilee celebrations. Please involve former AIFUCTO leaders in your state/regions in such programs. Please send your contribution to the AIFUCTO early. The minimum amount to be paid is Rs.20 per member. All cheques and drafts are to be sent to the General Secretary payable at Hyderabad. All well wishers and former members may as well send their contributions.

Retirement age increased to 65 in Chhattisgarh

The Chhattisgarh govt. issued order to enhance the age of retirement to 65 from 62.The General Secretary along with the leaders of AIFUCTO had a meeting with Sri Sunil Kumar, Chief Secretary of the state and requested him to enhance the age of retirement. We are happy that he took immediate initiative and the necessary order was issued. Prof.Barman thanked him for all his contributions to the enhancement of age in Chhattisgarh and the UGC new pay scales when he was in MHRD.We congratulate the entire leadership of Chhattisgarh and hope a very close cooperation with AIFUCTO. We are happy that they have invited us for a NEC meeting at a mutually suitable date.

North Zonal Meeting in Chandigarh

A meeting of teachers Associations of universities and colleges of North Zone states including Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh was held at Punjab University campus Chandigarh on June 02, 2012 and attended by representative of fourteen (14) teachers Associations from the states. It is important that the meeting was held in the backdrop of the Golden Jubilee year of AIFUCTO.

AIFUCTO Zonal Secretary Prof Attar Singh conducted the proceedings of the meeting that was jointly presided over by Dr VS Nehra and Prof Jagwant Singh both vice presidents of AIFUCTO. The meet began with the Zonal secretary presenting a brief report starting from the Statutory conference at Kanyakumari and Movement resolution it passed, copies of which were distributed. Attar Singh's report covered NEC Gulbarga decisions and AIFUCTO agitation at state capitals and New Delhi court arrest program. Various associations reported about their stand on implementation of 6th pay recommendations, payment of arrears, recruitment and vacancies of teachers, struggles carried out against commercialization and privatization of higher education, quality of education etc. Various important matters

were discussed in the meeting relating to problems of the teachers and challenges of education system. The teacher leaders in the meeting focused their emphasis on quality of education which was seen in gradual degradation owing to the policies of commercialization of education system. All the teacher leaders present asserted on continuous organization of such meetings in future. Teachers expressed resentment over non implementation of UGC recommendations in toto and non payment of arrears in some states.

Congratulations to Prof. V.S.Nehra, Prof Jagwant Singh and Prof. Attar Singh for organizing a timely and useful meeting.

Meetings of General Secretary in Tamilnadu

The General Secretary Prof Barman addressed two important meetings in Tamilnadu in May. He addressed the All India Conference of the Secondary Teachers' Federation and took part in its two day deliberations on the invitation of the STF.

On 24.5.2012 a Joint Meeting of the AUT and the TNGCTA was held in the Madras Presidency College to apprise the members of the follow up work done over pending issues. In a well - attended meeting , held during vacation, Prof Barman was the key note speaker. In an interactive session, Prof Barman elaborated, issue by issue, the status of our demands. Later on, the General Secretary was interviewed by the media. Two prominent dailies reported on the Joint Meeting and carried General Secretary's caution to the UGC and the MHRD that AIFUCTO would solidly resist moves likely threaten quality teaching.

The meeting was presided over by Prof Tamilmani, President TNGCTA. It was addressed by Prof Jaya Gandhi , National Secretary , Dr M. Ravi Chandra Vice President and Prof Sampath, AUT. Old Veterans of AIFUCTO Prof E P Perumal and Prof Swamynathan also took part in the meet.

We are happy to inform you that some esteemed members have come forward to help AIFUCTO financially on their own. We are overwhelmed at their gesture.

We received Rs.5000 (Five thousand) from Prof.S.Nellainayagam, Retired Librarian Vivekananda College Madurai, Tamilnadu

We also print a letter received from, Prof.Narayn Marathe and Prof. R.M. Vithalani alongwith a cheque of Rs. 2,500.00

To,

Prof. Asok Barman, General Secretary

Respected Sir,

I would like to contribute a small amount Rs. 5000/- as a token appreciation towards the efforts of AIFUCTO for getting sixth pay for the teachers in general and getting Pay Band-4 for Selection Grade lecturers in particular.

So please let me know AIFUCTO bank account details so that the amount can be deposited locally or transferred electronically.

