



Prof. P. P. Mathur

Vice Chancellor, KIIT University

Vice Chancellor's Report

Hon'ble Chancellor Prof. N. L. Mitra; Distinguished Chief Guest Nobel Laureate Prof. Dr. Ferid Murad; Founder of the KIIT and KISS Dr. A. Samanta; President of the KIIT & KISS Society- Smt. Saswati Bal; Secretary of the KIIT and KISS Society Shri R.N. Dash; distinguished degree recipients; Hon'ble members of the Board of Management and Academic Council; Registrar, Dr. Sasmita Samanta; Members of the Society of KIIT & KISS; Faculty members, Officers, Staff members; Parents and Guardians my dear Graduands; distinguished guests, media persons, Ladies and gentlemen:

It is my great honor and privilege to welcome each one of you on behalf of the University and on my own behalf to this auspicious and solemn occasion of the 10th Convocation of the KIIT University. At the outset, I offer my heartiest congratulations to each one of the graduands and Medal winners for their hard work; parents and guardians for the sacrifices made and the faculty members for spending their time in nurturing the graduands to complete their studies successfully and timely. I also express my sincere appreciation to the staff of KIIT University for their assistance and to make the University a place of excellence and fine achievements. Today 3417 graduands will be awarded graduate and postgraduate degrees in various disciplines and 35 candidates will be awarded Ph.D. degrees.

I feel greatly honored to inform that Honoris Causa doctorate degrees will be conferred upon Dr. Ferid Murad, Nobel Laureate (Physiology or Medicine-1998); Ms. Angela Gomes, noted social worker from Bangladesh; Padma Vibhushan Dr. Sitakant Mahapatra, notable Indian poet and literary critic in Oriya and English.; Dr. Asylbek Aidaraliev, President of the International University of Kyrgyzstan and Mr. Rajib Biswal, Cricketer and IPL Chairman, I congratulate and thank each one of them for their acceptance.

Sirs and Madam, your august presence has made this celebration and convocation ceremony very glittering and memorable not only for our graduands but for every one of us in the KIIT University. Ours is a young but very vibrant university. We celebrated its 10th Foundation Day in the February last. I am extremely happy to report to you that in such a short span of time the University has got a very high visibility and has been recognized as an institution that is involved in a very high quality teaching and research in diverse fields. The University campus is home to over 20,000 students from different states of the country and abroad. In the current year around 200,000 students appeared for the On-line Entrance Test conducted by the University in 132 centres at 54 locations across the country. Out of them only 6,214 students got admitted.

I am very happy to inform you that this year the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Govt. of India has conferred category 'A' status which has placed the University in the league of top Universities in the country. The University has also recently received accreditation for its five engineering undergraduate programmes from the National Board of Accreditation, Govt. of India under Washington Accord which would enable global recognition of its degrees and increased mobility of the graduates to 17 countries including USA, UK, Australia, Canada and Japan. KIIT University is among six institutions in the country shortlisted in the first phase by the NBA. The University has also received approval of 50 additional MBBS seats and approval to start PG courses in eight specialties of dental sciences. We take pride in stepping into an enviable position of excellence and feel confident that within next few years the pool of diverse and inquisitive students, the devoted faculty, staff and the alumni would work collectively towards building this educational institution as a 'WORLD CLASS UNIVERSITY'.

During this year a galaxy of dignitaries, scientists and academicians from India and abroad visited the University and made us richer by their gracious presence and sharing of their experiences. The list of such dignitaries is very large to be read here but to name a few: His Excellency Mr. Rajkeshwar Purryag, President of The Republic of Mauritius; Madam Aneeta Purryag, Hon'ble First Lady of Mauritius; His Excellency Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia; His Excellency Dr. S. C. Jamir, Governor of Odisha; Mr. Justice Lyonposonm Tobgye, Hon'ble Chief Justice of Bhutan; Prof. Oliver Smithies, Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine (2007), USA; Prof. Ferid Murad, Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine (1998) USA, Prof. Jean-Marie Lehn, Nobel Laureate in Chemistry (1987), France; Ms. Aruna Roy, Noted Social Activist & Ramon Magsaysay Awardee; Shri Naveen Patnaik, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Odisha; Dr. M. M. Pallam Raju, the then Hon'ble Union Minister of HRD, Govt. of India; His Excellency Mr. Stewart Beck, Hon'ble High Commissioner of Canada to India; His Excellency Mr. Dinesh K. Patnaik, Ambassador of India to Cambodia; His Excellency Dr. J. N. Mishra, Ambassador of India to Portugal, Mr. Justice A.K. Patnaik, Indian Jurist and former Judge, Supreme Court of India.

The number and quality of faculty have the greatest impact on the performance of an educational institution. During the period of the report the University has recruited around 275 faculty members in its various schools, most of them have post-doctoral and industry experience. The University organized a five-day Faculty Development program. In addition, we have numerous ongoing incentive schemes such as Start-up grants to the newly joined faculty who need institutional support for kick-starting their research and innovations. Such efforts lead to better teaching and research outcome.

