

SPARK



Don Bosco University Newsletter

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Cover Story

National Conference

Assam Don Bosco University initiates a study programme on Computational Intelligence and Signal Processing for promoting research and developmental activities for real life applications

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DBIM, Guwahati emerges as the "Best Business School" for the second consecutive year, at the AIMQUEST 2011, organized by Assam Institute of Management



DBCET, Guwahati is the only College selected from the entire Eastern Zone by IIT Bombay as a remote centre



Shri I P Barooah, CMD, NEEPCO inaugurates the Training and Placement Office of DBCET

From the Desk of the Vice-Chancellor

The United Nations formally launched a new initiative called 'Academic Impact' at a two-day conference in New York City, November 18-19, 2010, in an effort to bolster "intellectual social responsibility" for such global goals as promoting human rights, protecting the environment and ending wars. This initiative was aimed at partnering with institutions of higher learning around the world to actively support 10 universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, literacy, sustainability and conflict resolution, all of which are based on the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Millennium Development Goals.

Academic Impact is informed by a commitment to support and advance ten basic principles:

1. A commitment to the principles inherent in the United Nations Charter as values that education seeks to promote and help fulfil;
2. A commitment to human rights, among them freedom of inquiry, opinion, and speech;
3. A commitment to educational opportunity for all people regardless of gender, race, religion or ethnicity;
4. A commitment to the opportunity for every interested individual to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary for the pursuit of higher education;
5. A commitment to building capacity in higher education systems across the world;
6. A commitment to encouraging global citizenship through education;
7. A commitment to advancing peace and conflict resolution through education;
8. A commitment to addressing issues of poverty through education;
9. A commitment to promoting sustainability through education;
10. A commitment to promoting inter-cultural dialogue and understanding, and the "unlearning" of intolerance, through education.

Each participating college or university is expected to engage in one activity or project annually in support of these principles. By formally endorsing the ten principles in the Academic Impact, institutions make a commitment to use education as an engine for addressing global problems.

Don Bosco University has signed up to be a participating university in this initiative with the belief that the next generation must be given the skill sets to solve global problems, that young people must learn to understand that two people in different parts of the world could see the same thing differently and both could still be right; and with the belief



that the next generation must be brought up with the ability to understand that you have to look for solutions to problems by looking at them also through the eyes of others and that you don't own the answers exclusively.

In consonance with this undertaking, the University is embarking on a number of projects this year:

1. Starting a PG Diploma programme in Human Rights with special emphasis on Child Rights with the aim of empowering social workers, NGOs, lawyers and others with the tools to be effective in their work;
2. Starting a Post Graduate Programme and research in Social Work (MSW) with a strong component of practical field work and research to enable our graduates to become committed agents of social change;
3. Starting a Department of North-East India Studies with the express aim of promoting, studying, celebrating and researching into the mosaic of cultures, languages, tribes and ethnic religions of this unique part of the world; and,
4. Setting up Solar Plant to produce 100 KWs of electricity for use in the campus and to feed the excess to the national grid as a pilot project in the popularization of renewable sources of energy.

By signing up for UN Academic Impact, Don Bosco University intends to contribute to and benefit from the pooling of ideas and sharing of best practices with some of the most involved and innovative institutions of higher education from all over the globe... and in doing so, the University seeks to make itself, as envisaged in the concept paper of the University, a centre for culture, knowledge, research, intellectual ferment, for critical thinking and analysis of whatever shapes and impacts human life with a conscious intent to influence thinking, planning, and policy making on vital aspects of social life : religion, culture, society, politics, governance, education, environment, health care...

*Fr Stephen Mavelly SDB
Rector & Vice Chancellor*

From Events Diary



10 January 2011: Prof M. Dale Griffin from Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawee, USA and Dr. Steven Rubado, Area Representative, Northeast India, Asian Life Development Foundation (ARLDF), Philippines visited Don Bosco University. ARLDF, India Trust, focuses on helping the development and upliftment of the poor in India by engaging in the areas of sustainable agriculture, food security, community health care, water, sanitation and literacy among others. Discussions centred around possible areas of collaboration.



29 January 2011: Fr. Pier Luigi Zuffetti, from Turin (Italy), visited the University to get an update on the development of the University Project with a view to intensifying the fund-raising campaigns from his office in Italy.



