

NEWS BULLETIN

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National Institute of Open Schooling

Sir John Daniel, President & CEO, COL visits NIOS



From (L to R) Sir John Daniel, President & CEO, COL; Dr. Anita Priyadarshini, Director, (Acad.) NIOS and Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS.

A programme was organised at the NIOS headquarters, NIODA on 13 November 2009 in connection with the visit of Sir John Daniel, President & CEO, Commonwealth of Learning (COL). Sir John shared his perspectives on the challenges and opportunities for Open and Distance Learning (ODL) in Secondary Education. He also spoke about the enormous task of developing countries to develop and expand Open Schooling as promising alternatives which can be integrated with other approaches to make them more cost effective and cost-efficient.

He also stressed on the need for the creation of Open Education Resources (OER) to create a global intellectual common in which learning materials can be shared. He urged the Open Schools to move towards greater integration with the wider educational system in order to make Universal Secondary Education a reality. Speaking on the occasion, Dr S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS stated that the NIOS had been entrusted with a significant task of meeting the educational needs of the large number of learners who are otherwise eligible for Secondary and Senior Secondary Education and

deprived segment of the society. Dr. Sridhar, Director, Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) also participated in the programme and explained the enormous media possibilities which have opened up due to e-revolution.

Dr. Sitansu S. Jena takes over as Chairman, NIOS



Dr. S.S. Jena

open and distance learning.

Dr. Sitansu Sekhar Jena, Project Director, DEP-SSA, IGNOU, has been appointed as Chairman, National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) for a period of five years. Dr. Jena has more than two decades of vast experience in the area of

open and distance learning.

Workshop on Promotion of Equivalency and Vocational Education Programmes

A workshop on Promotion of Equivalency and Vocational Education Programmes was organised by the National Literacy Mission Authority (NCMA), Govt. of India and National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) on 24 September 2009. Sri. Jagmohan Raju, IAS, Joint Secretary (AE) and DG (NLMA) provided a detailed perspective of the Sakshar Bharat Mission, a major initiative taken up by the Govt. of India with a emphasis to empower women. The objective of this workshop was to integrate the Sakshar Bharat Mission with the existing equivalency programme of NIOS. It is proposed to cover 7 crore learners by 2012 through this scheme which will be initiated at the Gram Panchayat level where Adult Education Centres would be set up.

Representatives of Jan Shiksha Sansthan, State Open Schools and officials from NLMA also participated in the workshop.

Conduct of Public Examinations

The NIOS holds examinations twice a year in April and October. The Secondary, Senior Secondary and Vocational examinations were conducted in October/November 2009. While 1,10,669 learners appeared in the Secondary examination, about 1,13,635 learners appeared in the Senior Secondary examination. The learners appeared through a total of 890 examination centres spread across the country.

On-Demand Examinations

NIOS learners have been provided the facility of On-Demand Examination system (ODES) at the NIOS headquarters at NIODA as well as the NIOS Regional Centre at Pune. The registration for On-Demand examination is available online.

At the Secondary level, On-Demand Examination is conducted in thirteen subjects namely Hindi, English, Sanskrit, Mathematics, Science, Social Science, Economics, Commerce, Home Science, Typing (Hindi), Typing (English), Word Processing and Psychology.

At the Senior Secondary level, On-Demand Examination is conducted in six subjects namely Mathematics, Physics, Commerce, Hindi, Home Science and Political Science. So far about 43,266 learners have appeared for ODE at the Secondary level and about 8866 have appeared at the Senior Secondary level.

Standardisation of Marking Scheme

With the help of the academic faculty of NIOS and outside subject experts, the Marking Schemes of Question Papers of different subjects of Secondary course and Senior Secondary course for the October 2009 examination were standardized and finalized immediately after the question papers had been administered. The finalized Marking Schemes of different subjects were sent to the Regional Centres of NIOS by e-mail, which were used by

the evaluators for evaluating the answer scripts in different subjects.

