



UGC

A Bi-monthly Newsletter of University Grants Commission (UGC), Nepal

Volume 8, Issue 1/2

Shrawan/Bhadra- Aswin/Kartik, 2076

2019

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Outline Graphics, Thapagaun
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Printed at

Anytime Printing Press
Phone: 9851148005

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UGC Signs MOC with NAAC, India

The University Grants Commission, Nepal and National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) of India have agreed to initiate new collaboration and mutual cooperation between two countries on quality assurance and accreditation of higher education.

The agreement was signed by Prof. Dr. Bhim Prasad Subedi, Chairperson, UGC and Prof. S.C. Sharma, Director, NAAC. The signing ceremony took place on 8th November 2019 at NAAC Nagarbhavi, Bengaluru, India. Dr. Shyam Sunder, Senior Advisor, NAAC and Mr. Kedar Prasad Acharya, Finance Controller, UGC, Nepal were also present at the signing of MoC.

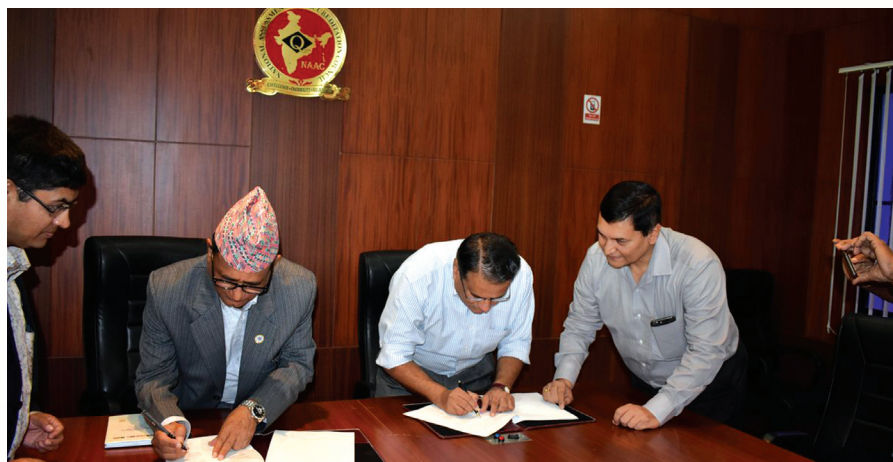
The Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) covers the following major areas:

1. Exchange of non-confidential information, including policy documents and relevant operational information specially with respect to quality assurance of higher education, to enable the staff from the two agencies to learn from each other's experiences;
2. Mutual understanding to enhance the understanding of each other's approach for ensuring quality in higher education and the respective systems of accreditation in place in higher education while taking clues from the strength and challenges of the respective Quality Assurance systems and share experiences

and methodologies adopted for the benefit of higher education system;

3. Quality systems to increase awareness on the existence of the higher education

and to processes and other relevant matters of quality assurance and accreditation. When appropriate and possible, it shall support staff from the two agencies to



quality assurance system, its role in ensuring the quality of transnational activities, and the specific role and capabilities of the quality audit system among the stakeholders of both India and Nepal;

4. Exchange and use of quality assessment framework, tools and indicators: both of the agencies agree to collaboratively develop/refine quality assessment framework and indicators, and adopt each others' existing framework, criteria, and tools, as appropriate and acknowledge each others' documents, as applicable ;
5. Staff exchange to provide staff from both the agencies an opportunity to get acquainted with systems,

- spend time at each other's offices
- participate as observer in institutional audits and accreditation
- be involved in training activities

6. Use of each other's reviewers/ assessors, where appropriate and possible, to secure services of auditors or accreditors or other specialist from each other's systems to strengthen the international dimension of institutional audits and accreditation;
7. Collaboration : where appropriate and possible, collaborative programmes in relation to quality assurance and accreditation activities will be organized in both the countries. Both agencies

shall explore opportunities to collaboratively organize seminars, workshops, trainings and conferences on quality assurance and accreditation and/or conduct research on quality enhancement of higher education in Nepal and India ;

8. Mutual Recognition : where appropriate and possible, in operations relating to quality assurance of higher education within one party's jurisdiction but originating from the other party's jurisdiction, have due regard and recognition to the



relevant decisions judgments of other party;

9. Good practice database: where appropriate and possible, include the good practices of higher education institutions accredited by

NAAC in the Good Practice Database of UGC, Nepal and of higher education institutions accredited by UGC, Nepal in the Good Practice Database of NAAC, India.

