



AULA MAGNA



An initiative by the Office of International Affairs & Collaborations, MAHE



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Internationalization at MAHE

When Luc E Weber, Rector Emeritus of the University of Geneva and President of the Glion Colloquium (a think tank of the selected 20 presidents of the top 200 universities of the world committed to the future of the universities), stated: “Universities have to be innovative, international and research-intensive,” he couldn’t have been more precise. Along with innovation and research, internationalization was the key ingredient. A point not lost at the Manipal Academy of Higher Education, (MAHE), whose own stated commitment to internationalization is to secure global recognition as an internationally reputed organization, facilitating knowledge and cultural exchange, recognizing the diversity and being inclusive, creating a stimulating environment and enhancing international partnerships that have a meaningful outcome.

Universities of the 21st century need to necessarily be dynamic, democratic, and diverse. MAHE is committed to adopting effective strategies to promote internationalization by nurturing an effective academic and scientific community with the capacity to engage with the top universities in the world; serve the international community by offering academic and research programs of excellence; enhance international partnerships and create synergy to enshrine the knowledge triangle of research, education, and innovation; and be an essential part of the global network, addressing issues of global relevance. Established in 2013, the Office of International Affairs and Collaborations (OIAC) at MAHE is primarily responsible for providing direction, assistance, and synchronizing all of the university’s international engagements. It is the university’s comprehensive resource for study abroad, research abroad, internships, and other educational experiences worldwide. By promoting intercultural competence, meticulous erudition, and acquisition of foreign languages, MAHE provides opportunities for a holistic learning experience. In a nutshell, there are at least 10 aspects of internationalization that MAHE continues to internally promote in partnership with overseas universities: joint teaching initiatives, joint research projects, joint conferences, joint publications, student exchange programs, faculty exchange programs, dual degree programs, summer and winter school opportunities, study abroad programs and joint executive education programs.

Today, Manipal as a university township has been successful in attracting international students for student exchange. Learning by participation at MAHE is achieved through student-led international organizations that encourage traineeships and internships. International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE) provides opportunities for internships and technical exchanges for students across the globe. International Association of Students in Economic and Commercial Sciences (AIESEC), International Society for Optics & Photonics (SPIE), and International Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation (IPSF) are the other youth-run organizations that support international internships and leadership development.

Universal access to education ensuring quality that is assured, effective and affordable regardless of their social class, gender, ethnic background, or physical and mental disabilities has remained a challenge in India and tens of other developing economies. With higher education in India undergoing massive reforms, India is poised to emerge as a hub for transformational educational experience enrolling students from across the globe and ensuring merit and equity independent of means.

Fostering academic vibrancy at the higher education level necessitates a standardized curriculum with the latest pedagogy, and well-defined learning objectives having meaningful learning outcomes using innovative approaches supplemented by the use of technology. A concerted effort from Academia, Industry, and Government involving every stakeholder with adequate federal funding, and commitment to individualized education plans from the stage of care to independence promotes a transformative educational experience.

The recently announced National Education Policy (NEP) is a groundbreaking document. It brings about systemic changes that are much needed in academia. To meet the changing dynamics of the population's requirements concerning quality education, innovation, and research, NEP aims to make India a knowledge superpower by equipping its students with the necessary skills and knowledge to eliminate the shortage of manpower in science, technology, academics, and industry. Two major reforms which will be a game-changer for Indian universities include attracting large numbers of international students to study in India and research/teaching collaborations with high-quality foreign institutions. Multidisciplinary learning as part of the new policy is a way forward, especially for inbound international students who are looking for varied courses in the university. NEP encourages continuous upskilling and lifelong learning, and has the potential to put India on a long-term growth trajectory.

MAHE recognizes and appreciates this remarkable transformation in higher education through its transformational leadership. The heart of this transformation is a creation of an ecosystem for the development and delivery of an innovative international curriculum, introduction of unique courses, incorporation of the modern teaching pedagogy, facilitation of effective faculty recruitment processes, transparent student admission, meaningful international engagements, create pathways for world-class education and enhance quality research and publications. As much as student exchange is important, faculty exchange and research collaborations are important for sustaining internationalization.

