VCs for common programme

Promotion of Indian education in developing and developed countries

By Staff reporter

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VARCA: The VCs of Indian universities have principally agreed on forming a common program for promotion of Indian education in developing and developed countries. The universities now have a target of enrolling 50,000 international students from developing countries and 10,000 students from developed countries in the next three years.

The afternoon session of the National VCs Conference was marked by the discussion on marketing Indian education abroad, creating e-learning modules and solutions, as well as, effectiveness of entrepreneurship and IPR initiatives. The session concluded with a cruise trip for the VCs on the Mandovi river.

The Promotion of Indian Higher Education Abroad (PI-HEAD) initiative of UGC was represented by Dr Bhushan Patwardhan, chairman of standing committee, PIHEAD. Explaining the importance of exporting Indian education, Dr Patwardhan elaborated on the first Indian initiative for participation at NAFSA, the biggest education conference for international universities held at Baltimore USA in May 2004.

He underscored the need of uniform quality, fee structure and admission system to attract international talent to India.

Pawan Agarwal, financial advisor of UGC said that the India Education Fairs held in three African countries, namely, Kenia Tanzania and Ethiopia, recorded around 4,800 visitors and 1200 actual registrations, which he said proves the fact that students from developing countries look at India as a viable option of education abroad. Vice chancellor of Hyderabad University Dr Kota Harinarayana, acting VC of SNDT University A G Bhahvankar, VC of Madras Universirty S P Tyagarajan added their perspective to the issue.

In the discussion about UGC efforts at e-content development, Prof A) it Kembhavi from Inter University Centre Astronomy & Astrophysics (IUCAA) explained the effective usage of the jandwidth provided to the universities by UGC. Prof Gulshan Rai from the educational network ERNET and T A V Murthy, director of UGC initiative INFLIBNET, informed the VCs about the eight vast databases and 2023 journals in various fields available to them through ERNET and troubleshooting the bandwidth problems.

Computer professional G D Sharma explained the concept of e-Content creation and it's benefits for the universities lacking faculty or situated in the remote areas.

In the -last part of the session, Pawan Agarwal showcased the glimpses of the exploratory workshop on Knowledge-Based Entrepreneurship Promotion and elaborated on the UGC initiative to promote Intellectual Property Rights at university level.

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