17 February 2011: Dr. S P Gon Chaudhuri, adviser to the Government of West Bengal and to the Government of India on renewable energy, held a discussion with the developmental team of the University on setting up Solar Plant to produce 100 KWs of electricity for use in the campus and to feed the excess to the national grid as a pilot project in the popularization of renewable sources of energy.

2 March 2011: A team from DeSales University, Pennsylvania (USA), headed by their President Fr. Bernard O'Connor,

Welcome to the Board



Don Bosco University is happy to welcome on board Shri Kashi Nath Hazarika in the capacity of an Advisor and Member of the Board of Management with effect from 15th February 2011.

A former Chairman and Managing Director, North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd, Mr Hazarika brings with him a wealth of experience to his assignment in the University in setting up an 'Incubation Centre' to assist entrepreneurs and would-be entrepreneurs, in devising and implementing the social brand building strategy of the University, in guiding the training and placement activities of the University, in planning an eco-friendly and energy efficient campus, in effective liaising with State and Central Agencies, and in many other areas of his expertise.



visited the University to explore possibilities of collaboration in various courses of study, especially in Management, Theology and Teacher Education, and, to initiate staff and student exchange programmes. The team comprised, Dr. Brian Kane, Chair of Philosophy and Theology, Dr. Gerard Joyce, VP of Student Life, and Brian MacDonald, Director of International Learning.

National Conference on Computational Intelligence and Signal Processing



In response to the developments in the computer world of today, Assam Don Bosco University organized a two-day National Conference on Computational Intelligence and Signal Processing (CISP2011) at Don Bosco College of Engineering & Technology, Azara on 2-3 March 2011.

The Chief Guest of the inaugural function, Mr. P.K. Das, Director, STPI emphasized on the convergence of academic research and industrial reality stressing the need for removing the conflict between academia and industry for enhancing technological development.

Fr. Stephen Mavelly, VC, Assam Don Bosco University welcomed the participants and made a short presentation on the University's vision to make itself into centre of excellence in research, intellectual ferment, employment generating courses and social impact.

Dr. Pushpak Bhattacharyya, IIT Bombay, in his key note address spoke on "NLP (Natural Language Processing) and IR (Information Retrieval): Coming closer or moving apart." He highlighted the cross lingual information retrieval system in an efficient search engine, and discussed the different algorithms that remove a variety of problems in a search engine like malapropism, spelling mistakes, etc.

Prof Shakuntala Laskar, Convener of the Con-



ference, briefed the audience on the two-day programme and spoke about the planning and mode of selection for the papers received for presentation.

Robotics and Automation, Cognitive and Computer Vision, Pattern Recognition, Cloud Computing, Distributed Control System, Expert System, Embedded Systems, Green Computing, Natural Language Processing, Image Processing, Speech Analysis, Recursive Estimation and Filtering, Sensors, Optimization Techniques, Neural Network Based Approach to Signal Processing, Adaptive Signal Processing and Control, Digital Signal Processors and Wavelet Transform were some of the topics that were covered during the six technical sessions of the Conference.

The Conference CISP2011 provided a forum for creating awareness about the developments in the inter-disciplinary field that combines signal processing with computer hardware and software technologies and for promoting research and developmental activities for real life applications.

At the valedictory function, Dr Sumitha Choudhury, the Joint Convenor of the Conference, made a special note of the opportunity it provided for novices, students and entrepreneurs to interact with national experts.



Participants of CISP 2011

DBCET Training and Placement Office Inaugurated



A NEEPCO sponsored Training and Placement Office (TPO) of the Don Bosco College of Engineering and Technology (DBCET), Azara, was inaugurated by Shri I P Barooah, CMD, NEEPCO on 14 March 2011. Introducing Shri Barooah, Chairman and Managing Director of NEEPCO – North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd, a company that has consistently got the rating ‘excellent’ year after year, Fr. Stephen Mavelly, VC said, “NEEPCO has not only offered support for setting up our Training and Placement Office but also accommodated a number of our students for summer internship.”

Shri Barooah, in his address to the students, spoke about NEEPCO’s role in the integration and development of hydroelectric and thermal power covering all aspects such as

investigation, planning, design, construction, operation and maintenance. He brought to the attention of the gathering some of NEEPCO’s current projects in the region, its future plans and the tremendous scope for employment in these projects for the budding engineers.