With Regards,

Sd/-

Narayan Marathe

Associate Professor in Electronics,

Walchand College of Engineering,

Sangli -416415

(Maharashtra)

To,

General Secretary

AIFUCTO

C/o. 403, Nanak Sai Residency,

Lane Opp. to Papajika Dhaba,

Reddy Boys Hostels Road, Abids,

Hyderabad - 500001

Dear Sir,

Here with I am sending Rs. 2500/- as a donation in favour of our sound organization as our organization has served great duties in favour of teachers of higher education for their rights, duties and other important events.

This amount is very little but it is just as token as, I retired on 14th June, 2012 as a Professor and in charge Principal of Shri M. P. Shah Muni. Commerce College, Jamnagar. Please accept this donation as little flower from my side. With best regards.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully

R. M. Vithalani

(R. M. Vithalani)

I/c. Principal

Enc. Cheque of Rs. 2500/-

Prof. Aravazhi Irisapne, NEC member from Pondicherry participated and addressed the meeting.

Meeting of General Secretary in Pondicherry

Prof. Asok Barman addressed a meeting in Pondicherry on 29th May at the invitation of Prof. Aravazhi Irisapne, President Forum of Govt. College Teachers' Association. The meeting was presided over by Prof. Irisapne. A number of teachers movement activists participated in the lively meeting. Prof. Barman expressed thanks to Prof. Irisapne for his effective and bold role in the AIFUCTO movement for a long time.

The General Secretary presented an exhaustive report on the latest development and called for a strong united movement in Pondicherry under the leadership of Prof. Irisapne. He congratulated the teachers of Pondicherry for receiving full arrears from the state govt. The meeting paid tribute the great leaders who built up the AIFUCTO movements in last fifty years.

Teachers from other university and college sectors also participated. in an interactive session. The meeting resolved to celebrate the Golden Jubilee in a befitting manner.

West Bengal Govt. College Teachers' Association

The general Secretary met the leaders and some members of the Association on 9th June, 12. The meeting was presided over by Prof. Swapan Bhattachatya, President of the Association. Prof. Barman presented an exhaustive report on the progress of our various demands and gave a call to celebrate AIFUCTO Golden Jubilee and strengthen the AIFUCTO movement. He praised the active role played by the Association and requested the leadership to prepare documents highlighting the achievements of AIFUCTO. Prof. Debasis Sarkar, General secretary and other leaders explained the movement programs of WBGCTA. A notable feature of the meeting was good presence of retired leaders and members of the Association.

The WB Govt. letter to Prof. Debasis Sarkar & Prof Sampa Sen

The meeting censured the undemocratic move by the Govt. of West Bengal to seek explanation from Prof. Debasis Sarkar & Prof Sampa Sen of WBGCTA for participating in TV channel discussions and cultural performances respectively.

The AIFUCTO General Secretary expressed shock at the move to curtail the democratic right of a teacher to express his independent opinion or a cultural performance. He hoped that the WB Govt. would withdraw the letters and would not encroach upon the democratic right of a teacher

Payment of annual membership fee and struggle fund

Please pay your annual subscription, struggle fund & Golden Jubilee fund at the earliest as we are in urgent need of funds.

NEC Meeting

The next NEC meeting will be held in Patna, Bihar on 8th July at 10 a.m.. Please contact-

Prof. Sanjay Singh, National Secretary, Mob 09431474791, Prof. Arun Singh, Mob -09431617320

NEC MEETING NOTICE

A meeting of NEC will be held at 10.00 am on 8th July, 2012 at Patna, Bihar.

Agenda

1. Confirmation of minutes of the last meeting, 2. Reporting by the General Secretary, 3. Golden Jubilee celebration -Reporting by the affiliates, 4. Movement program in Delhi and state capitals, 5. Organisationonal matters, 6. Miscellaneous

Venue

SRI ARVIND MAHILA COLLEGE, PO: KAZIPUR, ROAD NO-4, PATNA-800004 BIHAR

Please contact Prof Sanjay kumar Singh & Prof. Arun Kumar Singh for details and assistance.



Asok Barman
General Secretary

Greetings,



Asok Barman
General Secretary

Diesel exhaust fumes c

Study Reveals It's More Carcinogenic Than Secondh

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Inhaling fumes from diesel engines can cause lung cancer, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared, confirming a concern that was first raised in 1988.

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), which is part of the WHO, announced the findings on Wednesday.