Given the breadth of institutions and the level of internationalization as well as an ever-growing range of partnerships, one size fits all would not address the nuances and realities of international strategic alliance. Increasingly the question is not whether to but how to engage with international partners. International partnership is likely to succeed when the collaboration is already underway. Jumping off point for partnership is having a dedicated office that focuses on international matters, a curriculum that is infused with global elements and faculty policy that supports international engagements. This creates a solid framework for broader engagements. In designing strategies and policies it is important to balance top-down and bottom-up approaches. Centralization of some aspects of internationalization is necessary such as the signing of memoranda of understanding, academic requirements and legal considerations to ensure that the partnership is consistent with the institutional standards. However, faculty engagement is critical to the success of the international partnership.

OIAC now has a state-of-the-art international mobility and partnership management technology platform to make processes more efficient and streamline the workflow of the international office. The energy at the international office is at its zenith with visionary leadership, dedicated support staff, committed coordinators, and campus ambassadors.

Campus Ambassadors scheme is a student-led peer-to-peer engagement of the international office where the home campus students offer voluntary services to the international students getting them familiar with the university studies and facilitating seamless integration. One of the unique offerings of Campus Ambassadors is Manipal Academic Exchange and Student Traineeship for Research Outreach (MAESTRO). MAESTRO is an online portal of projects, which facilitates maximum offer generations, and greater materialization of international exchange offers. Through the portal, students may submit their applications for any project of their choosing. Online projects are also offered for students who wish to take up international learning from the comfort of their homes. It provides a gateway for students from all around the globe to come to Manipal and pursue a rather pragmatic approach to experience and learning.

As I sign off from my role as the Director, International Collaborations, MAHE, I can contentedly state that the experience I gained over the last five years was personally enriching and professionally gratifying. It was an exciting assignment to head MAHE's global engagement strategy and draw a roadmap for the internationalization vertical. It was an honor and privilege to serve the organization and work very closely with the office of the Vice Chancellor. I wish to place on record my profound gratitude and heartfelt thanks to each one of our collaborating partners for standing by me and supporting MAHE throughout my administrative tenure. I remain indebted to the university senior leadership, heads of all the institutions, university colleagues and support staff for their unstinted support and cooperation.

As I embark on the new journey as an Honorary Professor and a Wellcome Trust intermediate fellow at the University of Sheffield, UK, I am hoping to build a strong foundation for a lifelong academic career. I wish my worthy successor, Dr. Karunakar Kotegar, Director, International Collaborations, MAHE the very best and pray sincerely that the international pillar reaches greater heights under his leadership.

Dr. Raghu Radhakrishnan
Former Director, International Collaborations, MAHE
Honorary Professor, University of Sheffield, UK
Professor, Oral Pathology, MCOADS, Manipal



New Partnerships



**Karolinska
Institutet**



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

Project visit to King Mongkut's University, North Bangkok, Thailand

Dr. Nirmal Mazumder (Principal Investigator, Assistant Professor), Dr. K K Mahato (Co-Investigator, Professor and HoD), Ms. Pooja N (Ph.D. Student) and Ms. Ishita Chakraborty (Ph.D. Student) are four scientists from the Department of Biophysics, Manipal School of Life Sciences, Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Manipal, Karnataka, India who visited the King Mongkut's University of Technology, North Bangkok (KMUTNB), Thailand for scientific research and discussion on an ongoing project entitled, 'Fabrication of a Biodegradable Elastomeric Microfluidic Device' under the Indo-Thailand project.

The principal investigator from Thailand is Dr. Pornsak Srisungsitthisunti, Assistant Professor, Department of Production Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, KMUTNB. The scientists from India arrived at the KMUTNB campus on 26th April 2022 and returned on 8th May 2022. During the tenure, the visiting scientists were introduced to the Dean of Faculty of Engineering, Associate Prof. Udomkiat Nontakaew and the Vice President for Research and Information Technology Development, Prof. Somrerk Chandra- Ambhorn, KMUTNB, Thailand.

Further, the visiting scientists worked on the project's main goal- to fabricate a biodegradable microfluidics device. The CO2 Laser at the central instrumentation facility of KMUTNB was used for laser engraving starch-based biopolymers developed at Manipal School of Life Sciences, MAHE. Further, several starch-based biopolymers were characterized using different analytical techniques at the KMUTNB campus, such as differential scanning calorimetry (DSC), thermogravimetric analysis (TGA), Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy and scanning electron microscopy (SEM). Ms. Ishita Chakraborty and Ms. Pooja were given hands-on training on sample preparation and instrument handling while working in the laboratory at KMUTNB. This visit was fruitful and opened many paths for future active collaborations.



