



Spark

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Don Bosco University Newsletter

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NABSET 2010

National Conference on 'New Approaches of Basic Sciences towards the Development of Engineering and Technology', organised by the department of Basic Sciences of Don Bosco College of Engineering and Technology (DBCET), is a maiden venture in the history of the College. The Conference was held on 12-13 March 2009 at DBCET, Azara with the objective of bringing together researchers in the field of Basic Science and Engineering to interact and exchange new ideas which can be applicable in Engineering and Technology. The conference also aimed at discovering the prospects for potential application of different fields of Basic Sciences and their recent develop-

National Conference on 'New Approaches of Basic Sciences towards the Development of Engineering and Technology'

ments in the field of Engineering and Technology. Besides invited talks by distinguished scientists, it provided an opportunity to young researchers and students to present their work.

The meaningful inaugural ceremony at the start of the Conference gave an impetus for the entire two days programme. The Chief Guest, Prof Hiralal Duorah, Retd. Vice-Chancellor, Gauhati University expressed his joy on the development seen in DB-

CET and expressed his confidence in its ability to provide the best education for today's young people. Making a special note on the initiative taken by the College to arrange the National Conference he said that it is one of the best means to discover the potential application of different fields of Basic Sciences and their recent developments. The keynote speaker, Prof Vadrevu Sree Hari Rao, Department of Mathematical Science, JNTU, Hyderabad presented a panoramic view of the past and present scenarios of technologies using different analogies and led the audience to have a calculative and reasonable perception of the future in terms of Science and Technology.





Fr. Stephen Mavelly, Vice- Chancellor of Don Bosco University in his words of encouragement wished the conference every success and expressed his hope that there will be ample opportunity to share thoughts and insights on how to bring out a resurgence of interest in Basic Sciences, and especially in the way they are taught, because they are the building blocks for success in our country's march towards a balanced development. Citing the present status of America and Europe who have realized their strength in basic sciences and fundamental research, Fr. Stephen said, "We are still playing catch up with Europe and America... Hence the relevance of this conference on 'New Approaches to Basic Sciences...'. Without our strength in these fundamentals, we shall forever be playing second fiddle to economic powerhouses of today..."

The Guests of honour, Prof. Dilip Bhattacharya, Department of Mathematics Jadavpur University, Calcutta and Dr Prodyut Kumar Goswami, Director of Technical Education, Assam were the other speakers of the occasion.

Prof. Manoranjan Kalita, Principal DBCET welcomed the august gathering and Prof. Basil Koikara, Registrar, DBU made an informative presentation on the University and the College. Dr. Anuradha Devi, Convenor of NABSET gave a sketch of the two days programme, while Dr. Monmoyuri Baruah, Joint Convenor, proposed vote of thanks. Lighting of the traditional lamp by the dignitaries, prayer dance and song by the students of DBCET were part of the inaugural function.

Various sessions that lined up for the two days gave way to the display of knowledge and skills of well known scholars and researchers of the time. The participants were divided into three groups for better participation

and interaction. The sessions were simultaneously held at the three venues prepared in the College. Nanotechnology, Mathematical Modelling and Optimal Control, Fuzzy sets and Application, Material Sciences and Optimization Techniques were some of the topics dealt with.

The two-day programme had a noteworthy conclusion on the second day afternoon with a valedictory function and summing up of the entire course sessions of the Conference. Dr. D. K. Das, Gauhati University was invited to make his observation on the conference and he expressed his joy at being part of the function and clearly listed out the topics presented by various persons on Material Science. Prof. Vadrevu Sree Hari Rao, JNTU, Hyderabad made his observation on the two days programme by appreciating the number of participation and the bubbling enthusiasm of the organizing team. He commented on the conference as a whole and remarked on some of the papers presented by different persons.