The University has also provided support to faculty and students to participate in national and international Seminars, Conferences and other events.

Last year has witnessed a greater focus on building research facilities augmented by funding from various national and international agencies. Many new labs have been added in various schools during this year. Resources have been generated by the faculty through sponsored research projects which has added value to their research and technology development. Faculty members of the University have actively involved themselves in consultancy projects from various industries. During this year more than 25 research and consultancy projects from various national and international funding agencies have been sanctioned with a total budget outlay of over Rs. 7 crores. I offer congratulations to the faculty members for getting these grants. I am sure that the number of extramural projects will further increase during this year. The faculty members and the research scholars have published around 300 research papers in peer reviewed journals and around 150 papers were presented in national and international seminars/ conferences. Over 200 of the research papers have been indexed in international databases like Scopus. The papers have been getting many more citations than before thereby pushing up the 'h' index to 18. Some of the faculty members and students of the University have also published books. During this year six patents have been filed by the faculty of the University. Several faculty members of the University received various national and international honors. To name a few, Dr. Mrutyunjay Suar received G P Chatterjee Memorial award of Indian Science Congress Association and the Research Excellence Professorship of University of Santiago, Spain;

Dr. Avinash Sonawane received Swiss National Science Fellowship EMBO Fellowship; Prof. Abhishek Ray & Prof. Prachet Bhuyan received Infosys Inspire Faculty Excellence Award; Prof. B. S. P. Mishra received post-doctoral fellowship at Yonsei University, Seoul, South Korea; Three women scientists- Dr. Amrita Mishra, Dr. Tithi Parija and Dr. Ratna Kumari received DBT-Women Bio-care Projects; Prof. S K Behera got a research project under Fast Track Young Scientist scheme; Prof. S. Jana received Visiting Fellowship at the Univ. of Arkansas, USA; Prof. Hrudaya Kumar Tripathy and Prof. Pradipta Kumar Das received the Young IT Professional award; Prof. Gopal Kumar Chowdhary received a research fellowship to work at the University of Stavanger, Norway. Dr. Ipseeta Satpathy received Oxford Journal Distinguished Research Professor Award; Dr. Pritam Mohanty received Fellowship in Craniofacial Orthodontics from Chang Gung University, Taiwan.

The University organized more than 90 International and National seminars, conferences and workshops. To name a few: 38th National Conference of AOMSI; 6th World Congress on Preventive and Regenerative Medicine Stem Cells- Innovation, Rejuvenation, Regulation; JBS Haldane Lecture Series; International Congress on Renewable Energy; 28th National Symposium on Plasma Science & Technology; Fourth Applied Electromagnetic Conference (AEMC); KIIT International Symposium on Advances in Automotive Technology; Recent Trends in Fuel and Combustion; 2nd International Conference on Angiogenesis: Theragnostics in Cancer & Cardiovascular Diseases; 10th International Conference on Distributed Computing and Internet Technology; 10th Annual Conference of the Association of Phonosurgeons of India; Oracon 2014; Electrifyn 2014 etc.

The University hosted the 88th All India Vice Chancellors' Conference which was attended by a record number of Vice-Chancellors.

During the past one year the University has signed 25 MoUs through them students and faculty exchange programs are facilitated more. Many students and faculty members from various countries like France, U.S.A., Canada, Germany, Korea, Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey and Czech Republic visited our University. A faculty from USA is currently visiting the University under Fulbright Fellowship Programme. Recently we received a high powered delegation of Czech Universities led by His Excellency, Miloslav Stasek, Ambassador of Czech Republic in India which would open a new chapter of collaboration between our University and various Universities of Czech Republic

Currently the University has 10 million sq. ft. built up area spread over 25 sq. Km. The University has increased its infrastructure facilities by adding about 200,000 sq. ft. area. New blocks of the Schools of Mechanical Engineering, Electronics Engineering and Law have become operational this year. Research Laboratories for Thermal, Production and Automobile Engineering have been established. Many laboratories like Power System, Energy System, Simulation and Power Electronics have been upgraded. Requisite Infrastructure facilities have been created, especially creation of a Gymnasium for both boys and girls and swimming pools within the hostel premises. The University has increased the intranet bandwidth to 10 Gigabit providing upgraded wi-fi connectivity and mobile application solutions. The University has installed biggest e-surveillance network in a university with 1,413 CCTVs and 50 wireless cameras. Our University is committed to making the students' educational experience multifaceted and holistic.

This commitment is very evident with the creation of Students' Activity Centre and world class sports facilities. Two new sports complexes have been added and four new sports complexes are to be added this year. The sports complexes have ultra modern equipments with facilities like Health Club, Swimming Pool and facilities for indoor and outdoor games. A new world class Stadium is ready to host the forthcoming Ranji Trophy Cricket Tournament and Asian Rugby Championship. This year the University organized International Chess Tournament, KIIT Cup, Inter Zonal Women Lawn Tennis Tournament, All India Inter Zone Badminton (Men & Women) Tournaments, Junior National Soft Tennis Championships (Men and Women), Central Zone Volleyball (Women) and Central Zone Tennis (Men) Tournaments.

