

Report of Singapore Visit, September 2017

It was decided by the Vice President Shri K. K. Patel to delegate Dr Mehul R Naik, IT-NU to Singapore with following objectives:

- (i) *To represent Nirma University at Singapore Gujarati Samaj (SGS) event;*
- (ii) *To initiate collaborative talks with NUS and NTU Universities.*
- (iii) *To conduct an alumni meet.*

(1) At Singapore Gujarati Samaj (SGS) Event: (Sept 22 – 24, 7 PM to 1 AM)

- SGS hosts Navratri celebration every year. This year it was in Max Atria, Singapore Expo from Sept 22 to 24, 2017. About 2000 people participated in Raas-Garba every day.
- As one of the sponsors, announcement through PA system was made every day about NU's SEA and PIO admission quota, and emails about NU programs were sent to SGS members.
- Interested people visited NU's stall and interacted with Dr Mehul R Naik. The noted points are:
 - People know NU very well, but did not know about SEA and PIO quota. So, a buzz is created now among the Singaporean Indians.
 - Parents inquired about on-campus hostel facility.
 - Singaporean Indian student has to perform 2 years National Service (NS) after 12th standard. Some parents are exploring the idea to give up Singaporean PR and send the student to India for college education.
 - Australia is one preferred route for higher education.
 - Parents found the Singapore College education costly, however the NU SEA/PIO quota tuition is affordable.
- Ten NU alumni represented NU at the stall

(2) At National University of Singapore (NUS): (Pre-lunch hours of Sept 25)

School of Design & Environment, NUS

Meeting with:

Prof Johannes Widodo, Director of Centre for Advanced Studies in Architecture (CASA)

Prof Stephen Siu Yu Lau, Deputy Head (Research), Dept of Architecture

- They proposed to host IANU faculty members for one / two days for technical interaction
- They also proposed to host in their department one week workshop for the students of IANU on self-finance basis

Meeting with:

Prof Christian Gilles Boucharenc, Head of Division of Industrial Design (DID)

- Conveyed about NU's programs on Industrial Design and Communication Design

Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Science, NUS

Meeting with:

Prof. Pui Lai Rachel Ee, Associate Professor, Pharmaceutical Biology Laboratory

- Rachel was invited to the IPNU conference last year.
- She expects PhD Scholars from NU to be deputed in her laboratory, and also to work on a joint research project funded by Indian and Singapore government, if any.

(3) At Nanyang Technological University (NTU): (Post-lunch hours of Sept 25)

NTU-INDIA Connect Program, NTU

Meeting with:

Prof B V R Chaudari, Senior Executive Director, President's Office

- Prof Chaudari is heading the NTU-INDIA Connect program that offers internships in NTU to students from Indian Universities
- He indicated to select one student from NU this year.
- He also suggested NU faculty members to communicate with the NTU faculty members with common research interests and develop a relation that will lead to joint research. Once this is established, NTU professor will initiate collaboration and Prof Chaudari can make it official through NTU President's office.

Prof Peer M Sathikh, Associate Chair (Academics), Program of Product Design, School of Art, Design & Media, NTU

- Conveyed about NU's programs on Industrial Design and Communication Design

Photographs



(1) Dr Mehul R Naik along with NU Alumnus Mukesh Upadhyay (B Tech EC 2005) at SGS Stall, Singapore, Sept 2017



(2) Dr Mehul R Naik interacting with visitors at SGS Stall, Singapore, Sept 2017



(3) 2000 People celebrating Navratri at SGS, Singapore, Sept 2017