Fr. Stephen Mavelly congratulated the Principal, the main organizers and the Faculty of DBCET for meticulously planning and organizing the programme. Pointing out the fact of Indian students who excel in their studies, when they go abroad, especially in their college life and later in their professional lives too, he said that they learn the ropes very fast – they learn to be creative, to get a good grasp of the basics of what they are learning, to become professionals in their field... But, in India, we are struck with rote learning, note taking and text book bound. He stated that here, at this college and the university, we are determined to break out of this mould, and to help our graduates to become self-reliant, self-respecting and thoroughgoing professionals. He also added that suggestions and collaborations to

make this happen will always be welcomed with open arms. On behalf of the participants, Dr. Sudip Kumar Deb and Ms. Hemashri from Gauhati University expressed their impressions. Dr. Sudip commented on the topic chosen as excellent and said that he has learnt much from the two days programme. Ms. Hemashri thanked Don Bosco University for giving a platform to express their ideas and views and also for inspiring them to organize such events in Gauhati University. Dr. Anuradha Devi, Convener of the Conference in her vote of thanks named every person who worked for the success of the seminar and expressed her gratefulness to all for their wholehearted support and collaboration.

The specially arranged cultural vaganza on the first day evening delighted the participants. The students of DBCET splendidly presented the 7 states of Northeast at the opening of the impressive function. Various folk dances and songs, typical to the region were performed to the contentment of all who were present.

Ms. Subra Mukherjee, DBCET



My Experience at NABSET 2010 ...



NABSET 2010 gave me the experience of organizing a national level conference for the first time. I was lucky to interact with and invite some of the eminent professors and researchers to this conference. Positive notes from some of them delighted me greatly, for I knew that their participation and sharing on the recent developments in basic sciences would help us meet our objectives. I am thankful to the management, all the faculty members, staff and students for all the support throughout the Conference.

Dr. Anuradha Devi, Convener, NABSET 2010



In the past, I have participated in a number of conferences, both at national and international levels; but NABSET 2010 in our College gave me a chance for the first time to be involved in organizing a national conference. It has gifted me with a great experience in life. I can proudly say that the success of NABSET 2010 is the result of the excellent team work of all faculty members and staff along with the students. Now I feel confident that with this spirit, we can organize many more such successful events in this College, not only at national but also at international level.

Dr. Monmoyuri Baruah, Jt. Convener, NABSET 2010



NABSET 2010 was the first national conference in our College; and, it remains one of the best experiences of my life. Though I was one of the volunteers, I was privileged to listen to some of the sessions that enriched me.

Sarbani Das, II Semester



I express my special thanks to all the organizers of this conference for giving such a wonderful opportunity for my friends and me to be part of a national event. Though all the presentations were not related to our courses, I found them informative and useful for my future career.

Sagarika Bora, IV Semester



Even though I was one of the volunteers, I was like a growing plant in terms of learning many new things. It was my pleasure to work for the success of the first national conference at DBCET and I look forward to participate in such instructive programmes in future.

Tipu Kr. Prithani, II Semester



I feel privileged for having had the chance of being part of the first national conference in our College. I was impressed by the presentation skills displayed by those who presented papers at the conference. They have motivated my friends and me to look to the future with confidence. They have left us with a great eagerness to wait for our turn to stand in front of learned people, proudly presenting our research work with confidence.

Rose Mary Koikara, II Semester

It was a great learning experience. The invited lectures were basically research based. From the mathematical technical sessions I came to know its many applications in the field of medicine and allied areas. In a short span of two days, a great amount of knowledge was offered



and shared. I can confidently say that this event has set a new benchmark towards a new beginning.

Kangkan Talukdar, IV Semester



NABSET 2010 offered a wonderful opportunity for us to meet and interact with a number of learned and experienced persons from various places. It was indeed an overwhelming experience for me to have contributed as a volunteer in some small way towards hosting such a big event in our College.

Manjumi Sarma, II Semester



The conference dealt with a wide range of topics that are fundamental for professionals in this hi-tech world. I had a golden opportunity to interact with some of the experts from different parts of India. It was a great experience to be part of NABSET 2010.

Sanghita Deka IV Semester



I feel proud for having been one of the volunteers at the first national conference held in the College. I was fortunate to attend some of the lectures and witness great scholars presenting their papers in their own areas of specialization. The programme has enriched me with many new ideas on various topics.

Sanjay Chhettri, II Semester

From Events' Diary



10- 14 February, 2010: Dr. Ercole Lucchini, an Industrialist from Varese in Italy accompanied by his Secretary, Laura DeVitta arrived at the college to get a feel of the Don Bosco University Project 'in loco'. They held discussions with the Core Team on supporting the establishment of a department of Food Processing Technology in Don Bosco University, Guwahati.

