



A brief report on NAAC 25th Foundation Day

NAAC launches Silver Jubilee year celebrations with seminar on "Rankings, Accreditation and Quest for Quality: International Scenario and the Indian Perspective"



On successful completion of its twenty four (24) years of existence on **16th September, 2018**, National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) launched its silver jubilee celebration by organizing national seminar on **"Rankings, Accreditation and Quest for Quality: International Scenario and the Indian Perspective"**.

(Seen in photo: Prof. S. C. Sharma, Director, NAAC, Dr. Justice Jawad Rahim, Judicial Member, NGT, New Delhi, Prof. Virander S. Chauhan, Chairman, Executive Committee of NAAC & Dr. Jagannath Patil, Adviser, NAAC & Convenor of Seminar)

It was glad and happy moment for NAAC to celebrate 25th foundation day on 19th September, 2018. On the occasion of foundation day, NAAC organized one day seminar on **"Rankings, Accreditation and Quest for Quality: International Scenario and the Indian Perspective"** at NAAC Conference Hall, Bengaluru. To make the programme a memorable event, NAAC had invited various academicians including Vice Chancellors, Directors, Professors and Principals of various Institutions of the country. **Prof. Virander S. Chauhan**, *Chairman, Executive Committee of NAAC* delegated opening address and **Dr. Justice Jawad Rahim**, *Judicial Member of National Green Tribunal (NGT), New Delhi* was the Guest of Honour of the programme. Over Sixty (60) academic experts have participated in the programme besides a representation from QS global rankings and NAAC officials.

The programme started by lighting a lamp followed by the introductory remarks by the convenor of the programme by **Dr. Jagannath Patil**, *Adviser, NAAC*, and welcome address by **Prof. S.C. Sharma**, *Director, NAAC*. The Guest of Honour, **Dr. Justice Jawad Rahim**, *Judicial Member of NGT* congratulated the NAAC body on this auspicious silver Jubilee year of existence. He touched the various aspects of the society i.e, law, justice, education, environment issues besides accreditation and ranking which was the theme of the seminar. Beside this, he complimented the initiative taken by the NAAC i.e plastic free NAAC campus.

In his opening address, **Prof. Virander S. Chauhan**, *Chairman, Executive Committee of NAAC*, enlightened on various aspects of quality in higher education including the challenges of Revised Accreditation Framework (RAF) of NAAC, definitions of quality, inevitable expansion of Indian higher education, regulation etc. Finally addressing the gathering the Chairman invited suggestions and recommendations by the academic experts on how to improve the quality instead of criticising the system.

Prof. G. D. Yadav, *Vice Chancellor, Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai* gave key note address on “**Rankings, Accreditation & Quality Improvements in Higher Education Institutions**”. During his presentation he mentioned that Universities were harbingers of creation of new knowledge and touched various key aspects of rankings such as perception, brands, funding, international outlook etc. He has explained the various challenges for Indian Universities in global rankings and gave insights and made suggestions such as giving autonomous status to selected universities who are Accredited NAAC with A+ and A++ grade, creation of pool of faculty, extending faculty industry internship programme, encouraging UG research as a part of curriculum ,abolish concept of department to make them as centre, research excellence ,extending liberal funding of top 50 Universities under an umbrella similar to China ,Korea, Singapore etc.

A brief presentation on “**NAAC’s Revised Accreditation Framework (RAF): A paradigm shift**” was given by **Dr. Jagannath Patil**. He presented an analysis of initial results of RAF and opined that, the new system has succeeded in goal of bringing objectivity and rigour in process besides raising institutional aspirations and competitive spirit among HEIs.

Next to this, there were two parallel sessions, the first was “**Case presentations from IQACs of Universities**” Chaired by **Dr. Shashikala Wanjari**, *Vice Chancellor of SNDT Women’s University, Maharashtra* and case studies were presented by **Prof. Meenakshi Kilam**, *Director, Directorate of Internal Quality Assurance, University of Jammu, Jammu & Kashmir*, **Prof. Mathangi**, *IQAC Co-ordinator, Chettinad Academy of Research and Education, Tamil Nadu*, **Dr. Preethi Verma**, *Professor, SNDT Women’s University Maharashtra* and **Dr. Bharathi Dhevi**, *IQAC coordinator, S-VYASA, Bengaluru*. The session was facilitated by **Dr. B. S. Madhukar**, *Adviser* and **Mr. B.S. Ponmudiraj**, *Deputy Adviser, NAAC*.

