

National Symposium on Academia - Industry Interface: Concept Note

The Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU) is organising a one day National Symposium on Academia - Industry Interface on Monday, 05 March, 2012 at its Headquarters in Nasik.

Special focus presently needs to be placed on the needs of industry. India's Industrial Sector has an ever increasing need for trained manpower especially in the context of the massive growth plans of this sector. It is also an acknowledged fact there exists a huge chasm between what university education currently offers and what the world of work actually requires. With a view to bridging this gap, the university has embarked on a number of initiatives under the YASH UDYOG banner. Collaborative arrangements with M/s Lupin Ltd for the joint offering of a B.Sc programme in Industrial Drug Science and with M/s Mahindra & Mahindra, Nagpur for a B.Sc programme in Industrial Science are already under way. A Govt. approved Learn & Earn Scheme also operates for a select group of students enrolling for certain technical diploma programmes who are picked up as Apprentices in the automotive sector – the Tata automotive group, Bosch, etc - and supported in their education by the concerned industry. While efforts such as these are undoubtedly going to prove beneficial both to the individual as well as the organization as a whole, there is now a need to develop an intensified strategy so as to make a tangible and discernible difference.

It is from this viewpoint that YCMOU is attempting a small beginning by bringing the two worlds of Education and Industry together by way of a Symposium. In order to evolve a comprehensive approach, the format of the Symposium will be to have some leading thinkers and practitioners both in Industry and Education present their views through focused Panel Discussions which will provide the roadmap that may be adopted by YCMOU in the years to come. In keeping with this need to develop a well-defined approach for adoption by the university, the number of participants has been limited to the faculty of the university as well as a few invited representatives of the National Institute of Personnel Management – a body entrusted with the overall responsibility of Human Resource identification, training and development in the industrial sector.

Apart from the thought-provoking presentations by distinguished Speakers like Professor Ram Takwale, Shri Raosaheb Shinde and Dr. R. Sreedher from the field of Education and Mr. M. Digraskar, Mr. Rituraj Sar and Dr. Bhooshan Kelkar from Industry, the involvement of Ms Pooja Gianchandani from FICCI will be a distinctive value addition to the Symposium. The major highlight of this Symposium will be the presence

of Sir John Daniel, President and CEO of the Canada-based Commonwealth of Learning with its Head Quarters in Canada. Sir Daniel, a leading luminary in the field of Education, with his rich international experience spanning several countries will provide the international perspective in his inaugural keynote address and the Symposium will be aptly concluded with an insightful valedictory address by Professor E. Balaguruswamy, Former Member Union Public Service Commission, Former Chairman, Consortium for Educational Communications and Former Vice- Chancellor, Anna University, Chennai.

It is expected that this Symposium will prove to be a precursor to many subsequent initiatives of YCMOU designed to achieve a meaningful confluence of Education and Industry.