18 February, 2010: Prof Gautam Rajkhowa from the University of Chester – a past pupil of Don Bosco, Guwahati, made a visit to the College. He showed great interest in collaborating with the university in its Management Education Programme.



28 February, 2010: Some of the Bishops who came to attend the CBCI Conference in Guwahati arrived at the College for a short visit and lunch. They showed great enthusiasm in listening to a short presentation on Don Bosco University and its plans.



29 March 2010: The 2nd Foundation Day of Don Bosco University was commemorated today with a get together of the staff and faculty of DBCET during the evening tea break at the Vice-Chancellor's office.

DBU on its First Phase of Strategic Planning



The first Strategic Planning Retreat of the Don Bosco University was held on 16 January 2010 at its Headquarters, DBCET, Azara. Over thirty Salesians and collaborators from different parts of India attended the one-day programme.

“In a short span of time the University Project has gone a long way. We thank and congratulate Fr. Stephen Mavelly and all his collaborators for the hard work that has been put in,” remarked Fr. Joseph Almeida, Provincial Superior of Guwahati, at the inaugural session. Prof Ashoke Dutta, Director, IIM – Shillong, and Prof Edward Sarbin from University of California were the resource persons.

The Retreat centred around one important question: What do we want Don Bosco University to be in the coming years? A number of presentations on the university project were made right at the beginning as a backdrop to the discussions to follow: ‘The Concept Paper - the raison d’être of the University’ by Fr. Stephen Mavelly, ‘The Status of the University - the milestones and what it is today’ by Fr. Joseph Nellanatt, ‘The Master Plan for the University at Tapesia Gardens’ by Prof. Basil Koikara, ‘The Vision Statement - an attempt to actualize it’ by Sr. Celine D’Cunha and ‘The Strategic Planning Process - the why and how of the process’ by Dr. Peter Paul Hauhnar.

The strategic planning exercise was ably guided by Prof Ashoke Dutta. The issues were visualized under four themes: Identity (Catholic/Christian, Salesian and Indian); Academics (Courses, Departments, Priorities); Governance and Human Resource Management (Policies); Infrastructural facilities and Fund Raising.

After a brain-storming session on what the university should be in 2015 and 2020, discussions were held in groups. The suggestions and opinions were presented at the plenary assembly; and, long term objectives were drawn up. Some of the important points made at the retreat were:

- The University is heading in the right direction and has made remarkable development within a very short period of time.
- The University is maintaining its Christian (Catholic) and Salesian identities through holistic education – Christian and social commitment, and the prevalence of Salesian family spirit in the university community.
- The main campus of the university could be planned along the lines of a ‘residential university’ enabling us to have a greater impact on the graduates.
- The focus on striving for and maintenance of excellence and professionalism that combines effi-

ciency, effectiveness and accessibility should be the continuing guiding principles of the university.

- In the initial stages, the university should focus on professional courses in technology and service sectors and web-based distance education in order to ensure self-sufficiency and sustainability as it builds up its basic infrastructure.
- Research in social sector could be taken up as a priority enlisting the existing staff in our institutions.
- The university could become a hub that networks Christian institutions (colleges, technical institutes, seminaries etc.) to ensure excellence and sharing of resources in our academic set-ups.
- The Department of Distance Education should be initiated as soon as possible.
- The university should actively pursue the involvement and cooperation of Salesian India and other religious congregations in the project.
- A quality school that is being planned for under-privileged and deserving youth of the North-East at the University campus should be developed as the primary instrument of the university’s social commitment.

Dr Peter Paul



Meetings of the Governing Body and Board of Management

The Governing Body and Board of Management meetings were held on 6th February 2010. They reviewed the functioning of the university since inception, studied the report of the strategic planning sessions, finalized the list of members of the statutory bodies of the university, debated the fund-raising strategies, and the plans of the university. The meetings also finalized the list of Advisory Board Members of the university.