Christopher Portier, chairman of the IARC Working Group, stated in a release: "The scientif-

ic evidence was compelling and the Working Group's conclusion was unanimous: diesel engine exhaust causes lung cancer in humans." He added: "Given the additional health impacts from diesel particulates, exposure to this mixture of chemicals should be reduced worldwide."

WHO noted that in 1988, the IARC had classified diesel exhaust as 'probably carcinogenic to humans', but another internal group had recommended that the decision on the safety of diesel exhaust should be reevaluated



HIGH RISK: Diesel fumes are as deadly as asbestos and mustard gas

as priority.

WHO said: "There has been mounting concern about the

AIFUCTO opposes attempts to scrap NET

Express News Service

Chennai: Terming the National Eligibility Test (NET) a necessity to improve the standard of teaching in the country, the All India Federation of University and College Teachers' Organisation (AIFUCTO) on Sunday strongly objected to attempts to abolishing the Test.

Addressing reporters here, general secretary of AIFUCTO Asok Kumar Barman said the Central Government and the DGC, instead of abolishing the NET, must revisit some of its provisions that are making it flawed and unimplementable.

"We have already indicated to the regulatory bodies certain issues. If these are resolved, it would make the NET efficient. But an attempt to do away with the test will only increase corruption in recruitment and lower the quality of teaching," he said. However, he maintained that the exemption from the NET given to MPhil and PhD teachers should continue.

Barman said the organisation was strongly against



A file photo of teachers writing the National Eligibility Test

certain Bills waiting to be passed in Parliament, including the Foreign Universities' Bill, which aim at commercialising higher education

and weakening the public-funded system. "No good university will open shop here. It will only bring useless institutions," he said.

He said the organisation had appealed to the State government here to increase the retirement age of teachers from 58 to 65 years, given

the supply-demand gap in the industry. At the same time the government should create more posts to ensure that employment opportunities for youngsters were not affected by the move.

The Tamil Nadu Government College Teachers' Association requested that the State government immediately appoint principals to those colleges where the post remained vacant. A release

“
An attempt to do away with the test will only increase corruption in recruitment and lower the quality of teaching

— Asok Kumar Barman, general secretary, AIFUCTO

requested that the vacant post of Director of Collegiate Education be filled soon and that only an educationalist be considered for the position.

cause lung cancer: WHO

and Smoking, Also Increases Risk Of Bladder Cancer

cancer-causing potential of diesel exhaust, particularly based on findings in epidemiological studies of workers exposed in various settings.

This was re-emphasised by the publication in March, 2012, of the results of a large US National Cancer Institute/National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health study of occupational exposure to such emissions in underground miners, which showed an increased risk of death from lung cancer in exposed workers.

The scientific evidence was reviewed thoroughly by IARC, and it concluded that there is 'sufficient evidence' in humans for the carcinogenicity of diesel exhaust.

The agency found that diesel exhaust is a cause of lung cancer, and also noted a positive association with an increased risk of bladder cancer.

Indicating that just having cleaner diesel fuel may not solve the problem of its hand behind causing cancer, WHO noted, "It is not yet clear how the quantita-

tive and qualitative changes (in quality of diesel) may translate into altered health effects; research into this question is needed. In addition, existing fuels and vehicles without these modifications will take many years to be replaced, particularly in less developed countries, where regulatory measures are currently also less stringent. It is notable that many parts of the developing world lack regulatory standards, and data on the occurrence and impact of diesel exhaust are limited."

PRESS CUTTINGS

DAUGHTER TRADITION

Women eat stones for fair babies

MOHAMMED SHAREEF
M.P. | DC
HYDERABAD, JUNE 10

Pregnant women in the old city have found a "unique solution" for having babies with fair complexion. Right from the fourth month of pregnancy, many women eat chunks of soft stone believing that they will have babies healthier, stronger, intelligent and handsome.

Cashing in on this belief, dozens of local grocery shops have started selling soft stones with rich calcium,

locally called *kadi*. Doctors warn that it would lead to health complications.

Pregnant women have a craving for limestone which is predominantly used in most areas of the old city. While many eat this stone as it has become a part of a pica syndrome, some eat it as part of a tradition and there are beliefs attached to it.

"I just have this urge to eat these stones. It has a pleasant taste. It is neither tangy nor salty or even sweet," says Soukanthi from

Puranapul.

