

IIM Shillong remembers Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam on his birth anniversary



IIM Shillong commemorated the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, Former President of India, on 15<sup>th</sup> of October at the IIM Shillong campus. A Scientific Seminar on 'Science and Humanism for National Development' was organised, in keeping with his contribution to science and his objective of social development. The event commenced with a welcome address by the Director Dr. Amitabh De, followed by an introduction to the seminar by Shri Falguni Rajkumar, Chairman of the Board of Governors of IIM Shillong.

The seminar saw eminent speakers such as Dr. W Selvamurthy, Former Distinguished Scientist and Chief Controller, DRDO, Swami Atmapriyanandaji Maharaj, Vice Chancellor, Ramakrishna Vivekananda University, Belur, Dr. Tapan Misra, Director, Space Application Centre, ISRO, Ahmedabad and Dr. R A Mashelkar, National Research Professor and CSIR Bhatnagar Fellow, National Chemical Laboratory, who graced the stage and offered valuable insights into the aspirations, achievements, and ideals of Dr. Kalam.

While remembering the various times that Dr. Kalam had visited the institute and given a lecture to the students, Prof De presented an overview regarding the initiatives to be undertaken by the institute and the students. A 2000 sq. ft. auditorium with the capacity to seat 200 students is to be established by the institute in the name of Dr. Kalam. A bust of Dr. Kalam shall be established in front of the auditorium. A 'Bharat Ratna Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam centre for Policy Research' is to be founded in keeping with his objective of societal development. An initiative 'Nurturing Minds', beginning on the 17<sup>th</sup> October is to be undertaken by the students, to teach Mathematics to school students starting from class VIII. In the initial phase, classes of two-hour duration are to be conducted every Saturday for selected students nominated by local schools. An annual function is to be organized every year to honour Dr. Kalam, who delivered his last lecture in IIM Shillong, hours before his sudden demise.

The seminar progressed with the speakers giving individual insights into Dr. Kalam's contribution to the country and his ideas and opinions. Dr. Kalam believed that teaching is a step and not an end. His greatest contribution was seen as the fusion of humanism and science, in keeping with his ideals that love of humanity is humility and that without humanity the world is incomplete. Dr. Kalam was described as a president, a scientist, a teacher, a leader, the father of missile technology of the country, an epitome of excellence and a fusion of science and spirituality. It was mentioned how UNO has declared 15<sup>th</sup> October as 'World Students' Day' to commemorate him. Details regarding certain landmarks in technology innovation in the country were mentioned. Dr. Kalam's initiative PURA (Providing Urban Amenities to Rural Areas) was discussed, along with his contribution to missile technology. It was said that Dr. Kalam was a person who built many extraordinary organisations with ordinary people, through his inspirational leadership. He believed that all technology is useless if it is not simple and does not help to solve a man's real life problems. His extraordinary leadership skills were attributed to his humility, purity of heart and his ability to connect with every individual at every level.

### IIM Shillong Inaugurates Its 4th PGPEX Batch



In harmony with the upcoming trends where the world is looking towards India and China as drivers of global growth, Rajiv Gandhi Indian Institute of Management Shillong (IIM-S), India and Ocean University China (OUC), Qingdao have joined hands to design the first ever Post Graduate Program for Executives - Managing Business in India and China (PGPEX-MBIC). After the successful international emersion of the previous batches currently in government, private industries and as entrepreneurs both in India and China, the Institute proudly inaugurated its fourth batch on Wednesday October 14, 2015 comprising of 16 participants from a varied range of industry such as IT, Mining, and Petroleum.

The inauguration session began with introductory remarks by the Chairperson, PGPEX, Dr. Rohit Dwivedi followed by a welcome address by the Director, IIM-S, Dr. Amitabha De who pointed out that despite the recent slowdown in the Chinese economy, the country is still making steady progress. He also highlighted an education policy in China according to which all PhD students have to return to mainland China irrespective of which part of the world they pursue their studies. He stressed on the need for such policies in India.

The Guest of Honour for the session was Mr. Sunil Kharbanda, Vice President SAP Indian Subcontinent who pointed out that China and India are considered major forces in the global economy and this course would serve the purpose of creating business leaders who have cross-cultural and multi-national managerial competencies to manage businesses across India and China. He also highlighted the value of human capital and the emerging business trend of keeping the customer in focus, with technology being an enabler and facilitator.

Speaking on the occasion as Chief Guest, Dr. Alka Acharya spoke of how she was pleasantly surprised to know of IIM Shillong's vision to create business leaders with the capacity and knowledge base of both the Chinese as well as Indian methods of doing business. She felt that the uniqueness of the program should be followed by other Higher Education institutes across the country. Stressing on "What is China, China and India in Competition, and China and India in Partnership," Dr. Acharya remarked that "stability is the key element to achieve holistic and sustainable business development. Both India and China should learn and collaborate with each other for combined progress of the region. Clashes would only pull down the growth." While modernisation and development are challenges that both India and China face, it is important to understand the collaborative potential of both countries. She further urged the participants to understand the Chinese minds while getting themselves engaged in learning, more so during their stint of internship while in China.

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### IIM Shillong launches 'Nurturing Minds' – a Teaching initiative in the memory of Dr. Kalam



IIM Shillong launched a series of initiatives to commemorate the birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, Former President of India, on the 15<sup>th</sup> October at the IIM Shillong campus. One of the initiatives, 'Nurturing Minds', a teaching programme aimed at coaching students by adopting unconventional teaching, kicked off on Saturday, 17 October. The objective of the initiative is to connect with the local community, give back to the society and carry forward Dr. Kalam's love for teaching. The classes started off with a pool of 30 students from three schools, namely H.Elias, Presbyterian and Dinet Manik School, wherein the students were taught mathematics.

Before the classes began, the students and volunteers were addressed by the PGP chairman, Dr Basav Roychoudhury. Dr Basav expressed that the initiative should focus upon getting rid of the fear associated with Mathematics among the enrolled students. The official address was followed by an ice-breaking session during which the volunteers and students interacted with each other. The Chairman of Board of Directors, Shri Falguni Rajkumar who was also present during the session emphasized on the need to become a good human being and develop holistically.

The students were split into two groups, and each group was managed by 3-4 volunteers. The topics chosen for the day were Mensuration and Algebra. The volunteers used innovative teaching aids and utilised the infrastructural facilities available in the classroom to make the session fun and informative. After the two hour session, the students were served snacks and escorted by the volunteers for a campus tour.

Based on the response of the initial phase the student volunteers plan to scale up the programme, by including other subjects in the course pedagogy.

### Sketch of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam commemorating his Birth Anniversary

