

CRIKC Annual Report 2013-2014

The idea of Knowledge Hubs/Cluster finds its reference in ‘**Knowledge Commission Report**’ of GOI, recently advocated by ‘**Narayana Murty Report**’ as well as is alluded to in the 12th Plan document, Rashtriya Uccharat Shiksha Abhyan (RUSA) document of MHRD, ‘Science Technology Innovative (STI)’ 2013 Policy of GOI. Seizing the opportunity, Panjab University, after several rounds of meetings involving heads of higher education and research institutions in and around Chandigarh, in a meeting held on 24th November 2012 it was resolved to create a knowledge hub which was named as ‘**Chandigarh Region Knowledge and Innovation Cluster (CRIKC)**’ and also decided on its Logo. **Finally, on 11th May 2013, the Technology Day, heads of fifteen institutions signed on a document agreeing on an academic program to be carried out by the participating institutions. This was followed by lecture entitled, ‘Challenges and Opportunity for Translation of Science for Public Good’ by Dr Girish Sahni, Director CSIR Institute of Microbial Technology (IMTECH). The constituent institutions of CRIKC are as follows:**

Panjab University (P.U.), Sector 14, Chandigarh, 160014	PEC University of Technology, Vidya Path, Sector 12, Chandigarh,160012
Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research (PGIMER) Sector 12 Chandigarh,1600012	CSIR- Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIR-CSIO) Sector 30-C Chandigarh,160030
CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (IMTECH) Sector 39-A, Chandigarh-160036.	Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL) , Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO), Ministry of Defence Sector 30, Chandigarh, 1600030

Government Medical College and Hospital (GMCH) Sector 32 Chandigarh, 160030	Snow & Avalanche Study Establishment (SASE) Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) Ministry of Defence Himparisar, Sector 37-A Chandigarh, 160017
National Institute of Technical Teacher Training and Research (NITTTR), Sector 26, Chandigarh 160026.	National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Sector 67, Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (Mohali), Punjab, 160062.
The Indian Institute of Science Education & Research (IISER), Knowledge city, Sector 81, Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (Mohali)-140306	National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute (NABI) (Department of Biotechnology) C-127, Industrial Area, Phase 8 Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (Mohali)
Centre of Innovative and Applied Bioprocessing (CIAB) - BPU, Interim Facility C-127, II Floor, Phase-VIII, Industrial Area, Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (Mohali), Punjab, 160071.	<u>Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST)</u> , Phase - 10, Sector 64, Sahibzada Ajit Singh Nagar (Mohali) Punjab 160062.
Indian Institute of Technology Ropar (IIT- R) Nangal Road, Rupnagar, Punjab INDIA - 140001	

In the mean time, Panjab University submitted a proposal under MPLAD scheme to Shri Pawan Bansal, then MP and PU Senate member, for acquiring buses to run shuttle service to connect the CRIKC institutions as well as to establish infrastructure for CRIKC. The proposal was accepted and the university received Rs 89 Lacs from the scheme for purchasing two AC buses and for developing infrastructure for CRIKC.

The CRIKC idea also received good deal of attention from Planning Commission and MHRD; the latter took keen interest in the idea. In fact, the MHRD ministry invited Panjab University for presentation before its official about the CRIKC proposal. On July 18th 201, the Vice Chancellor Panjab University, Professor Arun K Grover, along with Professors Manmohan Gupta and

Rupinder Tewari made presentation before Mr Ashok Thakur, Secretary Higher Education MHRD GOI, and other senior functionaries of the ministry. The proposal was appreciated very much and the Secretary Higher Education suggested that we could approach UGC for funds under 'RUSA' to provide a boost to the activities of CRIKC. In the last one year several activities have already been held under CRIKC, namely:

- In June 2013, the visits of Prof Yehiam Prior, a Distinguished Professor at Weizmann Institute of Science, Rehovot Israel, and Professor Richard Jones, a Distinguished Professor at Oxford University and President Physiological society of U.K., were hosted by CRIKC as one stop interaction point for all the institutions in the region.
- On July 24th Mr. Rob Lynes, Director British Council in India, visited PU to explore CRIKC as a facilitator to promote interaction between British Universities and Chandigarh region institutions.
- Panjab University along with CRIKC hosted 79th annual meeting of Indian Academy of Sciences from November 8th to 10th at PU Chandigarh with the activities on 9th and 10th to be held in other institutions associated with CRIKC, viz., CSIR-IMTECH and IISER Mohali respectively.
- In commemoration of the 125th birth anniversary of Sir C V Raman, Chandigarh Science Congress (CHASCON-8) was hosted by CRIKC institutions as a joint activity.
- Prestigious public lecture, 'Doing Science in India' by Bharat Ratna Dr CNR Rao FRS was organized on 2nd March at PGIMER jointly by the CRIKC institutions.
- On 11th May 2014, CRIKC celebrated Technology day by holding lecture, entitled, 'Before you learn the answers, learn to ask questions' by Padam Shri Dr Amod Gupta, founder of Advanced Eye Care centre and Dean PGIMER Chandigarh.
- Very recently on a proposal under 'Knowledge Economy Partnerships' initiated by Professor Manmohan Gupta and Professor Rupinder Tewari, the British Council sanctioned Rs 1725250/- for a study tour of UK universities by the CRIKC members to foster academic interaction between UK universities and CRIKC institutions. In this connection, an eight member team led by Prof A. K. Bhandari, DUI PU, visited four UK institutions from June 23rd to June 29th 2014.

The CRIKC initiative of Panjab University is getting recognition not only in India but also in several other countries. The Australian High Commission has also shown keen interest in this. In fact, a joint meeting between heads of CRIKC institutions and Ms Nicola Watkinson, Minister Commercial and Senior Trade & Investment Commissioner, Australian High Commission, New Delhi, was held on 3rd April in Vice Chancellor Committee Room of PU. A follow up meeting of this event is likely to be held in the near future.

The CRIKC initiative of Panjab University has also been appreciated by his Excellency Mr Shiv Raj Patil, Governor Punjab and Administrator Chandigarh. It may also be mentioned that Punjab Government has also appreciated this initiative very much. In fact, in this connection Sardar Prakash Singh Badal, CM Punjab, convened a meeting of all the heads of the CRIKC institutions as well as other heads of institutions to enlarge the scope of CRIKC to include other institutions of higher learning and research in Punjab. This was followed by a meeting of the three Vice Chancellors of the universities located in Chandigarh and Punjab with the Principal Secretary Higher Education Punjab on July 5th 2013. As a follow up of this, a meeting was held in GNDU to identify areas of joint research activities about which the three Vice Chancellors again held a meeting with Punjab Chief Minister.