

Chandigarh Region Innovation and Knowledge Cluster (CRIKC)

Annual Report 2014-2015

The year saw consolidation of CRIKC activities on all fronts. Apart from holding several lectures and other academic activities under CRIKC, in a significant development free shuttle service connecting all the CRIKC institutions around Chandigarh was launched. One of the two shuttle buses, acquired under the MPLAD area fund, regularly makes two rounds on the working days while the other one is used on demand for taking students/scholars to attend lectures at different institutions. The year saw the signing of MoU between University of Nottingham (UoN) and CRIKC for promoting research/teaching activities between UoN and CRIKC institutions as well as expanding of the reach of CRIKC by including two of the private universities under its umbrella. Details of the salient activities carried under CRIKC are available at the website crikc.puchd.ac.in, a summary of the same is as follows.

- a) A delegation of 7 members from CRIKC institutions lead by Professor Arun Grover, Vice Chancellor, Panjab University visited U.K., for study and networking with UK Universities from August 26 - September 2, 2014. The delegation consisted of
 1. Prof. Arun K. Grover, Vice Chancellor, Panjab University (Leader of the delegation).
 2. Sh. Sandeep Hans, Special Secretary, Technical Education, Chandigarh Administration.
 3. Dr. Girish Sahni, Director, Institute of Microbial Technology, Chandigarh.
 4. Prof. Manoj K. Arora, Director, PEC University of Technology, Chandigarh.
 5. Prof. Anil Monga, Dean Alumni Affairs, Panjab University
 6. Prof. J. S. Bagla, IISER, Mohali.
 7. Dr. Sameer Malhotra, PGIMER, Chandigarh.
- b) The British Council and CRIKC jointly organized an inter-university competition 'The Great Debate – 2014' on the topic 'Social media has made the world dangerous and unstable'. The event was held on 12th September, 2014 at 2:30 pm, in the Golden Jubilee Hall at Panjab University, Chandigarh. The debate was judged by David Lelliott, British Deputy High Commissioner, Chandigarh, Sumita Misra, Secretary, Tourism, Hospitality & Transport, Gaurav Arora, Head of Programmes, North India, British Council and chaired by Ms. Supreet Dhiman, Association of British Scholars.

- c) Department of Computer Science and Engineering of PEC University Technology in association with CRIKC organized a one day 'Research Scholars Congregation' at PEC University of Technology on November 12, 2014. It was decided to create a common interaction platform where researchers from different institutes under CRIKC could congregate and get acquainted with each other's expertise in Computer Science and Engineering domain (Website: [PEC](#))
- d) A delegation consisting of Faculty members of University of Nottingham (UoN) and Officials of Nottingham visited CRIKC institutions on November 24, 2014, to concretise the possibilities of collaborations between the Nottingham University and CRIKC institutions.
- e) "Conclave on Science Education - A Manifesto for India's Future" was held on November 29, 2014, ICSSR Seminar Hall, Panjab University. This conclave was held under the aegis of Observer Research Foundation, Mumbai (ORF, Mumbai) in association with CRIKC and Society for Promotion of Science & Technology in India (SPSTI).
- f) First outreach activity under Bio-Club, set up under CRIKC, was organized on November 8, 2014 at Physics Auditorium, Panjab University.
- g) Interaction of CRIKC institutions with Director Growth & Engagement-Home office London was organized on December 12, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. at Panjab University. The purpose of the interaction was to make Indian students aware about the study and employment opportunities available in England.
- h) An outreach program named as "PU OPEN Minds" (Panjab University Outreach Program for Enlightening and Nurturing Young Minds) for school students was initiated by faculty members of PU, with encouragement from CRIKC. The Outreach program was inaugurated by Prof. Arun Kumar Grover, Vice Chancellor, on 28th January 2015 at 10.30 AM in the Physics auditorium of Panjab University and lectures by two eminent scientists, Professor O. P. Katare from University Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences (UIPS), Panjab University delivered a lecture entitled "My Life, My Goals: Answers are Easy, Questions are Difficult" and Professor Arvind from Indian Institute of Science Education & Research (IISER), Mohali also delivered a lecture entitled "A glimpse into the Quantum World".
- i) On February 12, 2015, Dr. Peter Lund, Reader in Molecular Microbiology, School of Biosciences, University of Birmingham, U.K. visited CRIKC institutes - PEC University of Technology and Panjab University and interacted with faculty members and delivered a scientific lecture on "Laboratory-based evolution as a technique to probe mechanisms of stress resistance" at Panjab University.
- j) University of Burgundy, France has shown interest in having collaboration with CRIKC institutions. In this connection, Professor Franck Marzani and

Professor Cedric Demonceaux had interaction with CRIKC faculty members from February 13 - 15, 2015.

- k) 9th Chandigarh Science Congress (CHASCON) - 2015, was organized by Panjab University in collaboration with other CRIKC institutions from February 25 - 27, 2015. The conference was inaugurated by noted scientist Professor Padmanabhan Balram (Padma Bhushan, Padma Shri) former Director, Indian Institute of Sciences, Bengaluru, who delivered the key note address, 'Chemistry at the Fringes of Biology'. The inaugural function was presided over by Professor Arun Grover, Vice Chancellor, Panjab University. (Website: [CHASCON 2015](#))
- l) CRIKC acquired on 19th Feb two AC buses purchased from the MPLADS funds, which were provided by the then Member of Parliament (2009-14) and PU Fellow, Mr. Pawan Kumar Bansal, Professor Arun Grover, Vice Chancellor, DUI (PU) Prof A. K. Bhandari, Registrar, Col. G. S. Chadha (Retd.), representatives from CRIKC institutions, Coordinators Professor Manmohan Gupta and Professor Rupinder Tewari, DSW Professor Navdeep Goyal, PU Campus Students Council President and office bearers received the buses on the PU campus. Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal flagged off the first run of the buses on 27th February.
- m) An MoU was signed on 11th March between UoN and CRIKC institutions. Panjab University (PU), Chandigarh and the University of Nottingham, (UoN), United Kingdom (UK) today signed the Memorandum of Understanding for research collaborations, students exchange & creation of a joint program to develop innovation and discoveries for large scale applications between the two leading universities of India and UK at New Delhi.
- n) Chandigarh Region Innovation and Knowledge Cluster (CRIKC) Institutions celebrated National Technology Day at the Punjab Engineering College (PEC) on 15th May. Director Institute of Nano Science and Technology (INST), Professor Ashok K Ganguli delivered lecture on the topic, 'Emerging Trends in Nano-Technology'. Professor Ganguli said that modern science has no barriers and modern scientists and engineers were working on all stream of sciences. He referred to various nano-technology driven applications and innovations. The lecture was presided over by Prof Arun Kumar Grover, Vice Chancellor Panjab University, Professor Grover expressed satisfaction over the activities being carried under CRIKC for the last three years of its existence and described it as good beginning as well as informed the audience about the attention received by the CRIKC initiative from the international community. Besides several heads of the CRIKC institutions, good number of faculty members, research scholars and students attended the lecture. The lecture was followed by a meeting of the CRIKC institutions where in it was decided to let private sector Universities namely Rayat Bahra and Chitkara Universities, join the CRIKC umbrella as well.