"We are basically from Rajasthan and settled here since six decades. The practice has existed since then," says Geeta Bai, mother-in-law of Soukanthi. Begum Bazar is the wholesale market for *kadi*.

The stone basically comes from Karnataka.

"Daily, 20 to 30 people come only for the *kadi* and there are times when it is out of stock even in the market. A stock of 15kg to 20kg is sold out within two weeks," says a shopkeeper.

Doctors warn that this habit can lead to harmful consequences.

"Consuming these stones without sufficient intake of water, will cause indigestion. It can cause severe constipation and can actually be very dangerous. The excess consumption of such stones may lead to kidney and liver damage," says Dr. Musaddiq Khundmiri.

Famous fertility expert and gynaecologist, Dr. Roya Rozati said this is a pica syndrome and the claims have no scientific backing.

AIFUCTO

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अखिल भारतीय विश्वविद्यालय एवम
महाविद्यालय शिक्षक महासंघ

ALL INDIA FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY
&
COLLEGE TEACHERS' ORGANISATIONS
(Regd. Under Act XXI of 1860)

To Our most respected former leaders, activists and members

Dear Friends,

I take this opportunity to write to you expressing our deep sense of gratitude, respect and love on the occasion of your dear AIFUCTO completing fifty years. We know you cherish a special sentiment, pride and emotion when you think of AIFUCTO. We know you remember the glorious legacy of AIFUCTO.

The present generation of members, activists and leadership acknowledge your contribution, dedication and sacrifice in building up the movement. We have seen as junior members how you negotiated many crises, gallantly fought for the causes of teachers. Many of you worked for a pittance, but that never deterred you to wage many a battle and today we enjoy decent scales of pay.

Friends, we draw great confidence and follow in your footsteps. We seek your wise counsel whenever we face a dilemma or face a problem. That is the true spirit of the AIFUCTO movement.

We have started the GOLDEN JUBILEE celebration and cordially invite you to participate in the programs being held at unit, state, regional and national levels.

I request you to write your memoirs, experiences and suggestions to me so that we can discuss them and get directions for future course of movement. We shall publish them in our journal, website and other platforms.


I understand in no other Organisations so many retired teachers take active interest and participate in conferences and meetings.

We know your love, affection and guidance will strengthen our movement.

I invite all of you to the central GOLDEN JUBILEE program which will be notified in Teachers' Movement and our website- www.aifucto.org

Kindly keep in touch with your local leadership. We have instructed all affiliates to contact you so that any program they hold be blessed with your glorious presence.

LONG LIVE AIFUCTO


Asok Barman
General Secretary

INDIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS: Origin, Development and Achievements

Dr. Ramamurthi Rallapalli

The idea of Indian Science Congress was conceived by a trinity of great intellectuals Prof. Mc Mahon of Canning College, Lucknow, Prof. Simonsen of Presidency College, Madras and the inimitable Sir Asutosh Mookerjee of Kolkata way back in 1912. The seeds of modern science, sown three centuries ago, have since grown and multiplied, bringing with it a greater understanding and meaning to the processes of life on this Earth. It has also helped shape technological innovations which have benefited the human race. Science and Technology are the two sides of the same coin' (Kasturirangan, 2003)

While the trinity discussed the science congress, we need to remember that Asiatic society was started in 1784 by Sir William Jones which served as sentinel for promoting science in India. The concept of science congress was to start an organization, Indian Association for Advancement Science based on the model of British Association for Advancement of Science (BAAS). The major objective of the proposed institution is to provide a strong base for Indian science in terms of enquiry, exchange of ideas among individuals and societies and forge an organization to serve as a torch bearer of scientific thought and science policy formulation based on the needs of the developing nation.

The concept circulated widely across the country met with instant approval and the inaugural meeting of Indian Science Congress was held in 1914 under the aegis of Asiatic society in Kolkata with Sir Asutosh Mookerjee as the 1st General President. Indian Science Congress Association has been a major organization for nearly 100 years promoting science, scientific temper and science culture among individuals and institutions in India. It has grown into a huge organization with more than 15000 members headed by an elected General President with a voice that could influence the science planning and science administration in the country playing a lead role in science policy formulation.

Many great leaders of science and science promoters headed the body P.C.Ray, C.V.Raman, M.N.Saha, M.Vishwesaraiah, Homi Bhaba, A.L.