UGC Members Visit Universities in China

A high level team led by UGC Chairperson Prof Dr. Bhim Prasad Subedi visited different universities in Peoples' Republic of China from 26th September to 3rd October 2019 in order to better understand how Chinese higher education system works and ultimately to explore the areas of cooperation and collaboration in higher education between two neighboring countries. UGC Board members Prof. Dr. Govinda Prasad Acharya, Prof. Dr. Pramod Kumar Jha, Dr. Bikas Adhikari and Dr. Chandrakala Ghimire were in the team. The visit was very fruitful in sharing experience of higher education between two neighboring countries on the one hand and opening up collaborative efforts in higher education, on the other. The team also intensively interacted with Chinese counterparts and



discussed various dimensions of higher education.

During the visit, University Grants Commission (UGC) and Changsha Medical University, located in Changsha, Hunan Province, China signed a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). UGC Chairperson Prof. Dr. Bhim Prasad Subedi and President of Changsha Medical University Dr. He Binsheng signed the MoU regarding different collaborative and cooperative efforts in higher education between two

institutions. The agreement aims to enhance the academic and research exchanges between the two institutions. It further aims to enhance learning in the global context to promote an understanding of each other's perspectives. Such academic exchanges and the sharing of research experience and outcomes will create avenues of opportunity to provide liberal and humanistic education to the students and develop a class of quality leadership. The final goal then is to increase the knowledge

about the rich cultural heritage of the region while respecting diversity and differences. The MoU incorporated following areas of cooperation and collaborations ;

- exchange of faculties and scholars between Nepalese universities and Changsha Medical University,
- short term student and research exchange programs
- summer/winter school programs for students from



Nepalese universities,

- collaborative research programs,
- organizing joint research conferences,
- joint teaching arrangements,
- short term academic programs for Nepalese faculties,
- establishment of Confucius institute at Nepalese Universities,
- capacity building programs of UGC staff, and
- joint cultural programs.

UGC team visited Xiangnan University, located at Chenzhou, China on 29th September 2019. A meeting was held at the university to maintain and foster



academic relations between UGC Nepal and Xiangnan University. The productive deliberations were made between the UGC team and authorities of

two institutions. President of Xiangnan University expressed his keen interest in working with the UGC, especially in the field of research, capacity building, faculty/students exchange and scholarships. He also further emphasized on developing a concrete plan on areas of cooperation and finalizing it in the next meeting.

UGC team also visited Jiujiang University located in Jiujiang City, Jiangxi Province of China. Prof. Gan Xiaqing, President of the university, welcomed the UGC team at the university. A meeting was held at the university in which Vice President, deans, Heads of international relations and faculties were present. The meeting helped identify common areas of interest



Prof. Subedi presented an overview of the higher education in Nepal and proposed ideas on possible areas of collaboration and mutual cooperation between

and overviewed the higher education system of China and the best practices adopted by university. Prof. Xiaqing reinforced his desire to build partnership in research and

exchange with Nepalese higher education institutions. Prof. Xiaqing also expressed his interest in establishing a Nepal Study Centre in the university. During the meeting UGC Chairman Prof Subedi briefed on higher education reforms of Nepal, specially focusing on the different areas of mutual understating and interest in higher education. During the visit, informal discussion with several other authorities, faculties, international division staffs and foreign students also took place.

On 3rd October, the team also



discussed on the modality of cooperation between Chinese universities and UGC Nepal with his excellency ambassador of Nepal to China, Mr. Lila Mani Paudel at his office. The ambassador expressed deep concern over Nepali medical

students' difficulties to get recognition of their degrees from Chinese universities by Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health in Nepal. He expressed the need to resolve this issue at the earliest by the concerned authorities..

Breaking Silence on Discussion in Contemporary Issues

University Grants Commission (UGC) organized an interaction program on 'the Current Status of Higher Education: Upcoming Leadership and Challenges in the Universities' on 9 July, 2019 . The major aspire of the program was to invoke the issue on higher education leadership and to discuss on possible ways forward. The high level delegates from National Planning Commission, UGC, Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology; different Universities and Health Science Academies along with the Secretaries for the Ministry of Social Development from all the seven provinces, educationists, experts and professors from different universities, chief of education department from the major political parties, student unions of major political parties, social workers, representatives from



civil society and the journalists from different print and electronic media participated in the program. Prof. Dr. Suresh Raj Sharma, Prof. Dr. Yuwaraj Sangraula, and Mr. Yuwaraj Ghimire were the key speakers.