CBCI General Body at Guwahati gets a glimpse of the First Catholic University in India

Fr. Stephen Mavelly along with the core group of Don Bosco University made a presentation on the University Project to the CBCI General Body on 3 March 2010 at Don Bosco Institute, Guwahati. With the help of a PowerPoint presentation he briefed the assembly on the inception, progress, present status and future plans of the project. Naming it as 'an idea that has taken wings!' he said that this idea has been around for quite a while with a perception that this is one frontier that we needed to cross as there was a felt need to be involved in public policy and debate. "Involvement in university education", he asserted, "was an answer to our urge to be there where leaders of society are formed". Commenting on the factors that contributed to its setting up he said, "This is an idea that rode on a combination of factors such as spontaneous enthusiasm in the Province, full-throated support from the Salesian world and the Church in India, a responsive and welcoming government and the compulsion to grasp an opportunity that beckoned."

Speaking on its basic orientations, he said that Don Bosco University would be 'a University with a difference' and its difference would be built into its underlying Christian inspiration, its distinctive Salesian educational philosophy, its commitment to access and equity, striving for excellence and

professionalism, responsiveness to the times, fundamental orientation and ethos, organizational and work culture, the quality, the training and involvement of its staff, the courses it chooses to offer, and the formation of its graduates. The implications of these orientations, he said would be reflected in its planning, programmes and courses which would emphasize self-reliance, wisdom and social responsibility.

Presenting a visualization of the central plaza of the academic complex at the permanent campus, Fr. Stephen spoke of the Society's decision to plan and build a residential campus for five to six thousand staff and students in three to five years. He also presented the plan to cater to one hundred to two hundred thousand students through web-based courses

in five years and to gain national and international recognition as a centre of excellence in the chosen sectors and areas in five to ten years.

Noting the risk undertaken by the Congregation in starting the first college in the Salesian world in 1934 at Shillong in spite of the scarcity of men and resources they had then, Fr. Stephen said that venturing upon starting a university, almost a century later, was no less a daunting task. However, in view of the commitment of the Salesian world towards this project, and the enthusiastic welcome it has received from the government, civil and ecclesial leaders, and especially the youth of the region, he said that this venture holds promise of blossoming into one of the most significant works of the Church and the Don Bosco Society in India.





Inauguration of Spring Semester 2010

An air of liveliness and gaiety covered the campus of DBCET, Azara, when all the students came back to start the new semester. The Spring Semes-

ter 2010 took off with an hour-long function at the auditorium. Inaugurating the function, Dr. Manoranjan Kalita, the Principal, touched on the theme for the semester 'Striving to learn, grow, and grow'. Speaking passionately on the need for sincere commitment to professional studies, he said that the main aim of the institution was to build engineers who are not only intellectually competent but also socially committed.

Dr. Anuradha Devi motivated the students to aspire high, and Sr. Celine D'Cunha brought alive the memo-

ries of the year 2009 with a short Powerpoint presentation. Fr. Joseph Nellanatt introduced the new faculty members of the College and Prof. Basil Koikara gave information on the academic programme of the semester.

The occasion also offered a chance to the Department of Electronics to introduce and explain their first wall magazine which was creatively designed with the caption "Creatronics".

Sushmita Chowdhury, IV Semester

DBCET Bags First Prizes for Street Play and Theatrix at IIT

Students of DBCET bagged the first prizes for 'Theatrix' and 'Street Play' competitions held in the cultural vaganza 'ALCHERINGA 2010' at IIT, Guwahati, organized by the students of IIT, Guwahati from 4-7 February 2010.

The 'Theatrix' performed by the students of IV semester from DBCET was chosen as the best out of the six teams from the various Colleges. Similarly the 'Street Play' competition by the students of II semester from DBCET received the first prize their perfor-



mance. There were four teams for this competition.

A team of teachers boosted the confidence of the students - Dr. Monmoyuri Baruah, Mr. Bikas Aggarwal and Mrs. Leena H. Nemade. They were also privileged to get guidance and help from Mr. Amulya Kumar (Father of Surajeet Dev Kumar, student of DBCET), a well known artist of Assam who had written the script and directed the play.

Kumar Sarangapani, IV Semester

Training and Placement Cell Inaugurated



'Training and Placement Cell', an integral part of DBCET was opened on 24 February 2010 to plan and organize placement and training opportunities for the students. In order to ensure right placement for each student, the cell is geared to work towards developing their core competencies and interpersonal and communication skills.

The cell plans to promote industry-institute interaction by arranging

industry visits, technical talks and career seminars in order to provide a platform for the budding engineers to interact with professionals from various industries. The national and international linkages of Assam Don Bosco University and its curriculum, which is designed to meet the changing demands of the industry, will also give the students of DBCET an advantage in the employment market.