Mudailiar, M.S.Swaminathan, C.N.R.Rao and K.Kasturirangan to mention some among many. Pandit Jawahar Lai Nehru headed the body at the 34th congress as Prime Minister of India in 1947 and set a tradition of Prime Minister inaugurating the annual congress. These great sons of Indian science and science vision provided inspiring leadership for the development of the science congress. The concept of focal theme for the annual event of science congress was introduced by Prof. M.S. Swaminathan the father of 'Green Revolution' when he spoke on 'Science and Integerated Rural Development' at the 63rd congress held in Visakhapatnam in 1976.

While culminating the annual event is conducted from 3-7 January every year which is pretty much similar to a Science festival at which 6000 persons congregate to be part of a huge science programme, the avowed agenda of 'Science and Society' is implemented by the regional chapters that operate in different parts of the country with lectures, seminars and awareness sensitizing programmes. As years passed, endowments started flowing and this helped the organization to institute awards and medals for excellence on the name of great science icons of India. Science congress acquired international reputation and participation of eminent overseas scholars including Nobel prize winners became a regular feature. Development of partnerships, interactions and cooperations with sister academies and societies in other countries such as BAAS(UK), AAAS(USA), Pakistan , China (Chinese Academy of Science and Technology-CAST and Beijing Academy of Science and Technology-BAST), SriLanka, Zimbabwe and Kenya, added further credibility to science congress commonly referred to as ISCA.

The headquarters of ISCA has a beautiful building on a site annexed to ISCA by Kolkata municipal corporation which is a close ally to congress with a senior official being nominated to ISCA council. The staff strength gradually increased with the appointment of Executive Secretary who runs the day to day administration under supervision a Gen-

(Contd. on Pg. 13)

ISRO Scientist.S.V.University, Former General President,ISCA, Tirupati

QS World University Rankings 2011/2012

Dr. P.S. Mohana Kumar, AKPCTA (Kerala)

The ranking currently evaluates around 600 universities in the world and ranks the top 400. Plans are in place to both broaden the work in terms of number of institutions and deepen it in terms of the detail provided to users. Six indicators are drawn together to form an international ranking of universities. In addition rankings in five key subject areas are produced: Arts & Humanities, Engineering & IT, Life Sciences & Biomedicine, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences. First Published annually since 2004, QS World University Rankings® is the most trusted university ranking in the world. **No Indian university figured among the top 200 universities in the world by academic reputation, which accounts for 40 per cent marks in the rankings.** IIT Bombay, which has figured on 187th rank last year, has slipped to 225th position. This highlights the poor perception of Indian universities' research performance and capabilities, besides academic reputation and reputation among employers, QS rankings include citations per faculty (20 per cent marks), student-faculty ratio (20 per cent), international students (5 per cent) and international faculty (5%). Overall, the UK and the US institutions have taken the top 10 spots, with Cambridge taking the crown. Institutes from Japan, South Korea and Germany have seen significant rises in the rankings. *Peking and Tsinghua* universities of China have climbed up the ranking, showing benefits of huge funding programmes. Still, Hong Kong University is the highest ranked Asian university. Peking University and Tsinghua University from the Chinese mainland also make the top 50, placed at 46 and 47 respectively. A total of 16 Chinese universities made the top 300 chart this year, among which 8 are from the Chinese mainland.

The World Investment Report series; The World Investment Report series is an annual publication on global and regional trends in foreign direct investment and related policy developments at the national and international levels. The focus of UNCTAD's World Investment Report 2011 is on a

fast growing but less understood facet of international production and commerce. The term 'cross-border non-equity modes' (NEMs) appears to be an inelegant description of the fairly common activities of transnational corporations (TNCs), such as contract manufacturing, services outsourcing, contract farming, franchising, licensing, and contractual management. "Non-Equity Modes of International Production and Development", the report focuses on global and regional trends in foreign direct investment and related policy developments at the national and international levels. The theme for last year's report was "Investing in a low-carbon economy".

