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INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH KOLKATA

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Preface

I am happy to present the Annual Report of Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) Kolkata for the Financial Year 2014-15 highlighting the activities and achievements of the Institute for perusal of all the stakeholders. This is a chronicle of our growth in the last year, as well as a document of our accountability.

IISER Kolkata continues its exemplary performance in all aspects of its mandate. Our accomplishments, since inception in 2006, reflect the strength of our vision, mission, and core values. Today, IISER Kolkata is positioned to become a knowledge centre for value-addition in the country.

IISER Kolkata has dedicated its efforts to nurture students and research scholars who will contribute to society by advancing knowledge and imparting it to new generations of students. The core values of IISER Kolkata lie in its quality academic programmes, the future goals of our graduating students (BS-MS dual-degree), research scholars (MS-by-research, Integrated-PhD, PhD), and postdoctoral fellows, the research output, and outreach activities.

We scheduled our Second Convocation on 20 June 2014. Prof. K. VijayRaghavan, FRS (Secretary, Department of Biotechnology, Government of India) was our Chief Guest. A total of 75 BS-MS, 9 Integrated-PhD, and 21 PhD students graduated in 2014. I am happy to mention here that the total number of students graduated so far from IISER Kolkata is 270 (BS-MS 224; IPhD 9; PhD 37). In our Second Convocation we conferred Doctor of Science *Honoris Causa* to Prof. Ashoke Sen, FRS (HRI, Allahabad).

IISER Kolkata's contribution to science is measured by the increased number of PhD scholars it attracts and the quality of publications in peer-reviewed journals. Currently, we have about 230 PhD students on roll. Limitations of laboratory space and campus accommodation have restricted the number. However, to overcome this hurdle, we are in the process of creating additional infrastructure (a new student hostel, laboratory space etc.) which will enable us to add more students by mid-2016.

Currently, IISER Kolkata has 581 students in our BS-MS, 125 in IPhD, 8 in MS- by-Research, 231 in PhD programmes, and 25 post-doctoral fellows. It is evident that the academic program of IISER Kolkata is going strong, as expected. Many of our students achieved the opportunity to present papers at national and international seminars and conferences.

I am particularly pleased with the research output of the faculty members during the current year. The faculty members have received grants to the tune of approximately 13 crores from various funding agencies, against sanctioned grants of 52 crores, published approximately 200 papers in national and international journals of repute, including in *Nature Chemistry*, *Physical Review Letters*, *Scientific Reports*, *J. Virology* etc. Currently, we have regular faculty strength of 80 (Assistant Professors 42, Associate Professors 33 (one is on lien), Professors 5 (one is on deputation) and 7 Assistant Professors (on contract). In addition, we have 2 Ramanujan and 4 INSPIRE faculty fellows. We have a total of 63 regular non-teaching staff members for the smooth running of the institute.

I congratulate our faculty colleagues and students for their achievements, which have brought laurels to IISER Kolkata and wish them all success in their future endeavours. Many faculty members received awards/recognitions within India and from abroad, as reported in details in this report. Our undergraduate and postgraduate students have also received many prestigious grants/ scholarships/ awards during the current year which are also detailed in this report.

The 'Foundation Day' lecture of IISER Kolkata was delivered by Prof. Ashoke Sen, FRS (HRI, Allahabad) on 25 August 2014. It was highly appreciated by the entire IISER Kolkata scientific community. Prof. C.N.R. Rao, FRS, Bharat Ratna, inaugurated our new Research Complex in the permanent campus at Mohanpur on 27 September 2014. Construction and related works of entire 'Research Complex' is expected to be completed by July 2015.

The construction of Administrative Block-cum-Academic Complex, Director's residence, guest house, girl's hostel, campus school is in full swing. Construction of faculty and non-teaching staff housing, auditorium, animal facility, biome, student's activity centre etc. is underway. We are also paying our utmost efforts to make IISER Kolkata campus 'Clean and Green'. We plan to complete IISER Kolkata campus by July 2016. The construction work in the permanent campus has given a sense of security and certainty of release from functioning from transit campus since 2009.