Mr. Pijush Chandra Das, TPC Officer



BOSCO TARANG '10

College Festival

As exams, assignments, reports and test seemed to overload the minds of Bosconians, the much awaited annual festival of DBCET, 'Bosco Tarang' ushered in freshness, joy and rejuvenation for all.

Bosco Tarang '10 - a seven day festival, a time of sheer happiness, enjoyment and fun was held on 13-20 February, 2010.

The festival was officially inaugurated on the evening of 12 February by Fr. Stephen Mavelly, Rector, DBCET, who, in his inaugural speech, emphasized the importance of participation and urged every Bosconian to display the true Bosconian spirit by participating actively to accept victory or defeat graciously. He also highlighted the significance of the theme chosen for the festival, 'Go, Glow and Grow'.

The festival kicked off with the preliminary rounds of the sports events. A remarkable display of unity, group dynamics, talent and abilities could be seen in both individual and team events, where all the participants

performed with zest and vigor. A good number of students displayed remarkable talents in literary events which included quiz, essay writing, spelling tests and story writing. The tough competition displayed during the cultural events such as singing, dance and drama competitions showed that the college was brimming with talents. The concluding function of the festival was held on 20 February afternoon with a short function comprising of the winning items and prize distribution.

The fashion show and the jukebox were significant additions to this year's festival. The fashion show was a much awaited event in which quite a number of students displayed their passion for style and fashion. The jukebox was a popular hit throughout the fest, through which the students and teachers alike played and dedicated songs to their well wishers and loved ones.

Madhushruti Sharma & Arpit Das, II Semester



Student Development Programme at DBCET

A student development programme planned by the Department of Campus Ministry at DBCET started off on 19 January 2010. The four consecutive days' programme was arranged to benefit all the students of II Semester and IV Semester. The students of II Semester were given inputs on 'Stress Management', 'Social Responsibilities', 'Being Professionals' and 'The Essence of Freedom'. Sr. Celine D'Cunha, Campus Minister and Mr. Prabal Ghosh were the resource persons for the sessions.

Making a 'model village' and 'puzzle solving' were some of the activities held in groups.

The students of IV Semester were animated on the theme, "Striving towards excellence". Some of the topics dealt with were 'Confident attitude towards one's vision', 'Mastering a range of skills and seeking top performance of skills', 'Pursuing excellence' and 'Leadership'.

Pinky Deka, II Semester & Epsita Medhi, IV Semester

Excerpts from the Events' Diary of DBIM

Don Bosco Institute of Management joined the 'Management Fair' organized by Assam Tribune in December 2009 for the purpose of giving information about the institutes to the MBA aspirants. The students of DBIM along with its faculty members participated in the event to give comprehensive information about the institute to the visitors. Those who expressed interest in joining DBIM were invited to visit the institute.

The visiting day for the prospective students of the new academic session was organized on January 2010. Nearly 25 students came to visit the institute from different parts of Assam. An interactive session was arranged by the faculty members to help them have a clear understanding of the institute and the courses of study.

Mr. Pranab Mukharjee, who works for Human Rights and is associated

with the United Nations, and also a journalist, took two sessions on public speaking in which he mostly stressed on the use of proper gestures while delivering a speech in public.

Mr. Dony Peter Chacko, owner of Live Alive Asia Company from Bangalore, delivered a lecture on marketing.

The recruitment process for summer internship, an essential part of the MBA curriculum, has already been started in DBIM by many companies like Amul, Mushroom Development Federation, ITC, HSBC, Orchid International Service etc. They conducted their own interviews for hiring summer trainees.

In keeping with the traditions of Don Bosco Society, the students of DBIM organized a small function in the nearby vernacular medium school 'Jaypur Prathamik Bidyalaya' to give the children there a chance

to showcase their talents and also to develop a sense of competitiveness among them. The day's function left the students of DBIM with great satisfaction at having brought a smile on the faces of the little ones.

The students of DBIM participated in the QUASOFIESTA 2010 held at Guwahati Commerce College on 13 and 14 March 2010. They bagged the best institute award and a few other awards. Almost all the B schools of Guwahati participated in the event, out of which Don Bosco Institute of Management emerged as the best institute which brought a great deal of joy to all in the Institute.