Speaking in the program, Prof. Suresh Raj Sharma pointed out the issue of political intervention in the universities and opined to start the provision of University Chancellor from the academia. According to him, the university should be governed by the Board

of Trustees, who will be completely accountable towards the university. Similarly, Prof. Yuwaraj Sangraula expressed against the political appointment of university authority and mentioned critical way forward stating the basic qualities and criteria of the university leadership. According to Mr. Yuwaraj Ghimire, noted journalist, Nepalese higher education system has gone beyond the public expectation, interest and economic access. Many participants took part in the discussion and suggested

many different ways of reforming Nepalese higher education as well as the selection and appointment of prospective University Authorities. Addressing the program, UGC Chairman, Prof. Dr. Bhim Prasad

Subedi stated for the need to look through new dimension in selecting and appointing the university authorities as well as higher education governance. He expressed that the program has

created a base for further discussion on the criteria and qualities of prospective University Leadership capable of governing Nepalese Higher Education in the twenty first century.

UGC Chair Attends Meeting of SAARC Senior Officials of Education

Prof. Dr. Bhim Prasad Subedi, Chairman of University Grants Commission, visited Maldives from October 7 to 12 to participate in the Meeting of SAARC Senior Officials of Education which was held on 9th October 2019. This meeting was part of finalizing Agenda/ documents for the 3rd meeting of SAARC Ministers of Education to be held on 10th of October 2019.

Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs of Maldives, Mr. Abdulla Shahid inaugurated the third SAARC Education/ Higher Education Ministers Meeting at the Crossroads Maldives 9th October. The welcome address was delivered by Mr. Ahmed Mausoom Mohamed, Head of Foreign Relations of the Ministry of Education, Maldives. Secretary General of SAARC H. E. Mr. Amjad Hussain B. Sial while addressing the meeting thanked the Government of Maldives for hosting this important Meeting.

Honourable Minister of Education, Science and Technology (MOEST), Mr. Giri Raj Mani Pokharel led the Nepalese delegation. UGC Chair Prof. Subedi and Mr. Deepak Sharma from MOEST were other members of the delegation. Honourable Minister while



addressing the meeting insisted that Nepal is now moving forward with the vision, “Prosperous Nepal and Happy Nepali” which calls for transforming the education system. He emphasized that an inclusive and equitable quality education is the precondition for a prosperous Nepal and happy Nepali, a vision that underscores National Framework for SDG4: Education 2030.

The ceremony was attended by the Cabinet Ministers, Ministers, and Ministerial level officials of the Government of Maldives and SAARC member States and the Secretary-General of SAARC.

The meeting also approved the action plan of the SAARC nations for sustainable development. Meeting of the SAARC Education Ministers has issued 10 point Male Declaration, reaffirming the region’s commitment to universal primary education,

elimination of all types of gender discrimination in education, and quality improvement in all levels of education. Further, the Third Meeting of Ministers of Education/ Higher Education held in Male, Maldives adopted the Education 2030: SAARC Framework for Action (SFFA). The adoption of the SFFA will go a long way in the South Asian region for realizing the aims of Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) which states “Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all”. This is a significant milestone which will bring about substantial changes in the educational landscape in the region and help the Member-States to develop individual and collective / collaborative policies, programmatic action and strategies to address systemic and external challenges that affect the educational development of their own countries.

Four Campuses Receive Accreditation Certificates

University Grants Commission (UGC) awarded accreditation certificates to the International School of Tourism and Hotel Management, Kathmandu (IST), J.S. Murarka Multiple Campus, Sarlahi and Aishwarya Multiple Campus (AMC), Kailali respectively on 23rd July and 1st September 2019. Likewise, re-accreditation certificate was awarded to Tikapur Multiple Campus, Tikapur, Kailali on 23rd July 2019. It had received the accreditation certificate of QAA on 30th December 2013 for the first time. UGC Chairperson Prof. Bhim Prasad Subedi handed over the accreditation certificates to the authorities of these institutions amid an award ceremony organized at UGC Office, Sanathimi, Bhaktapur.

