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Peer team of NAAC to visit Alagappa University: Vice-Chancellor

Special Correspondent

The peer team of National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC) will visit the Alagappa University to assess the teaching, learning and infrastructural resources.

Sudalaimuthu, Vice Chancellor, Alagappa University told reporters in Karaikudi on Wednesday that the team, headed by Anand Deb Mukhopadyaya, former Vice Chancellor, Vidyasagar University, Kolkata, would be in the university from October 17 to 20. S.P. Singh, Krukshetra University, Haryana, Javid Akhter, Aligarh Muslim University, Aligarh, V. Sudhakar, the English and Foreign Language University, Hyderabad, A.K. Pandey, University of Delhi, M.S. Sharma, University of Rajasthan, Bharati Ray, former Pro Vice Chancellor, Kolkata and Jagannath Patil, Deputy Advisor, NAAC, Bangalore would be the members of the team.

Highlighting the achievements of the university, which was credited with "A" grade in 2005, Mr. Sudalaimuthu hoped that it would retain the status with more marks as it had made tremendous improvements in various aspects including research, faculty, creation of new departments, academic as well as sports infrastructure. Various new departments including English and Foreign languages, nanotechnology, biosensor, bioinformatics, and economics were established during the last five years. In order to boost research, a separate block for science was constructed at a cost of around Rs.30 crore. The eight-storey building with 1.60-lakh square feet area had been credited with all modern facilities for teaching, research, conferences, online teaching and many more. Besides this, various buildings had also been constructed at a cost of around Rs.25 crore. The entire campus was given a facelift.

The Vice Chancellor said the university's Thondi campus, where the Department of Oceanography and Coastal Area Studies was functioning, had also been given a facelift. A research laboratory at a cost of Rs.2.5 crore, men's and women's hostels at an estimate of Rs.2 crore were constructed. The university had refurbished the physical education infrastructure. Two synthetic tennis courts and a badminton court with world class standards were under construction.

A new health club and indoor facilities were also created for the benefit of students, teachers.

He added that the varsity stood third in terms of research publications with international collaborations, in the 27th place in research publications in India and 7th place in Tamil Nadu. It was among the top three universities in Tamil Nadu in terms of enrolment of students. The receipt of Rs.41 crore from various funding agencies from the University Grant Commission and research agencies such as UGC, Department of Science Technology was a testimony for its research initiatives.

MADURAI
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University to send scholar to Japan

Special Correspondent

SIVAGANGA: The Alagappa University would soon send a research scholar to Japan to carry out research, said Vice-Chancellor S. Sudalaimuthu.

He told 'The Hindu' that based on scientific collaboration agreement between Alagappa University and Biometal Science Laboratory, RIKEN Harima Institute, SPring-8, Japan, the latter had invited Ms. K. Sureka, research scholar, for internship programme from June to September, 2011 and the RIKEN institute had granted travel, living expenditure and fellowship to carry out the research under the direction of J. Jeyakanthan, Professor and Head, Department of Bioinformatics, Alagappa University.

Mr. Sudalaimuthu said RIKEN Harima Institute, SPring-8, Japan, was equipped with good laboratories for conducting research. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between RIKEN Institute (Tokyo) and Alagappa University facilitated the transfer of materials like proteins/cDNA, plasmids etc.

One more MoU had been signed between Alagappa University, and Institute for Protein Research (IPR), Osaka University, Japan, for the X-ray diffraction data collection of membrane proteins from pathogenic and non-pathogenic organisms.

Mr. Jayakanthan said the Department of Bioinformatics of the university had published research articles related to human diseases in some of the international journals.

The department had planned to organise national symposium and workshop annually to promote research in the fields of Bioinformatics and X-ray Crystallography.

The department had signed overseas research agreements with various institutes and universities including a MoU with Graduate School of Science/ School of Science, Osaka University, Japan, for facilitating exchange of students, education and academic research between two institutes.

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Today's Paper » NATIONAL » TAMIL NADU

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"Take up research in structural biology and bioinformatics "

Special Correspondent

Students should come forward to tap the potential research areas to serve the mankind: scientist

In depth: Thirumananseri T. S. Kumaravel, senior scientist, Advanced Protein Crystallography Group, Harima Institute, Japan, delivering a lecture at Alagappa University in Karaikudi on Thursday. — Photo: L. Balachandar

Thirumananseri T.S. Kumarevel, Senior Scientist, Advanced Protein Crystallography Group, RIKEN, Harima Institute, Japan, has called upon the students to carry out extensive research on structural biology and bioinformatics so as to serve the society by developing drugs for killer diseases.

Delivering special seminar on "**structure of bacterial RNA polymerase bound with a transcription inhibitor protein, Gfh1**"organised by Department of Bioinformatics of Alagappa University in Karaikudi on Thursday, he said all living organisms such as human beings, plants, microbes had the segment of protein genes, which performed the functions of life.

The RNA (Ribonucleic acid) had become a significant topic of research and formed the base of genetic engineering along with deoxyribonucleic acid.

Positive development

The gene therapy, which maintained the basic metabolic processes necessary for survival, had emerged as a positive development in this field.

Mr. Kumarevel said the RNA (Ribonucleic acid) polymerase enzymes were essential to life and were found in all organisms.Nucleic acids were responsible for transmitting the genetic information and were called as the building blocks of life.Molecular biology and X-ray crystallography studies had been imparted to solve protein structures (Cells to atoms). This would surely help the students to develop their skills in the field of structural biology and bioinformatics extensively. It would make them explore the structures of protein with their functions which in turn would help to develop drug targets against specific diseases such as Tuberculosis, AIDS, Chikungunya, Alzheimer's disease, Swine flu (H1N1), etc.,

J. Jeyakanthan, Professor and Head, Department of Bio Informatics said that Dr. Venkataraman Ramakrishnan of India had recently been awarded the Nobel Prize, who has extensively worked in the field of structural biology.

Avenues

There were many avenues to be explored by the research scholars and scientists in the field. Hence, students should come forward to tap the potential research areas to serve the mankind. **P. Srinivasan, M. Karthikeyan**, Assistant Professors and others took part in the seminar.

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Today's Paper » NATIONAL » TAMIL NADU

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University to send scholar to Japan

Special Correspondent

The Alagappa University would soon send a research scholar to Japan to carry out research, said Vice-Chancellor S. Sudalaimuthu.

He told 'The Hindu' that based on scientific collaboration agreement between Alagappa University and Biometal Science Laboratory, RIKEN Harima Institute, SPring-8, Japan, the latter had invited Ms. K. Sureka, research scholar, for internship programme from June to September, 2011 and the RIKEN institute had granted travel, living expenditure and fellowship to carry out the research under the direction of J. Jeyakanthan, Professor and Head, Department of Bioinformatics, Alagappa University.

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