The faculty and the students of DBIM, helped by Mr Anabil Goswami, participated in producing a DVD called 'Mist and Magic' prepared by DBI to show the cultural heritage of the Seven Sister States of India.

Debabrat Sarma, DBIM



Faculty Development Programme, Siloam

January 19 -23, 2010 saw the faculty of DBCET in an intensive residential workshop by Dr. George Palamatathil, sdb on 'Counselling Skills' held at Siloam, Meghalaya.

The entire programme was a unique blend of professional training and purpose-driven fun activities. It focused on equipping the educator with the additional competency of a counselor to become an effective mentor for students, in line with Don Bosco's system of education.

The resource person enlightened the group on the 'goals of counseling' and expressed that they should be based on the needs of clients (students). He said, "A good counselor can lead a counselee towards specific goals...self-understanding, communication, learning and behavior change, self actualization, support, spiritual wholeness.." The standard techniques of counseling, such as attending, listening, responding etc. were made known to the participants that gave a general guideline for a successful relation in problem-solving. The mock counseling sessions among



the members (in groups of three) were instrumental in relating theory with practice. The 'observer' in the group provided valuable feedback to the 'counselor' on his/her 'client-interaction'. Three such sessions were held on different days, each focusing on one technique. Training was also imparted on how to give 'positive feedback' to clients. Other topics included 'Human Needs Fulfillment', 'Psychological Competencies' and 'Psychotherapy'.

The members were delighted to get involved in various games like 'blind-folding', 'letter-posting', 'structure building' etc. These enabled them to gain alertness and team-spirit. One afternoon was spent in trekking in a hill nearby, which helped to discover

the will-power, courage and hidden potential of individuals. The evenings at Siloam were a treat to the members with movie-sessions focused on 'life' and interesting videos which provided tips for counseling. Bonfire gathering on one evening was a memorable time as it gave ample opportunity for interaction and talent display.

On 23 January, the workshop concluded with reviews, feedback, felicitation of the resource persons, thanksgiving and awarding of certificates to the participants. The group felt confident and expressed eagerness to get-back and utilize the acquired competencies to the full extent possible.

Ms. Sanzida Tasmin Ali

My Learning at the International Seminar in Pattaya

The International Conference on "Learning Innovation in Science and Technology 2010" was held from 24 -26 February 2010 at Pattaya, Thailand. The Conference encompassed a broad range of sub-topics such as Learning Process, Learning Design, Learning Technology, Multidisciplinary learning, Knowledge Management Technologies, Innovating across Boundaries, Learning from other's Experiences, Work and the Future of Education and related fields.



The main objective of this conference was to develop understanding of issues in education and innovation on Science and Technology and also to facilitate networking in Research and Development. The delegates were from different disciplines of Science and Technology. Invited talks were delivered by well known educators from Thailand, Japan, USA etc.

The multi-faceted and multi-disciplinary learning in the conference provided ample opportunities to improve upon collaborative learning. The conference brought together learning experts, leading global thinkers, distinguished industrialists and young budding talents. Moreover, it helped to strengthen the ties between researchers from various countries of the world.

I was lucky to visit many places in Pattaya and Bangkok - Coral Beach, Sleeping Buddha Temple, Marble Temple, Floating Market, World's Largest Gems Gallery.

Ms. Sontara Konwar Boruah

Striving to Learn, Serve and Grow

The definition of 'Learning' from dictionary says that 'learning is any relatively permanent change in behavior that occurs as a result of experience'. However, a true learned person is always said to be one who can apply the knowledge acquired through various means to the service of humanity and society at large. There has to be a continuous growth in the learning process through the practical application of learnt wisdom; otherwise the knowledge is said to be limited and stagnant.

Let me explain this by narrating an ancient story about a teacher, his students and a king who ruled one of the kingdoms in North India. The teacher had many disciples under him doing their studies in his 'Gurukul'. He was also a trusted friend of the king and often he was consulted on many matters of the kingdom. One day, the king who was a progressive thinker, called the teacher and asked him to find a minister for his court.

After a few days, the teacher announced to his students that one among them would be inducted into the court of the king as a minister, once they finish their studies and prove themselves to be capable. All his students were very happy and were excited about that. They started working harder to outperform one another to grab the golden opportunity.