Academic initiatives have always been high in the priorities of the University. The University has introduced Tutor-Mentor System through which all the students are provided personalized counseling. The syllabi are continuously updated and new courses added. All the Boards of Studies have representations from industry. The University has increased transparency in the system by making available the evaluated end semester answer papers to the students. A large number of students have made us proud by getting good scores in various examinations like GATE, GMAT and CAT etc. Seven students of School of Biotechnology have received INSA short term research fellowships. Twelve students of M. Tech. dual degree Biotechnology have been selected for six-month project work in various countries. Four students of School of Biotechnology have been selected in ERASMUS MUNDUS Program to visit the member institutions abroad.

Most importantly our students, past and present, continued to do us proud by winning laurels in every field.

Omkar Amrutanshu and Sagar Saurab of the School of Engineering emerged winners in the international finals of the 10th Edition of the Tata Crucible Campus Quiz. Tusharkant Sahoo received medal for securing 2nd position in the Republic Day parade. Dhiral Bhargava and Abhilash Mallick of the School of Rural Management captained Odisha Cricket Team to victory in the Bhausahab Nimbalkar Cricket Tournament organized by the Maharashtra Cricket Association (MCA). Swayams Mishra of Information Technology, achieved 1st GM norm and crossed 2500 Elo rating points in chess. Our alumni Sourya Siddhartha Dash won the coveted top 25 emerging HR Leader's Award and Aparajita Panda made us proud by winning the Mrs. India North America and Mrs. Photogenic Awards.

The University takes its social responsibility very seriously and stands firm for strengthening various social causes. During the cyclone Phailin the University offered all the help to the affected persons and in addition all the staff members contributed one day salary to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. We have provided free education to more than 700 students many of whom are tribal or hail from socially disadvantaged sections of the society. Free education is given not only to the students in social sciences but also to those in Engineering, Medicine, Law, Nursing, Biotechnology, and Management schools. The University has instituted scholarships and fellowships for non-stipendiary M.Tech. and Ph.D. students.

Industry-Academia interaction is very strong in this University. The University has tied up with various industries like Microsoft IT Academy, Microsoft Ed-vantage Platinum, Cisco Network Academy, D-Link Network Academy, Red Hat Academy, IBM Academic Initiative,

Oracle WDP, Adobe India Academy and has established various labs and centres of excellence. Industry experts regularly visit campus, deliver seminars and participate in conclaves.

Development of technically sound, trained, industry-ready manpower is one of the primary goals of a predominantly technological University like ours and its success is reflected in the job placements. We are happy to announce that in spite of worldwide economic recession we have been able to attain remarkable success in placements. Out of 2164 students eligible and interested for campus placements 1,956 students bagged job offers from 197 top companies. Many of them got multiple offers. The highest package received was Rs. 35 lakh p.a. in IT and Rs. 23 lakh p.a. in core sectors, respectively. Campus placements for 2015 graduating batch of B.Tech., M.Tech., MCA and MBA students have started and for the first time in the history of campus recruitments in eastern India, on the first day 2500 job offers (including multiple offers) were received. Till date, more than 70% of the eligible and registered students have been placed. We are very much confident that all the eligible students will be placed before the end of the session with many more multiple offers.

The University, during the last one year received several awards and honors like Assocham's Best University of the Year Award; Best University Award from European Business Assembly, U.K.; Consortium of Co-Chairpersons-Industry (CCI) Technology Education Excellency Awards 2014 for the Best University - Promoting Research Development; National Odisha Education Summit 2014 Awards for Best Technical Education Institute and Best Innovative University and Education Excellence Award for Best Private University by Brands Academy, India.

Before I conclude, I would call upon you - the recipients of degrees and distinction today, as you step out into the world, do not be content with the initial academic instruction that you have imbibed here. Always aim high and dream big. As Michelangelo said, "The greatest danger for most of us is not that our aim is too high and we miss it, but that it is too low and we reach it".

I would like to end by saying that KIIT today is a University whose campus, facilities, infrastructure and academic activities compare favorably with any top University of the world. But the aspect that gives me the greatest satisfaction is you: our student body. In your diversity you represent a microcosm of this great country and in your collective presence here today, you show us, in miniature, what this country could be if it lives up to its extraordinary potential. Although you will graduate and leave the University today, please remember that alumni are important stakeholders of the University and we cherish our links with them. As fresh alumni I urge you to maintain strong ties with your alma mater and participate in the future growth and evolution of the University. I hope you will wish to continue to support your University in many different ways and I shall look forward to meeting you at events organised by our Alumni Association. I congratulate you once again on everything you have achieved and, on behalf of this great institution, wish you every happiness and success in the great adventure of life.

I take this opportunity to thank Dr. A. Samanta, Founder of the KIIT & KISS group of institutions and the Chancellor Prof. N. L. Mitra for their constant advice, help and encouragement. I place on record the support given by the Management of KIIT Society, Officers, Faculty members, students and staff in all the activities of the University without which we would not have achieved these heights.

Thank you for your attention and May the Lord Jagannath bless all of us.