All four campuses have demonstrated their commitment to quality higher education. International School of Tourism and Hotel Management (IST) is the first accredited higher education institution affiliated to a foreign university. IST is affiliated to Salzburg University, Austria. Earlier, UGC has awarded the accreditation certificate to the higher education institutions affiliated to Nepalese universities only. IST was established in 2003. It entered in process of quality assurance and accreditation (QAA) in November 2017 and completed

the QAA cycle in May 2019.

J.S. Murarka Multiple Campus entered in QAA process on 5/15/2017 and completed the QAA cycle on July 2019.

This community campus was established in 2044 BS with the collaborative efforts to fulfill the demands of people around this area. Affiliated to Tribhuvan University, the campus started its educational programs in humanities.

Currently, the campus offers different programs from under graduate to post graduate level in Humanities, Education, Management and Sciences. Likewise, AMC entered in QAA process on July 2016 and completed the QAA cycle on April 2019. This campus was established in 2063 B.S. Currently it has been producing the graduates of science and management.

With the addition of these institutions, 34 higher education institutions have been accredited, and other 10 have completed the QAA assessment cycle. A total of 110 institutions are at different stage of assessment, with 330 institutions expressing their interest to go through QAA process. Furthermore, three institutions have been given academic autonomy based on



their performance after QAA award.

UGC, Nepal has launched the Quality Assurance and Accreditation (QAA) system as an important aspect of reform in higher education in Nepal. The UGC initiated the Institutional Accreditation System in higher education since 2007. The first higher education institution (HEI) was accredited in 2009. The participation of the HEIs in institutional quality assessment is still voluntary. The UGC, however is planning to make the system compulsory gradually and have already made public call to all HEI to go through self-study process and complete it within next three years. The UGC has made a decision to bring all HEIs in the country to be within the preview of QAA system within 2022.

UGC Chair Visits SAU



Prof. Dr. Bhim Prasad Subedi, Chairman of University Grants Commission, visited New Delhi, India to attend the Award ceremony 2019 of South Asian University on 2nd June 2019. One hundred forty eight students were awarded with Master's, M. Phil and PhD degree among which 7 gold medalist received medal from the UGC Chairman.

In his speech, Prof Subedi congratulated all the graduates with a message—*“Yanyasmakam sucharitani tani twaya upasyani no itarani”* which means all our good characteristics you have witnessed are for you to follow, but not the others.

South Asian University (SAU) is an international university established by the eight member nations of South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) viz. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

UGC Calls for Proposals

University Grants Commission (UGC) has called for the proposals from higher education institutions, teachers and students in different regular programs to be carried out in the fiscal year 2076/77.

The Commission has made notice public for institutional development grants such as grants to universities, regular grants and physicals development grants to community campuses. Likewise, the Commission has invited the proposals for Quality Improvements Programs such as PhD and MPhil fellowships, small research development and innovation grants, thesis preparation support for persons with disabilities, travel grants

for participating in international conferences, support for conducting workshops and seminars, capacity development programs, partial support for the PhD fellow, master's and M.Phil. Thesis preparation support, faculty research grants, collaborative research grants, LoI for Quality Assurance and Accreditation etc.

The public notice has been published in Kantipur Daily and Gorkhapatra Daily on 3rd October 2019. The notice has been also published in UGC website ; www.ugcnepal.edu.np. The deadline is 29 November for province no 3 and 4, December 4 for province no 1, 2 and 5, November 8 for province no 6 and 7.

UGC Approves the Budget and Programs

The Board Meeting of the University Grants Commission held on 9th August 2019 has decided to approve the budget and programs for the fiscal year 2019/20 (2076/77) with the total amount of Rs. 15338400000 for the operation and capital development of higher education sector. Out of this budget, Rs 5093800000 has been allocated for the capital development of higher education institutions in the country. It is 33.2% of the total budget while 66.79% has been allocated for the operation. The Commission has also allocated Rs. 800000000 for regular and physical facility development grants to community colleges across the country. The grants will be provided to the community campuses on the basis of formula funding and other set criteria.

UGC has also been implementing Higher Education Reforms Project since 2015. For current fiscal year, the Commission has allocated Rs. 2300000000 for the project. Further, UGC has given higher priority for science and technology while allocating budget.