IISER Kolkata also organized a number of events throughout the year in order to involve the institute community in various national missions and initiatives. This included 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' which was organized to celebrate Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's Birth anniversary on 31 October 2014, as a mark of honor to Sardar Patel for his remarkable contributions to maintaining India's unity, safety and security. IISER Kolkata organized 'Rastriya Ekta Run' to spread the message of unity, safety and security and administered the 'Ekta Diwas Pledge' to maintain unity and integrity of our nation.

'Bal Swachhta Mission' was held on the occasion of Children's Day (Bal Divas) on 14 November 2014, the birthday of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. In this programme, children were sensitized and involved in different aspects of hygiene and safe sanitation. Our pre-school BUD had taken an active part in this mission within the school premises. 'International Students Day' was observed on 17 November. In the spirit of the International Students Day, IISER Kolkata organized a students' forum to discuss ideas on – "Shikshit Bharat, Saksham Bharat" – quality education for all. The forum was hosted to encourage the students to discuss about new ideas on quality education as an opportunity to help in the framing of new initiatives in education.

In compliance with the launch of 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' on 2 October 2014, Mahatma Gandhi's birthday, IISER Kolkata administered the Cleanliness Oath (Swachhta Shapath) to all its employees as well as students on 2 October 2014. After the pledge, cleaning activities inside the campus were undertaken by the participants with much zeal and enthusiasm.

'Good Governance Day' was observed at IISER Kolkata on 23 December 2014. Students, faculty members, and staff members attended a seminar on the topic "Use of Technology and Innovations in promoting Good Governance". There was also an oratory competition ('Bhaasha Shailee') with active participation by staff members and students where cash prizes were awarded to the best orators.

IISER Kolkata was honoured to host the Science Camp (VIJYOSHI), under the aegis of KVPY, INSPIRE and the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India during 10-12 November 2015. The number of participants from all over India was 493. The programme included inspiring lectures to motivate young minds towards basic sciences in the 'Science City' auditorium in Kolkata and a day was devoted to demonstrate interesting and appealing laboratory experiments at our permanent campus. Truly speaking, it was a grand success. This was followed by visit of a group of students and accompanying teachers of the north-eastern states of India to our campus as a part of our outreach programme. IISER Kolkata also took part in International Conference on Structural Chemistry of Molecules and Materials (SCOMM-2014), Indo-German Conference on Bio-inspired Chemistry (IGCBIC-2014) and Chemical Frontiers 2014 as its outreach activities.

Dr. T. Ramasami, former Secretary, Department of Science & Technology spent about 2 weeks at IISER Kolkata to interact with faculty and students during November-December of 2014. He delivered a series of lectures on excellence and relevance in research and systems of global ranking in research and development field. The lectures were highly appreciated by the institute community.

IISER Kolkata hosted the prestigious 'Asian Academic Seminar and School-2015' during 6-10 March 2015. We organized lectures at the Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Kolkata, EZCC, Salt Lake, Kolkata, and IISER Kolkata permanent campus. The total number of participants was 165, including 41 speakers/poster presenters from Japan and 124 from India. It has been a great success story.

The scheduling of department-level and institute-level seminar/colloquia have increased, as desirable. Many distinguished personalities from various walks of life have visited the Institute during the year and expressed their satisfaction with the progress of the Institute, not only on academic matters but most importantly on 'campus building' initiatives. Interaction with them gave opportunities particularly to our students for realizing the research opportunities of their fields.

The celebration of the annual 'Department Day' by the five departments of IISER Kolkata has now matured into a major science outreach activity.

Our students – 96 in number – participated in 'Inter-IISER-Sports Meet-2014' at IISER Mohali and in few events performed very well.

We have entered a new phase of growth and development. With the combined efforts of faculty members, non-teaching staff, and student community, I am sure that we will do better in the years to come.

I take this opportunity to express our sincere gratitude to the MHRD for advisory and financial support, and the Board of Governors, the Finance Committee, the Academic Senate, the Building and Works Committee for providing direction and guidance. I also would like to thank the Deans, Head of the Departments, and the Registrar and his team for the hard work to run the Institute.

Finally, I would like to thank the Annual Report Committee for making the report on time.



(R N Mukherjee)
Director