He also responded to a couple of queries made by the students on the power scenario in the North-East and the various prospects that NEEPCO can offer to young engineering graduates.

The function ended with Shri Barooah inaugurating the Training and Placement Office and holding a short discussion with the Training and Placement Cell over a cup of tea.

Spring Semester 2011 Begins at DBCET

18 January marked the beginning of the Spring Semester 2011 with a brief inaugural function held at the atrium of the College. Fr. Stephen Mavelly, VC, addressed the gathering and wished the students and faculty a fruitful time loaded with great learning and experiences.

Prof Manoranjan Kalita, Principal, welcomed the gathering and gave a glimpse of the programmes that are lined up for the semester.

Prof Shakuntala Laskar, speaking on behalf of the Staff, encouraged the students to make a good beginning and urged them to get on with determination to make their classes interactive and interesting.

This time the opening message was from the Asst. Student Coordinator, Annesha Baruah. Reading from the Sacred Scriptures, special prayers and songs were also part of the ceremony.

Annesha Baruah, DBCET



Faculty Enrichment Programme

DBCET set apart 17 January 2011 for the faculty to come together, learn and reflect on some important aspects of their professional life. The entire day was engaged by Dr. George Palamattathil, sdb.

The programme focused on the psychological needs of the youth of today and the supportive role that the teaching community should play in ministering to these needs.

He cited various real life examples to demonstrate how a proper reading of persons and situations can work wonders with the young people today.

Dr. George also, through a variety of games and activities, highlighted the significance of team work and how even difficult tasks could be accomplished easily with proper understanding and co-operation among team members.

The sessions were made meaningful, interesting and participatory with group discussions, team works, games and stories.

Subra Mukherjee, Asst. Professor, DBCET



Remembering Don Bosco

The 123rd Death Anniversary of St. Don Bosco was commemorated at DBCET on 31 January 2011 with a special morning assembly that had a few meaningful items.

Fr. Joseph Nellanatt, Pro VC, greeted the students on this occasion and spoke about the large family of Don Bosco and the privilege of belonging to it.

Ms. Rashmita Barua spoke about the contribution of Don Bosco in the field of education and the legacy left by him which keeps inspiring millions around the globe. Anjali

Zarzari, a class representative, made a presentation on the life of Don Bosco and stressed on his childhood days' struggles and his relentless efforts to lead the young people of his time.

Prayer moments, led by the students, inspired the gathering, and a short skit by Bijeet Bordoloi and company provided some lighter moments. A melodious chorus from Carreño Hall, conducted by Bro. Benjamin Kathar, was highly appreciated.

Priyanka Mukherjee, DBCET



D' Verve 2011 COLLEGE FESTIVAL

The long-awaited college festival - D'Verve 2011, a time of sheer happiness, fun and frolic took off on 2 February, 2011 with an opening ceremony where Fr. Stephen Mavelly, VC, officially declared the festival open, marking the unfolding of events with the theme, "Go, Glow and Grow". He emphasized the importance of active participation in the events, no matter who emerged victorious.

Prof Basil Koikara, Registrar, DBU unveiled a banner with the new name of the festival, D'Verve, and dwelt on its significance for the days ahead inviting everyone to charge every activity with enthusiasm and vigour.

Fr. Joseph Nellanatt, Pro VC, administered the pledge to the class representatives; Prof Manoranjan Kalita, Principal, declared the D'Verve open and Mr. Neel Kamal Kalita, Faculty Coordinator, welcomed the gathering.

The D'Verve Torch was lighted by Ariful Ahmed, student from VI Semester, while Pragyanil Bordoloi, Student Coordinator, addressed the audience, reminding everyone of the importance of maintaining the spirit of bosconians all through the days of the festival. The club representatives – (Dance Club, Music & Singing Club, Art & Craft Club, Literary

Club, Drama Club, Sports Club) also made brief encouraging speeches and called for wholehearted participation.