Rank	Institution	Country
1	Uni of Cambridge	UK
2	Harvard University	USA
3	MIT	USA
4	YaleUni.	USA
5	Uni. Oxford	UK
6	Imperial College	UK
7	Uni.College,London	UK
8	Uni. of Chicago	USA
9	Uni. of Pennsylvania	USA
10	Columbia Uni.	USA

The 2011 edition of the World Investment Report focuses on the strategic use of non-equity modes by transnational corporations (TNCs) in their management of global value chains and international operations. According to the report, developing economies increased further in importance in 2010, both as recipients of FDI and as outward investors. As international production and, recently, international consumption shift to developing and transition economies, TNCs are increasingly investing in both efficiency- and market-seeking projects in those countries. For the first time, they absorbed more than half of global FDI inflows in 2010. Half of the top-20 host economies for FDI in 2010 were developing or transition economies.

mHEALTH: HEALTH CARE FOR ANYONE. ANYTIME ANYWHERE

Prof. K. Ganapathy

India is indeed a paradox. Considered a third world, developing country, we fall far short of the minimum health standards, recommended by WHO. It is unlikely that the 750 million Indians living in suburban and rural India, will have easy direct physical access to India's medical specialists, as 80% of them, reside in urban India, catering to only 20% of the population. At the same time, we have 900 million mobile subscribers. Rural teledensity even in Northeastern India is now 55%. According *to TRAI projections Kerala with a 100% penetrance will be the first state with no urban rural divide in mobile telephony. In 2014 broad band penetration is expected to be only 60 million, while sales of smart phones could exceed PC's, as would wireless access to the internet. mHealth therefore is more relevant in India than conventional eHealth. The fierce price war in the Indian telecom space, in the past couple of months, has seen rates for voice calls plunge to an all time low. To recover the crores of rupees invested in 3G, Indian telecom companies have to necessarily offer Value Added Services and we can now count upon proactive measures from them, to make mHealth reach that critical mass, so essential for a successful take off. It is therefore not surprising that mBanking, mCommerce, mEntertainment and mGovernance have already started making inroads into the Indian diaspora. Today 35 banks with 70 million customers offer mBanking. 35 TV channels can be accessed on the mobile. Several government initiatives in mGovernance clearly indicate that this will be a major thrust area. mHealth however is conspicuous by its absence .

In August 2007 in collaboration with Ericsson, the author carried out the first clinical trial in South Asia, on wireless medicine, using a 3G spectrum specially obtained for the study. Clinical evaluation of 240 patients was done through a webcam, including BP evaluation, tele auscultation and transmission of 12 lead ECG's. Subsequently a mini master health check up was carried out in a village, for 75 patients, using EDGE technology . Xrays and ultrasound images including video streaming of ECHO cardiograms were transmitted thro wireless from a Hospital on Wheels to Apollo hospitals at

Madurai. Electronic house visits have since been carried out using a commercially available wireless modems.. A 24/7 Medical Response Center is now operational in Chennai and Hyderabad since March 2011. Accessible to mobile phone users, these cost effective resource centers, are manned by trained personnel, who use customized, evaluated algorithms/triage protocols to provide authenticated health information for just Rs 35. This presentation will review the several pilot projects being carried out in mHealth followed by some crystal ball gazing. As a guestimate, there are probably about 25 active mHealth pilot projects being carried out in India. They include use of mobile games to enhance HIV/AIDS awareness. Handheld devices have been used to collect raw health data, which are transmitted in real time to a Health Information System Database. Disease and Epidemic Outbreaks have been tracked and daily health alerts sent to subscribers. The multifarious ways in which the mobile can be used to deliver health care to anyone, anytime anywhere will be reviewed.. The mobile can bridge the urban rural health divide, truly transforming the delivery of health care. Simple SMS reminders could promote adherence and compliance for medications, self care, self management, wellness activities and assist in management of chronic diseases like diabetes. Support can be provided for giving up smoking, in antenatal care and women's health besides providing daily health tips. As better health, implies reduced claims for insurance companies they could be called upon, to financially support these ventures. SMS can be used to inform, motivate and assist patients besides informing doctors about admissions, laboratory results etc Other applications of mHealth include educating patients, creating awareness, remote data collection, communication and training for healthcare workers, disease and epidemic outbreak tracking, diagnostic and treatment support and even remote physical monitoring, Access to technology, end user and health care provider acceptance, lack of regulatory issues, challenges in logistics and non availability of appropriate, need-based, customized solutions are some of the key issues. Eventually the mobile

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WHY DO WE NOT HAVE A VACCINE AGAINST HIV OR TB?