The other session was Round table of VCs on topic of “**Issues and Challenges in Ranking & Accreditation**” chaired by **Prof. Suhas Pednekar**, *Vice Chancellor of University of Mumbai, Maharashtra*. In this parallel session, Vice Chancellors who presented on issues, challenges of accreditation included **Prof. Parimal H Vyas**, *Vice Chancellor of Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Gujarat*, **Dr. Narendra Dhakad**,

Vice-Chancellor of Devi Ahilya Vishwavidyalaya, Madhya Pradesh and Prof. S. Ramachandram, Vice-Chancellor of Osmania University, Telangana and Prof. Venkata Rao, Vice-Chancellor of NLSIU, Bengaluru. The session was facilitated by Dr. M.S. Shyamasunadar, Adviser and Dr. Wahidul Hasan, Senior Communication cum Publication Officer, NAAC.

In afternoon, the first panel discussion was organised on “**Ranking, Accreditation & Internal Quality Assurance System**”. During the session, 4 panellists represented in the session were **Prof. K. R. S. Sambasiva Rao**, *Vice-Chancellor of Mizoram University, Mizoram* shared on locational disadvantages of university location and impact of accreditation and **Prof. J. Mahender Reddy**, *Vice Chancellor, ICFAI Foundation of Higher Education, Telangana*, shared about the best practices of the institutions and highlighted on case study approach of the university. While, **Prof. Me'raj Ud Din Mir**, *Vice Chancellor of Central University of Kashmir, J&K*, addressed on the importance of IQAC and role to be played in enhancing quality of the institution. **Dr. G. Srinivas**, *Joint Secretary, UGC, South Eastern Region* highlighted correlation between internal and external QA systems vis-a-vis role played by NAAC and UGC. The session was facilitated by **Dr. Vishnukanth S. Chatpalli**, Adviser and **Dr. Ganesh Hegde**, Deputy Adviser of NAAC.

Second panel discussion was organised on “**Global & National Ranking: How to improve Indian Performance through external and internal quality assurance**”. During the discussion, **Mr. Ashwin Jerome Fernandes**, *Regional Director of QS rankings, Middle East, North Africa & India* discussed about QS rankings, I-Gauge, challenges and recommendations for Indian institutes on how to improve in rankings. He insisted the universities to be active in research because research is an important parameter. **Dr. Jagadish Arora**, *Director of INFLIBNET Centre, Gujarat*, presented on issues research and publications as reflected in National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF). **Dr. Sandeep Sancheti**, *Vice Chancellor of SRM Institute of Technology and President of AIU* stressed on autonomy status of the institution saying that Autonomy is not be given, but to be taken. The session was facilitated by **Dr. Jagannath Patil**, Adviser, NAAC.

Several key suggestions and recommendations provided by the experts and participants to improve the quality of Indian HE were taken up during valedictory session. **Prof. S. C. Sharma**, *Director, NAAC* promised to consider the suggestions in consultation with appropriate authorities.

The programme ended with Vote of thanks by **Mr. B.S. Ponmudiraj**, *Deputy Adviser, NAAC.*

The Organising Committee with **Prof. S. C. Sharma**, *Director of NAAC as Chairman*, **Dr. Jagannath Patil**, *Adviser of NAAC as Convenor of Seminar*, **Dr. Wahidul Hasan**, *Senior CPO of NAAC as Co-Convenor of Seminar* and **Mr. B.S. Ponmudiraj**, *Deputy Adviser*, **Dr. D.K. Kamble**, *Assistant Adviser*, **Dr. Vinita Sahu**, *Assistant Adviser*, **Dr. Ruchi Tripathi**, *Assistant Adviser* as members took efforts for successful conduct of seminar.



Vice Chancellors, Professors & Senior Academicians in Indian Higher Education Quality Assurance, NAAC Officials during NAAC Seminar on “**Rankings, Accreditation and Quest for Quality: International Scenario and the Indian Perspective**” organised by NAAC at Bengaluru.

Promoting Green initiative in NAAC Campus

Co-inciding the occasion of silver jubilee, NAAC launched a green initiative of making the campus plastic bottle free. All the employees of NAAC and Invitees of seminar were given copper tumbler as silver jubilee memento with an appeal to completely do away with use of plastic bottle for drinking water.

Dr. Justice Jawad Rahim, *Judicial Member of National Green Tribunal (NGT), New Delhi* who was the Guest of Honour of the programme, wholeheartedly complemented NAAC on this unique initiative.