The special attraction of the festival was the much awaited fashion show based on the ancient Greek and Egyptian fashion, a complete new concept in the history of the institution, under the leadership of the faculty members, Mr. Bikash Agarwal and Ms. Arpita Bhattacharya. The spectators were awe-struck as the gorgeous bosconians, no less than models, walking the ramp with vibrant coloured costumes of ancient Greek and Egyptian gods and goddesses, kings and queens, princes and princesses, soldiers, warriors and common men and women. The show gave a new twist to the usual fashion show, and highlighted the creativity of the participants who had tried their hands at designing their outfits.

While the participants headed for various selected sporting events, cultural and literary items the jukebox continued to be a popular hit where each one dedicated songs for their loved ones and friends.

The final moment of the year's festive days arrived as the students solemnly carried the College Flag and handed it over to Fr. Stephen Mavelly who officially declared "D-VERVE 2011" closed... wonderful memories to last a lifetime!

Antara Chowdhury & Monjumi Sarma, DBCET



DBCET Bags First Prize in Theatrix, IIT Guwahati



DBCET continues the winning streak for the second consecutive year by bagging the first prize in Theatrix competition conducted during Alcheringa 2011, College Fest of IIT Guwahati. An added accolade was the best actress award won by Pinky Deka.

The judges who interacted with the team were surprised to learn that Pinky Deka and a few others who staged the drama were acting on stage for the first time. Credit for the wonderful performance goes to Surajeet Dev Kumar and his father, Amulya Dev Kumar, whose wholehearted dedication and hard work led the team to the height of success.

DBCET with IIT Mumbai on Live Video Conference under 'Talk To a Teacher Programme'

A video conference under 'Talk to a Teacher Programme (TTT)' for the sixth semester students of Electrical and Electronics department of DBCET was held for the first time on 3 February 2011 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Utilizing a software provided by TTT project under NMEICT (National Mission on Education through Information and Communication Technology) funded by MHRD, Govt. of India, the programme afforded the students an opportunity to talk to experts from IIT Bombay on various topics of Electrical Engineering, especially Power System Engineering. Discussions also centred on reactive power, neutral grounding of generators, linearization of pneumatic system, etc.

"Ask a Question" is one of its many modules. It is a Question & Answer Series where a panel of Experts from various fields of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (Control, Communication, Semiconductor, signals and system, etc.), IIT-Bombay, answer questions in live sessions through Video Conferencing connecting students of various colleges, and is held on every Thursday from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.



They also have a forum (www.co-learn.in), where the students can post conceptual doubts or any relevant questions and these are answered either in the forum itself or discussed in the successive live sessions directly with the students.

Plans are being made to extend the programme to other fields of engineering and sciences in the near future.

Madhusmriti & Madhushruti Sharma, DBCET

DBCET Selected as Remote Centre for Eastern Zone by IIT Bombay

Don Bosco College of Engineering and Technology (DBCET), Azara has been the only College selected from the entire Eastern Zone as a remote centre by IIT Bombay to conduct workshops for the advancement of knowledge in the engineering field. The selection was made at the last ISTE (Indian Society for Technical Education) Coordinators Workshop for Basic Electronics held at IIT Bombay on 1-5 March 2011.

DBCET will hold a 10-day long workshop in Basic Electronics in the month of June during which faculty from the various Engineering Colleges of the eastern zone will be invited to

participate. The workshop will have a panel of experts from IIT Bombay offering online lectures on relevant topics and the participants will be guided during its many practical sessions.

A highly lauded initiative of IIT Bombay, this project has succeeded in capturing the interest of teachers in Engineering Colleges in learning new techniques to improve the quality of engineering education and to bring about a synergy between IITs and private colleges.

Mr. Partha Proteem, Asst. Professor, DBCET

SEMINAR ON IAF



The Training and Placement cell of DBCET organized a seminar on various career opportunities in the prestigious Indian Air Force on 18 February, 2011.

The Wing Commanders, S. Selva Kumar and Dilip Ramani and their team of officials from the Indian Air Force conducted an interactive seminar encompassing various career opportunities in IAF which included a video clip followed by an audio visual presentation.

A quiz on Indian Air Force was conducted at the end of the session, and the distribution prizes to the winners brought in a lively participation of the student body. The seminar was well attended and appreciated by the students.

Mr. Shahnawaz Hussain, TPO, DBCET

A Call to Introspect... to be the Change!

