

Note for Record

By: Shoaib Sultan Khan
August 8, 2014

Subject: Meeting of PCTN Steering Committee at NUST

On the invitation of Rector, National University of Science & Technology (NUST), Lt. Gen (Retd) Engineer Muhammad Asghar, I attended the first meeting of the Pakistan Chapter of Talloires Network (PCTN), an international network set up by the Universities of the World, who met at Talloires France some time back. The Pakistan Chapter comprises 43 universities with a Steering Committee chaired by NUST and five other Vice Chancellors of Pakistani Universities.

The agenda with background papers is attached.

My presentation comprised showing of the video of my 11 minutes speech at the UN followed by a few slides from the powerpoint presentation showing RSPN's coverage and Outreach. I also presented to the Vice Chancellors mine and Noel Cossins books along with RSPN's Outreach and IPFRI's Seminar Insight Series 001, which included my Talk there in May at Washington DC.

To achieve Networks goal of community engagement, partnerships between universities and communities and creation of regional networks for a civic engagement through Development of Curriculum and Academic Programmes for service learning and community service and development.

My submission to the Committee was that to attain the goals of the Network, two things are essential, firstly Faculty involvement and support and secondly credits to students for community service and development.

On behalf of RSPN, I offered them assistance in exposing Faculty to knowledge and awareness about communities by arranging presentations about social mobilisation work and exposure visits for interaction with communities through their institutions, such as LSOs.

As regards development of curriculum and academic programmes, I offered to share substantial work in this field done by an RSPN member, the IRM which was welcomed by the Committee.

On the issue of embedding students with RSPN, Organisations or Institutions of the People, I urged the Committee to raise sufficient resources for financial sponsorship as well as for financial viability of the PCTN. I gave the example of RSPN about one time financial contributions by Network members. The 43 universities, if they own the Network, should contribute to its financial sustainability.

The Committee also discussed the duration of students of different grades being embedded which may vary from undergraduates, to Master's thesis students and post master's researchers. This also hopefully may lead to preparation of relevant case studies for incorporation in curriculum.

In regard to PCTN Merit Award, the Rector suggested naming it after Akhter Hameed Khan and announcing it in October where AHKRC is planning to celebrate 100th Birthday of Akhter Hameed Khan along with the Annual Memorial Lecture. The Rector was happy to raise this issue with Higher Education Commission along with funding for PCTN.

I thanked General Asghar and the members of the Steering Committee of the PCTN for their deep interest in what PCTN is planning as we have been trying to get universities interested for this objective over last so many years. For the Rector NUST to have taken the initiative, is indeed helping us to do something which we have been trying for long.

The meeting was followed by a sumptuous lunch hosted by the Rector. Vice Admiral (Retd) Shahid Iqbal, Vice Chancellor of Bahria University asked me if I would be willing to come and talk to the students in his university. So did Vice Chancellor Dr. Talat Nasir of Lahore University of Veterinary Services and Dr. Asif Khan of Karakorum University. I gladly accepted their kind invitations on a mutually suitable date.

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