Rolf M. Zinkernagel

The Spectrum of biological research comprises extreme points of view: One is, everything is possible and therefore all results are correct, if correctly measured. The other one is, that it is more important to always ask and ask again what matches evolution, is frequent and enhances survival versus what is rare or an exception. With this in mind, I will evaluate the key parameters of immunity and the question of why we have efficient vaccines against small pox, measles, polio, tetanus and meningococci, but not against HIV or TB.

Using infectious diseases and immune protection against such infections, I shall explain, basic immunological mechanisms and confront the insights with current immunological dogma. Various concepts, including so called tolerance, i.e. absence of an immune response against self-or foreign antigens, the idea of immunological memory or the concept of immunological specificity are reviewed. These well accepted concepts will be confronted with experimental findings that question the biological and medical relevance of many theoretical immunological concepts and demonstrate alternative possibilities that may be exploited medically e.g. for vaccine strategies.

While it is well accepted that cell-destroying virus infections must be dealt with efficiently by adaptive immune responses, this is less clear for infections with non-cytopathic or persisting virus infections. Some infections (e.g. by papilloma viruses causing warts) stay outside of the reach of immunity by avoiding antigen transport to, or infection of, the draining lymph node or the spleen. Others get transferred from a virus-carrier mother to the offspring at or shortly after birth, when the infant has no mature immune system yet. Such infections are non-cytopathic and therefore cause no rapid and direct harm to the host. The pathology that may develop is via T cell mediated immune responses causing immunopathology and takes often years to develop (e.g. AIDS or aggressive hepatitis). If an infection persists at sufficiently high levels, then chronically activated immunity may cause immunopathology; such processes may be responsible for many so called autoimmune or

chronic, degenerative or other unexplained chronic and slowly developing diseases. Persistently circulating antigen or virus can cause specific T cell and partially also B cell elimination called immunological tolerance.

The fact that children once infected with measles virus will be immune to measles challenge infections for the rest of their life has led to the idea of so called immunological memory, i.e. a primed hosts will make a quicker and better response to a second antigen encounter. The question is, does this definition always correlate with protection? While for most acute cytopathic classical childhood infections, tetanus, diphtheria, measles, polio or small pox, our usual in vitro assays ELISA, γ -IFN producing T cells or T cell proliferation correlate reasonably well with the above definition of immunological memory. It does not however always correlate with protection, e.g. HIV-1 infections induce quick and very good ELISA positive responses, although there is obviously no protection against this virus. In contrast, neutralizing antibody responses are induced very late by HIV in humans (or by LCMV in mice). This common feature applies to several human persisting viral infections, including HBV, HCV, HIV (and many parasitic infections). If a neutralizing antibody arises and viraemia re-emerges, then often neutralizing antibody escape mutant viruses get selected. This indicates that only a multi-specific type of vaccine may eventually control such infections. Since this may include up to 10'000 or 100'000 variations for HIV (or 1000 for influenza virus), such a vaccine will be very difficult to develop. In addition, there is good evidence that only persisting and re-encountered antigen maintains the specific neutralizing antibody, but also response of the host. This antigen-dependence of protection is a far cry from the usual definition of immunological memory and its relationship to vaccine mediated protection to become plasma cells. Therefore impact of antigen dependent protection via activation of B cells or effector T cells impinges on our understanding of protective vaccines, particularly against chronic persistent types of infections. Evidence accumulated so far indicates that

Nobel Laureate. Attend ISC at Bhubaneswar, January 2012.

vaccine strains that tend to persist, such as BCG, loose protective capacity once the vaccine strain has been eliminated by the host. On the other hand attenuated vaccine strains may regain virulence under certain circumstances (e.g. HIV-1 or SHIV) suggesting that development of sufficiently attenuated but not too much attenuated vaccine strains may be either extremely difficult or impossible. In this context the parallels between successful vaccines against acutely cytopathic and potentially lethal virus infections versus the absence of such vaccines against chronic persistent types of infections (including the ones mentioned above, but also Herpes viruses) reveals a very delicate balance between epidemiology and maternal immunity, that is handed down via antibodies to the offspring. Attenuation in the offspring during early childhood of epidemiologically important sections and the consequences of this almost Lamarckian-type of handing down of acquired immunological experience across generations opens up interesting perspectives. Could for example juvenile diabetes or some forms of rheumatoid arthritis correlate with certain childhood infections dependent on the passively acquired maternal antibody coverage? And what are the relationships between the timing of first infections and many immunopathological diseases?