During the monsoon season that year one batch of students were about to finish their studies, as they had already spent fifteen years in the Gurukul. One day the teacher told to his students that he was going to visit some far away village where his brother lived and that he would come back after a week. He asked his students to prove their talents by their

creativity at the end of the week. A day after the teacher's leaving, there was an announcement made by the king's administration on the possibility of heavy flood in that area. The native people were asked to evacuate that place as soon as possible to safer places with whatever they could take with them. Also appeal was made to young men to volunteer to help the administration in repairing the dam and fighting against the rising water level to save the area from the menace of flood.

All the students of the school left the village, wasting no time and went to safer places to continue with their work to show their creative talent to their teacher on his return. Some started making some sculptures; some started writing books on various subjects and some made weapons and various devices using their knowledge and talent. One among them called Rama, however, stayed back in the village and joined the team of people who were trying to protect the village by making the dam stronger and resistive to water pressure. By the sixth day the work was completed and the dam was made strong enough.

The teacher was back to the place on the eighth day, and on the next morning all his students showed their talents and creations to the teacher. He was very happy seeing them maturing into able persons, learned in their own fields. Lastly Rama came forward bare handed, with nothing to show to the teacher. In answer to the query made by the teacher, Rama explained the way he spent his time for reinforcing the dam. He was sorry for not having anything to show his teacher but narrated the whole story and his involvement in helping the group that worked day and night at



Mr. Bikramjit Goswami

the dam. To everyone's surprise, the teacher got up from his seat and embraced Rama out of joy and said that Rama had done the right thing and he was the best student his Gurukul ever had. Only Rama had actually applied in serving society the knowledge and talent he had acquired through the teaching and guidance of the teacher. And Rama was the one the teacher selected to be the probable minister in the king's court.

A person living a self-centered life is not recognized to be a learned person even though he/she may possess a lot of knowledge and talent. On the other hand, a person who applies his knowledge and talent to serve people and humanity, apart from earning his daily bread, is always considered as a person having a greater sense of responsibility and wisdom.

So, goes our motto to make you understand the true meaning of reaching the level of fulfillment through learning in its true sense 'Striving to Learn, Serve and Grow'. Thus in DB-CET, we Learn together to Serve society and Grow bigger than others in the real sense of that term; and we consider here that knowledge of the curriculum only is limited in nature - it grows only when you are able to share and apply it to the service of society. So, let us 'Strive to Learn, Serve and Grow'.

From the Desk of the Vice-Chancellor



Visiting a bookshop some years ago and browsing through some of the books on display on a sultry afternoon, my attention was drawn to a small plaque that hung on the wall – It read, “God’s promises are new every morning (Lamentations 3:22)”.

I had read and heard that verse from the Bible scores of times earlier – it had never struck me with the force it did on that day. What hit a chord was the juxtaposition of ideas – a cheerful and uplifting message from deep within the ‘Book of Lamentations’!...

Of course, I bought that little plaque; and it has sat on my work table ever since... whispering to me about that inner source of joy and balance to be found in sifting through and living through ‘pressing realities’ masking ‘deeper realities’...

Hope and despair... light and darkness ... enthusiasm and depression...

Two sides of the same coin! They come charging into our daily lives, masquerading across our horizon, as though they are in charge – and far too often, they seem to take over our days, and even our nights. It is not so much that they take over –rather, we let them dictate our thought patterns, our inner chatter... and we forget that the key to equanimity is right in our hands.

There is hope behind the clouds even in the valley of ‘lamentations’!...

“Every day somewhere in Africa, a gazelle wakes up - it knows it must run faster than the fastest lion around, lest it be eaten. Every day somewhere in Africa, a lion wakes up - it knows it must run faster than the slowest gazelle around, lest it starve to death.

Every day it does not really matter whether you are a lion or a gazelle

- because you must run faster than the chores of life!”

Coping with the chores of life!...

There is a depressingly familiar series of news items appearing in the papers these days – of students, especially professional students in IITs and other such institutes, going berserk, committing suicide, unable to cope with the daily pressures of life.

In this age of instant gratification, depression and impulsive reactions to set backs and failures seem to rule the day... Does it have to be so?

“God’s promises are new every morning!”

*Fr Stephen Mavelly SDB
Vice - Chancellor*