Excerpts from the Speech of Sraddhanjali Bhadra, Student of B.Tech from DBCET on the Republic day, 26th January 2011

We have grown up listening to many stories regarding the struggle of India for Independence. People in different parts of the world show curiosity in learning the facts that led the country to its independence. Due to this reason, the Indian Independence Movement is a crucial part of the World's history. 62 years ago, on 26 January, 1950, India acquired the status of a Sovereign Republic by adopting a Constitution to fulfill all the dreams of its people.

The British laid their foundation in India by the battle of Plassey in 1757. The main policy that was followed by the British to rule over India was "DIVIDE AND RULE." By applying this theory, the British brought many parts of India under their rule. To achieve their aims and goals they tried to inculcate the British culture among the upcoming Indian generation, which they did by making English the medium of instruction in schools.

The war of Independence against the British was first fought in 1857 which was spearheaded by Mangal Pandey. Many leaders like Bhagat Singh, Chandra Shekhar Awad and Kajjuru, known for their courage and determination, sacrificed their lives to give us a free and independent India. Later on many political parties were formed, among which Indian National Congress founded in 1885 was path-breaking, as it received all the attention of the people and became very popular. There were many non-violent struggles led by our great leader Mahatma Gandhi who was ardently supported by millions of Indians. Finally all those struggles and sacrifices succeeded, and India became an independent country on 15 August, 1947.

Since Independence, India has shown growth and progress in many fields especially in the agricultural and industrial fronts. Today India can boast of a number of home-grown



multinational companies; the entertainment field has the largest film industry in the world - "BOLLYWOOD" and in the field of science and technology India is behind none of the developed world.

At the same time India is facing a number of threats that are destroying and harming our Motherland day by day. The first and foremost among those is the condition of our politics. The politicians who should act as true leaders are becoming slaves to greed and corruption. It is shameful that an advanced country like ours is often accused of child labour, dowry deaths, honour killing etc. Another every present threat is terrorism. Our youth are beginning to fall prey to false religious propaganda by vested interests leading them to bomb blasts and terrorist attacks across the country. It was the Britishers who were looting India in the past, now it is her sons and daughters who are making her bleed.

Though India is seen stuck between the two contradicting realities, there is still hope. In all sections of its people, there are committed persons who remain consistently true and work for a better tomorrow. On the occasion of this Republic Day, let us be the change that we wish to see, pledge ourselves to be true to our Motherland and become its worthy citizens. Let us march ahead together on the path of progress by contributing to its growth and development.

'Scilab' for Quality Instruction and Learning

Don Bosco college of Engineering and Technology (DBCET), Azara is an active agent in the promotion and use of "Scilab", an open source scientific software package for numerical computations that provides a powerful open computing environment for engineering and scientific applications. Since 1994, the software has been distributed freely, along with the source code, via the Internet. It is currently used in educational and industrial environments around the world.

To gain further knowledge and to get updated, Mr. Bikash Agarwal, Faculty, DBCET was sent to attend a workshop on "Scilab" conducted by IIT Bombay, as a part of "TALK TO A TEACHER" project, hosted by Sardar Patel Institute of Technology, Mumbai on 20 - 24 December, 2010.

Scilab project is based at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB). It is funded by MHRD as part of the National Mission on Education through ICT with the thrust area of "Adaptation and deployment of open source simulation packages equivalent to MATLAB, ORCAD, etc."

It is a major component of the FOSSEE (Free and Open source Software for Science and Engineering Education) project. The goal of this project is to enable the students and faculty of Science and Engineering colleges/institutes/universities across India to use open source software tools for all their computational needs, thereby improving the quality of instruction and learning.

Mr. Bikash Agarwal, Asst. Professor, DBCET

Turning Dreams into Reality

Relishing the Memories of an Exposure Trip

We, the students and community of Don Bosco Institute of Management, Guwahati dreamt of a management exposure trip and the D-day approached as we stepped into the last week of December 2010.

It was 7.50 p.m. in the evening, 26 of December 2010; from the muddy banks of mighty Brahmaputra our flight landed amidst the commercial hub of India, Mumbai. Starting from the strange and enigmatic avenues of Mumbai, our two weeks long exposure trip ended up with our visit to some of the commercially, industrially and economically vibrant places of India like Bangalore, Cochin and Chennai.



