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பல்கலைக்கழக மானியங்கள் ஆணைக்குழு
UNIVERSITY GRANTS COMMISSION

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තැපෑල අංකය
அஞ்சல் பெட்டி
Post Office Box

} 1406

ඔබේ අංකය
உமது இலக்கம்
Your Number

20, වෝඩ් පොළොව, කොළඹ 07, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව.
20, வாட்டு இடம், கொழும்பு 7, இலங்கை.
20. Ward Place. Colombo 07. Sri Lanka.

21.10.2011

Vice-Chancellor of all Universities
Rectors of all Campuses
Directors of all Institutes

Development of a Database on Intellectual, Technical and Infrastructure Resources available in Universities

As you are aware, there are 15 State Universities in Sri Lanka with 79 Faculties and 462 Departments of Study. In addition, there are 07 Postgraduate Institutes and 09 Institutes. Employed in them are about 4500 academics including 83 Senior Professors, 400 Professors, 64 Associate Professors and over 2100 Senior Lecturers, and 800 Technical Officers. Among the Academics, around 1750 hold doctorates or equivalent qualification and over 1600 have MPhil or Masters. In addition, there are well equipped laboratories in Faculties of Engineering, Medicine, Dental, Veterinary Medicine, Science Agriculture etc. Thus, these Universities are endowed with an outstandingly rich and diverse intellectual, technical and infrastructure resource base. However, this huge resource base hitherto remains almost untouched and untapped for regional and national development.

These Universities and Institutes are State-funded to the value of around Rs. 20 billion per annum. There is at least one University located in each Province. These Universities can become effective partners and catalysts in the development of the respective Provinces if their human and physical resources are properly mobilized and channelled to address high priority provincial concerns and needs.

At present, though each University maintains a detailed website, information on intellectual and technical resources and infrastructure facilities (laboratory, workshop etc.) available is lacking or not in an easily accessible form to cater for the needs of the stakeholders such as industry, community, prospective foreign collaborators etc. This poses a problem in developing partnerships with industry and foreign universities.

දුරකථනය
தொலைபேசி
Telephone

} 2695301
2695302
2692357

ෆැක්ස්
பெக்ஸ்
Fax

} 2688045

වෙබ් අඩවිය
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Web site

} <http://www.ugc.ac.lk>

In the circumstances, development of a comprehensive database on human and physical resources available in Universities including services provided assumes considerable importance. Such a database could yield many benefits. Given below are some examples.

1. Promotes cooperation between Faculties/Departments of Study within and between Universities sharing human and physical resources across "boundaries" providing for joint degree programmes (incl. on-line), research, consultancies etc. and avoiding unnecessary duplication and under-utilization of expensive equipment
2. Facilitates forging academic cooperation and research collaboration with foreign universities
3. Facilitates attraction of foreign students for degree and postgraduate degree programmes
4. Facilitates development of strategic University – Industry partnerships to mutual benefit
5. Promotes constructive engagement with community and society at large
6. Promotes a multidisciplinary culture in universities
7. Enhances opportunities for income generation

Therefore the UGC has decided to develop and maintain a comprehensive database with the support of the MIS Division. The success of this exercise depends on how effective we are in collating requisite information. Therefore it will be conducted with the assistance of the staff in the Library and Information Sciences in each University. Sample questionnaires formulated in this regard are attached hereto. Any clarification thereon can be obtained from Ms Damayanthi Panagoda, Head of MIS Division at the UGC (Tel:2685184; E-mail : mis@ugc.ac.lk).

The above will help bring the universities to centre stage of regional/national development and improve the world ranking in keeping with *Mahinda Chintana: Vision for the Future*. Therefore, we will appreciate if you would bring this to the notice of relevant staff and encourage them to furnish the information requested before 15 December 2011


Professor Ranjith Senarathne
Vice-Chairman

2-10-2011

Copies: Chairman/UGC
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