Introduction of New Courses

The NIOS has introduced **Mass Communication** as a subject at the Senior Secondary level from the Academic Session 2009-10.

Being pioneered at the school level, the course will impart some of the basics of mass communication to those aspiring to pursue a career in the information/communication/entertainment industry, and equip them with skills required for fundamental jobs in the media industry.

The course has been divided into two parts : the CORE modules and two OPTIONAL modules. The core modules comprise six in number and impart knowledge and information which is essential for all learners. These are compulsory for all students of the course. The Core modules are Introduction to Communication; Print media; Radio; Television; Advertising and Public Relations and New Media.

There are two optional modules out of which the students have to choose and study any one module. The optional modules are Photojournalism and Traditional Media.

Likewise, **Painting** has also been introduced at the Secondary level from the current academic session. The modules in this course are Introduction of Art; Introduction of Western Art and Introduction of Contemporary Indian Art. The course aims to develop the visual sense of the learner and to help him/her to appreciate the expressive value of line, texture, space, rhythm etc.

Sanskrit has been introduced as a language option at the Senior Secondary level.

Hindi Pakwara Programme

The NIOS organised the Hindi Pakwara programme from 14 September to 30 September 2009 at its headquarters at NOIDA as well as all its Regional Centres. The following competitions were held to promote the use of official language in the NIOS:



- Knowledge of Official Language
- Description of any event (in Hindi)
- Proficiency of Hindi in computers
- Slogan competition
- Quiz competition

Dr. Shyam Singh Shashi, eminent Hindi Scholar presided over the Valedictory Session and distributed prizes to the winners.

Meeting of Co-ordinators of AVIs

A meeting of Co-ordinators of Accredited Vocational Institutions (AVIs) of Kerala was organised by the Regional Centre, Kochi on 26 October 2009. Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS presided over the meeting. Sh. Sunil Kaura, Secretary and Director (SSS), NIOS and Dr. Mamta Srivastava, Deputy Director, NIOS also participated in the meeting. The Chairman, NIOS in his inaugural speech stressed on the importance of Vocational Courses. The Co-ordinators made an appeal for region based vocational courses to be developed to attract students.



Research and Development Cell Constituted

A Research and Development Cell has been constituted to function under the direct control of the Chairman, NIOS. The cell will look after the work related to Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (PME), National Consortium of Open Schooling (NIOS), Research and Development, Public Relations OSAC Journal and OSAC Secretariat, 'Open Learning' Magazine and Monthly News Bulletin. The cell will prepare a policy document for internal systemic and subject based research in NIOS. The policy will include guidelines for outsourcing agencies for research and development.

Promotion of Open Schooling Programme in India

Despite massive expansion of educational facilities for school education, a large number of children/youth are not able to take advantage of formal schooling during stipulated school hours for a variety of socio-economic circumstances. The Open and Distance Learning (ODL) system has emerged as an alternative school education system for such clientele.

The Open Schooling programmes up to the Senior Secondary level are being offered by the

National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) and 14 State Open Schools (SOSs). As a result of advocacy, consultancy and resource support by NIOS, the States of West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Chattisgarh and Delhi have set up SOSs.

The Planning Commission in its Eleventh Plan Document has emphasised the need of upscaling of the Open Schooling programme in the existing Open Schools and setting up of SOSs in the remaining States to cater to the need of universalisation of Secondary Education. At the instance of the Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD), NIOS has developed a Draft of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Promotion of Open Schooling. The Scheme of Open and Distance Learning is proposed to be a part of the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), particularly to take care of the heavy influx of students seeking admission to the Secondary classes as a result of the success of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA).

Setting up of State Open Schools in Maharashtra

In a meeting of the Chairman, NIOS with the Chairman of the Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, Maharashtra held on 16 November, 2009 at Pune, the matters related to setting up of State Open School in the State were discussed. It was decided to set up SOS Maharashtra which will start functioning from the academic year 2010-11. To begin with, SOS Maharashtra will start functioning as a Unit of the Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, Maharashtra.

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