

## Minutes of the meeting on Chandigarh Region Innovation and Knowledge Cluster (CRIKC) held by Secretary, Higher Education on 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2013

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A meeting was held by Secretary (HE) on 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2013 with representatives of Panjab University on the Chandigarh Region Innovation and Knowledge Cluster (CRIKC) initiative taken by Panjab University, Chandigarh. The University was represented by Prof. Arun Grover, Vice Chancellor of Panjab University accompanied by Prof. M. M. Gupta and Prof. R. Tiwari also of Panjab University. Bureau Heads of the Department of Higher Education also attended the meeting.

2. A presentation on the CRIKC was made by VC, Panjab University. The highlights of the presentation are as follows.

i. The CRIKC involves all the premier institutions of higher learning and research located in and around Chandigarh such as;

- Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research
- Central Scientific Instrumentation Organization
- Institute of Microbial Technology
- Indian Institute of Science Education & Research
- National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research
- National Agri Food Biotechnology Institute
- Terminal Ballistic Research Laboratory (TBRL)
- Indian School of Business
- Punjab Engineering College of Engineering and Technology
- Indian Institute of Technology
- National Institute of Technical Teachers' Training and Research
- Government Medical College & Hospital
- Institute of Nano Science & Nano Technology
- Centre for Agro Processing

ii. CRIKC's Mission Statement is to foster and sustain close academic alliances between institutions of higher education and research in the Chandigarh region, to facilitate innovation and knowledge creation, achieving excellence in all academic spheres without compromising in any manner the autonomy of the participating institutions.

iii. It aims to identify and carry out joint and collaborative research projects, attempt to initiate joint teaching/training programs including pre-PhD courses, to encourage the pooling of research facilities of the participating institutions, nurturing scientific culture from school level, to promote the spirit and philosophy of Meta University concept, to promote and sustain the following themes for excellence in research: Biomedical Sciences, Applications of Nano-science and Nano-technology, Theoretical Studies; Policy Planning for better comprehension of GOI programs and societal needs.

iv. The governance of CRIKC would be vested with an Advisory Committee consisting of the heads of the participating institutions. The Advisory Committee would be chaired by VC, Panjab University and the core office of CRIKC would be located in Panjab University campus.

4. On conclusion of the presentation, the Secretary (HE) and others lauded the CRIKC initiative.

5. Secretary (HE) made a few suggestions in order to make the CRIKC initiative more comprehensive and effective. He suggested that Panjab University should act as an accreditation body, which through the CRIKC initiative should benchmark standards of education and research in all the participating institutions. Secondly, the participating institutions should seek to attract quality international students and faculty in order for these institutions to measure up to international standards. Thirdly, the concept of community college for imparting skills and vocational education should be implemented through the numerous institutions in Chandigarh region coming together.

6. On the question of providing some financial support to CRIKC, Joint Secretary (HE) informed that since CRIKC aims to realise the idea of a meta university, it could be funded by UGC in accordance with the guidelines on setting up meta universities, as and when they are ready. Secretary (HE) advised the Panjab University team to seek greater involvement of industries and corporates in both research activities and financially supporting the CRIKC initiative.

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