Glimpses of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations held at Raj Bhavan on 07.01.2020, Bangalore

On 25 years of journey of NAAC in the field of Education, the Silver Jubilee Celebrations were held at Raj Bhavan on 07th Jan 2020, Bangalore. On this momentous occasion Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri M Venkaiah Naidu & Hon’ble Governor of Karnataka Shri Vajubhai Vala released the Compendium of NAAC. NAAC, Director, Prof. S.C. Sharma in his welcome address welcomed the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour & all the Vice-Chancellors, Deans, Directors, Principals, Professors and Academicians who have participated in the program from various Universities, Institutes, and Colleges across India.

Shri. Vajubhai Vala in his oration, foremost congratulated NAAC for its 25 years of successful journey in the field of Higher Education. Also stressed we should contribute to the growth of our Country from which we have learnt in our lifetime. Educational institutions play a major role in each & every student’s life hence, all the Institutions should be accredited with ‘A’ grade was his view. In an effort to mould the important stakeholders of Higher Education i.e., Students for a better future to fulfill the ever growing need in the field of Mechanical, Science and Technology, Agriculture by the intelligent and bright youth of the country. It is necessary to have NAAC accredited “A” Grade institutions to empower them for the challenge. “It is high time that we think about Institutions and Universities with NAAC ‘B’ and ‘C’ grades which are in need of hand holding.

Hon’ble Vice – President of India, Shri. M Venkaiah Naidu in his prelection, congratulated NAAC, for accrediting Universities & Colleges successfully in the last 25 years and making big impact on Indian Higher Education. Emphasising on the need for Quality in Higher Education Institutions across the Nation, he said, “The number of Universities is increasing in the country, but what about the standards? Where do our Universities stand? No University is seen in the top 200 Global Institutions’ list. Along with the increase in the number of Universities, they must strive for excellence. Also mentioned during the ancient period students from different parts of the world used to come to India to study in our Nalanda, Takshashila and India was called Vishwaguru during the ancient times. He believed that human capital and innovation are the two pillars of GDP growth in India. The workers of tomorrow need the transition to the formal, non-agricultural sector, armed with Higher Education credentials. In its ‘Strategy for New India @ 75’ report the NITI Ayog has recommended that spending on education should be increased, at least 6 percent of GDP by 2022. At present, India spends less than 1% of its GDP on R&D, Research; especially Science & Technology is - resource-intensive, time-consuming & risky. We as a society must be prepared to bear with this risk.

Quality of teaching faculty has a great bearing on learning outcomes. In this age of Information Technology, the conventional role played by Teachers has undergone a massive transformation. A classroom, no longer confined to four walls, our teachers must be open to new ideas and evolve to fulfill the needs of the new-age learner. Another area that we must focus on is Research & Development and Innovation is the watchword of the 21st century. The array of problems that we face today, from declining agricultural productivity to
climate change, from challenges of urban development to threats to human health, can be
tackled through Science, Technology & Innovation.

Shri Naiduji stressed it is the duty of the education system to produce model Global citizens
and Institutions must mould students into empathetic human beings with high intensity.
Crafts are now the livelihood of Indians, where earlier it was taught in schools earlier.
Children’s should be taught about our History, our Vedas, our Culture and our Heritage so
that they will inculcate the same and carry those to the next generation. He quoted “भाषा
भावना एक साथ चलता है” which means language & emotion always moves together. He said
that Education is not for employment alone; Enhancement, Empowerment should be first
preference then comes employment. Knowledge should be augmented, Education is a
continuous process, we should learn, learn and return it back to the society. In addition, he
mentioned Mahatma Gandhi considered “Knowledge Without The Character Is A Sin”,
education that teaches values, ethics and inculcate the spirit of voluntarism and compassion
is the need of the hour.

India has the largest & the most diverse Education System in the World. Though the number
of Higher Educational Institutions has surged in India since 2000, the number of students
undertaking Ph.D., has not shown a hike. We must encourage students from all over the
world to come to India to study so that we can build a vibrant and diverse Academic
Culture.

He urged upon all Educational Institutions to transform into Center of Excellence where
students acquire knowledge, skills & attitude necessary for a successful, happy &
accomplished life. Shri Naidu said that the Accreditation Framework developed by NAAC
has gone a long way in augmenting the Quality of Higher Education in India. I am certain
that, in the time to come, NAAC will act as a Friend, Philosopher & Guide to our Higher
Educational Institutions, constantly raising Standards & Benchmarks for Quality &
Excellence.

At last he addressed the gathering to read the Kasturi Rangan’s report i.e., the Draft
National Education Policy that was released in June, so that they could inculcate some of
things in their institutions.

I am confident that in the future, if Government & the Private sector work together in the
collaboration with organizations like NAAC then no sooner India will be the Global hub of
Higher Education.

The celebration concluded with word of thanks by Dr. M.S. Shyamasundar, Adviser, NAAC.

Dr. Priya N, Assistant Adviser, was the Master of Ceremony of the whole function.