Every dawn seemed exciting for us as we were enveloped with opportunities to attend the lectures of some of the sharpest brains of India and to interact with eminent and promising personalities. The most impactful among our interactions were the lectures of Mr. Kaushik, a young and energetic entrepreneur of Mumbai (who in fact is a school drop-out). His extra-ordinary ways of tackling situations and his affable attitude towards facing challenges of life, made him a perfect manager in every way. Our journey of exposure also gave us an opportunity to interact with Mr. N.R. Narayana Murthy, Chairman of Infosys and Mr. Prakash Vajpayee, CEO of Tikona Digital Works.

Godrej India with its social responsibility to gird Mumbai city with a powerful broadband, Tikona Digital Works building the next generation wireless broadband services for home and enterprise-customers in India, Motilal Oswal Securities Ltd offering a range of financial products and services, the Infosys delivering technology-enabled business solutions that help global companies to win in a flat world, and, Target International were some of the prominent establishments we visited and interacted with.

Rupankar Das, DBIM

Another Chapter Revealed... DBIM Escapade

DBIM, apart from being a much coveted management institute of this region, has reiterated the fact that it leaves no stone unturned when it comes to safeguarding the environment. In a recent picnic get-together, the students not only had fun and frolic but also exhibited a great token of respect towards Mother Nature.

On 5 February 2011, putting an end to all the excitements, the DBIM group finally reached the destination – Hatishila at Chandrapur - after undergoing an hour's journey. Amid the breathtaking landscapes and the mighty rocks, one thing that caught everyone's attention was the pollution which has taken a toll on the beauty of that awe-inspiring locale. It

was quite apparent that the place was a huge crowd puller. But what was equally obvious was the impressions left behind by the people, who explored that place.

Piles of used plates and glasses and remains of various other things were seen in abundance, thereby offering a perfect place to the mosquitoes to breed, apart from giving out a pungent smell. It was then, the DBIM team decided to restore its beauty, through a clean-up program. The students along with the faculty formed into groups and waged a war against pollution collecting the rubbish into various heaps and setting them on fire. Some local onlookers also joined in and helped the students along.

Izaaz Ahmed, DBIM



AIMQUEST 2011 - DBIM Defends the Winning Crown



For the second consecutive year, Don Bosco Institute of Management emerged as the champions and defended the title of the "Best Business School" at the AIMQUEST 2011, a highly acclaimed and the oldest business competition in the entire North-East region, organized by Assam Institute of Management.

The events were judged by some of the well known personalities from the corporate sector and the media. The AIMQUEST'11, 'Aswamedh' as they termed it, remained as an eyewitness to some of the extra-ordinary performances from the DBIM students, where they not only showcased their knowledge and management skills but also proved themselves to be the best in extra-curricular activities.

DBIM grabbed 11 awards in 13 events, defeating competitors from some of the reputed B-Schools of the region. The very first award of the two-day event came with the team of Rupankar Das, Sanjib Kujur and Prakriti Sarma, winning the most esteemed event of the competition, the "Business Plan Contest". DBIM swept five other first prizes in events like Ad-Making, Film Presentation, Vocals, Greetings-Card Making and Antakshri, four second prizes in Case Study, Photography, Film Presentation and Antakshri and one Judge's Special Award in 'Page-3' event. The awards were given away by Mr. Shantikam Hazarika, Executive-Director of Assam Institute of Management at the closing ceremony.

Nayan J. Sarmah, DBIM



DBU Global... a progress report

Within a month of launching the on-line education portal of the university in January 2011, christened 'DBU Global', in partnership with University18, the university received over 5000 enquiries for the courses offered on line. Processing of admissions has been changed to a rolling pattern right through the year to give the maximum flexibility to applicants to enable them to juggle the demands of work and study at their convenience.

Apart from the eight courses announced in management and technology, a variety of certificate, diploma and degree programmes are on the anvil in such divergent areas as child rights, environment sciences, financial markets management, teacher education, comparative religion, North-East India Cultures etc.

An overwhelming response from SAARC Countries and the Middle East has prompted DBU Global to sign MOUs with some of these countries to offer these courses through their Distance Education Councils.

For exciting developments in this area log on to: www.dbu-global.com

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