



NORTH MAHARASHTRA UNIVERSITY, JALGAON



Report of Academic Visit to Mexico and New York City, USA

The North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon, in its pursuit of global cooperation in the field of higher education, has taken another step. A high level delegation comprising, (1) Prof. Sudhir U. Meshram, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of the University; (2) Prof. A.M. Mahajan, Professor in Electronics and Registrar of the University & (3) Prof. Arvind N. Chaudhari, Professor of Commerce & Management and Member of Management Council of the University; visited 03 different campuses of CETYS University System, Mexico and New York City, University of California Sandiego, Riverside and Santa Barbara, CA USA.

The purpose of the visit was to develop bilateral relations involving exchange of students and faculty, joint research and academic programs and other aspects of mutual cooperation. The CETYS University System is one of the largest and reputed universities in Mexico. It has three campuses namely; at Ensinada, Tijuana and Mexicali.

On day-1, the delegation held 2 meetings and visited 3 institutes at Ensinada. In the first meeting at Cetys University with the Deans of Management, Science and Engineering and the Under Secretary, Govt. of Mexico. The delegation explored the possibilities of mutual cooperation in the areas of common interests. Each side made brief PowerPoint presentations to understand each other's strengths and interests. It was felt that the two institutes can cooperate in the fields of Nano Science and Technology and Semiconductor Device, Fabrication and Management. Both the parties have decided to organize joint international conference at Cetys Mexico next year Sept/Oct 2015 with the theme area of Commerce and Management. The meeting was followed by a visit to UNAM Institute of Nano Science and Technology, the partener research institute of the Cetys University at Ensinada. It was also realized that the UNAM has excellent facilities of characterization whereas NMU has excellent expertise in fabrication & characterization both and the collaboration can prove synergistic for both the institutions.

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In the afternoon, the team visited another institute called Center for Scientific Research and Higher Education (CICESE) and held extensive discussions with its Director, Coordinators and HODs of different departments. The main theme of the discussion was a possible MoU for joint Ph.D. program in the areas common interest research like Optoelectronics, Geology and Biotechnology. This was followed by a visit to the mega 'Compaction Engineering Expo' organized by the Cetys university. The team had meaningful interactions with the engineering students of the university and understood their interests and aspirations. Prof. A.M. Mahajan delivered a lecture on "*Novel Dielectric Materials and MOS Structures for Future VLSI Technology*" before the members of the faculty and engineering students in the evening.

On day-2, the delegation visited Tijuana campus of the university and had a round of the facilities and library. The team had a meeting with campus Dean, Faculty Coordinators, HODs and members of the faculty. The main theme of the discussion was students and faculty exchange program and joint and collaborative research projects between the two institutions in the common areas of interests like cognitive science, thereafter the delegation travelled to Mexicali city of Mexico.

On day-3, the Indian delegation visited to Mexicali campus of the CETYS University. The team had a high level meeting with the President of the university and Faculty Deans. Both parties felt that there exist ample opportunities for mutual cooperation in the fields of Management Studies, Electronics, Biotechnology and few other areas. The two sides also felt that there exist a complimentality between the two institutions in terms of infrastructure, facilities, equipment and expertise which can be and should be gainfully utilized. The delegation had separate meetings with Dean & members of the faculty of Engineering followed by meeting with Social Science, Law & Management faculty members.

In the evening, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Sudhir U. Meshram delivered a key-note address before the members of the faculty and students on "*Sustainable Biotechnology: A New Horizon*" at Amarillas Hall on the campus of Cetys University at Mexicali.

On day-4, Prof. A. M. Mahajan visited San Diego University in USA and held a meeting with Prof. Andrew Kummel regarding a research areas of probable MoU between the two universities. He, then, visited the University of California, Riverside Campus and held a meeting with the Dean of Browns College of Engineering. The extensive discussions in the meeting culminated fruitfully by signing an MoU on Joint Research Programs and Student-Faculty Exchange Programs between the two institutions. The TEQIP funded UICT NMU faculty and

students can be considered immediately based on the information given by Prof. Mahajan regarding TEQIP funding. In addition both parties agreed upon deputing the final year Engg. & Technology students of NMU for completing their project work at the laboratories of UCR & upon successful completion of the project UCR will issue the certificate of the project completion to the students.

On day-5, Prof. A. M. Mahajan visited the University of California, Santa Barbara Campus and held discussion with the Collaborator, Prof. Brian Thibeault on the possible cooperation between two institutions in the field of Nano Science and Technology. Both of them then visited the Dean of Engineering office of the university and it was decided to continue to have dialogue so that a broad MoU can be signed on the areas of mutual understanding in future in consultation & consent with Dean of Engg. faculty of UCSB.

The Indian delegation met the Consul General of India, Mr. Dnyaneshwar Mulay in New York City Office. The team appraised him about the work being done at the North Maharashtra University, Jalgaon particularly for the farmers and the downtroddens. He was also told by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor that how the university is discharging its social responsibilities by implementing the ambitious programs like "Lab to Land", "Lab to Industry" besides the quality academic programs for the majority first generation learners of the area and excellent research in some of the frontline areas. All this cumulatively resulted in the university being ranked 27th amongst the 742 Indian universities and First amongst the universities in Maharashtra by a reputed magazine Career 360 (Feb 2014) in India recently. Mr. Mulay, in his reply assured the delegation that his office will cooperate and extend every help to the university in its quest for academic collaborations in USA. Further, Consulate General, ensured the delegation that every academic programme/talk by eminent speaker at consulate (in New York) will be transmitted to NMU & the students of NMU will be allowed to interact with the speaker. Delegation has appreciated this idea and given consent that it will be very well done through DKC established at library of NMU.

Thereafter, the delegation travelled back to India and reached safely to Mumbai on 9th Jan-2014 evening after a fruitful US-Mexico tour.