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could become a hand held hospital,. Refractive errors can be checked, diagnostic images can be manipulated, ECG;s reviewed and heart sounds heard. It can even be used as a microscope, store personal health records and be a storehouse of information to understand safety of drugs prescribed, particularly when they are multiple.

Challenges in deploying mHealth are many. They include changing the mind set of all the stakeholders, convincing them with success stories, providing education and training, providing solar units for charging the phone in rural areas and making available appropriate, cost

effective, need based, Value Added Services. Critical success factors to scale mHealth include creating the right "fit" between mHealth applications and health care needs ; mHealth should be need driven not technology driven delivered not in isolation but in combination with other mServices Proof of concept projects deploying mHealth are insufficient. Evidence based impact studies are neces-

Further readings

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sary to convince the authorities , to accept mHealth as a thrust area. Health Care is more than diagnosis and treatment. From hospitals and doctor's offices, health care is moving to homes. Health is not curing illnesses, but promoting wellness. Knowledge is power and the mobile is the simplest tool to provide health information to everyone.. mHealth can go a long way in providing equitable, sustainable health care bridging the health divide and indeed help touch billions of lives. This illustrated presentation will provide enough data that mHealth is a doable practical sustainable scalable solution which can be incorporated into the core of the health care delivery system in India. "Health Care Without Borders-The Tele-Medicine Way" could very well be replaced with the words " the mHealth way" for this would be the simplest, fastest, quickest cost effective method of reaching the unreached. Wireless, mobility and universal availability will be the buzz words in healthcare of the future. The mobile phone is already proving to be the moist disruptive innovation of the 21st century.

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Teachers' Movement

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eral Secretary (Membership Affairs) and a Treasurer. The General Secretary (Science Affairs) looks after various science programmes and the functioning of ISCA chapters. ISCA became eligible for Grant in aid by Department of Science and Technology of Govt, of India. DST Secretary is an ex-officio member of the Executive committee and a DST nominee advises ISCA Finance committee. Indian National Science Academy has a representatives on ISCA council on reciprocal bases indicating cooperation between two academies. To provide continuity of administration and science agenda the General Presidents of immediate past, present and future work together. Assisted by the executive committee and council they carve out National science agenda of popularization of science. ISCA runs a journal 'Everyman's science'.

The annual event has several spectacular programmes like Science exhibition showcasing the modern developments in science which attracts students of schools and colleges and people from nearby towns. Children science congress, Science communication, Public lectures, Nobel Laureate lectures, Special lectures and plenary sessions on frontier areas of science and technology. Added attraction is the young scientists programme in which many young scientists compete for recognition with a Certificate of Merit and an award of Rs 25,000.

Fourteen independent sectional sessions of science and engineering provide opportunity for seniors and junior scientists to interact. Many youngsters use the participation in the section as their 'Scientific career arangetram'. ISCA introduced the concept of Task force a kind of round table that summarizes the important recommendations of the congress to be presented to the Ministry of Science

and Technology in the form of a booklet .Past record shows several recommendations found favourable response and action from Government of India. DST being the nodal ministry has been the main pillar of support and cooperation.

Ever since its inception in 1914 only four great women served as General Presidents in a period of 99 years. Dr.Asima Chatterjee, Dr.Archana Sharma, Dr.Manju Sharma and the current President Dr.Githa Bali are the four women Presidents. 99th session of Indian Science Congress was held in Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology University in collaboration with NISER in Bhubaneswar, capital city of Odisha an eastern seaboard state with spectacular shore sights and forests besides great centres of spiritual enchantment. National and International science leaders converged on Bhubaneswar for intellectual interactions, exchange of ideas and developing action plan to address several frontier areas of Science and Technology. Never before a galaxy of science icons responded as they did for 99th session. Several Nobel laureates have consented not only to speak but responded to the idea of 'Meet the Nobel Laureates' programme being held to inspire young minds.

Plenary sessions and special lectures in cutting edge areas such as *Space Technology for human welfare, Maternal and Child Nutrition Security, Climate Change and Food security, Tackling Neurodegenerative diseases, Assive Technologies for differently abled, Deaddiction strategies, Animal Alternatives for Teaching and Testing, Nanoscience and imaging, Cancer and Stem cell therapy, Rural Livelihoods and Live stock Management, Green Building Technologies and Energy and Sustainability for a Greener Tomorrow* were on the science agenda of the Bhubaneswar congress providing intellectual feast for the participants.

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