Research Fellowship Granted at Helmholtz Zentrum Dresden, Germany

Dr. Rozy Kamal, Assistant Professor, Senior Scale, MCHP, MAHE, completed a 6-week research fellowship at Helmholtz Zentrum Dresden, Rossendorf, Germany (HZDR) in May 2022. The fellowship was awarded by Trialect, USA in the area of cancer radiopharmaceutical research. This was a rare opportunity to learn about the latest developments in radiochemistry, strategies, and technology related to radio-pharmaceutical research and to use this experience to improve the ongoing research and teaching methodologies applied at MAHE and initiate international research collaborations.



Into the Wild - Wilderness Medicine Workshop

The Center for Wilderness Medicine conducted a wilderness medicine workshop led by Dr. Freston Marc Sirur, an emergency physician at Kasturba Medical College, Manipal, along with Emergency Medicine faculty Dr. Andrew Leamon from Henry Ford Health, USA; postgraduate resident Dr. Vrinda Lath from the Department of Emergency Medicine, KMC, Manipal; and short post Junior Resident Dr. Adithya Vinayak. The workshop was conducted from the 24-25th of March 2022 at the Agumbe Rainforest Research Station adjoining the evergreen Someshwara wildlife sanctuary in the Western Ghats. The objectives of the workshop were to observe and record the biodiversity while also discussing perspectives on wilderness medical services in the region. In addition, the team conducted two simulation workshops on snake bites and animal attacks during their stay at the research station. Some of the biodiversity observed included flying squirrels, flying lizards, the Malabar trogon, and cat snakes, to name a few. The team also discussed the successful conservation initiatives undertaken by the ARRS and their focus on mitigating the Human-King Cobra conflict in the region. Avenues of further collaboration and research on wilderness medicine with the Center for Wilderness Medicine- through which workshops are regularly conducted in and around the region while focusing on topics such as envenomation, animal attacks, lightning strikes, floods, and tropical infectious diseases- were discussed.



Joint Seed Funding for the Fortification of the MAHE Teacher Guardian Scheme

Dr. Selvam Ramachandran, Associate Professor, Physiotherapy, Manipal College of Health Professions, MAHE; and Dr. Nicola Byrom, Senior Lecturer, Psychology, School of Mental Health & Psychological Sciences, King's College London, have been awarded the MAHE-KCL Joint Seed Funding for the project related to the fortification of the existing MAHE Teacher-Guardian scheme. The outcome of this one-year collaborative project is to promote student mental health and to develop a framework of ongoing developmental support for the students.



PhD scholars bag travel grant from International Society of Autism Research (INSAR)

Ms. Calida Frieda Pinto and Ms. Haritha Mohan PhD Scholars under Dr. Shivani Tiwari, Dept. of Speech & Hearing, Manipal College of Health Professions, MAHE received travel grant titled -

"Individuals from Low Income Countries Award" to attend the International Society of Autism Research (INSAR) Annual Meeting 2022 held in Austin, Texas, USA. The event was held from May 11th to 14th 2022. The Annual Meeting is primarily intended for researchers and professionals involved in Autism research and education. The annual meeting is focused on scientific progress in understanding and treating Autism Spectrum Disorder from a multidisciplinary perspective.



New Microfluidic-based Cancer-on-Chip Technology



Dr. Sanjiban Chakrabarty, Assistant Professor, Department of Cell & Molecular Biology, Manipal School of Life Sciences, Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), has developed a novel Microfluidic Cancer-on-Chip technology that enables direct assessment of drug response using cancer patient-derived tumor biopsy material. This work was a collaborative exploration with Dr. Dik C van Gent's laboratory at Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, and was published in a reputed journal, *Cancer Research*.

Dr. Sanjiban and Dr. Dik van Gent established collaboration through the MAHE-Erasmus MC Center on Genome Stability at Manipal School of Life Sciences, MAHE, Manipal, India. Dr. B S Satish Rao, Director, MSLS, MAHE, said that the novel microfluidic Cancer-on-Chip technology had immense translational potential for studies predicting drug response, identifying novel drug targets, understanding tumor evolution, and targeted drug delivery. Lt. Gen. (Dr.) M. D. Venkatesh, Vice-Chancellor, MAHE, Manipal, said that the international collaboration with Erasmus MC would further facilitate the development of a state-of-the-art advanced microfluidic Cancer-on-Chip technology at MSLS and foster academia-industry collaboration for translational oncology. These findings have immense prospects while managing various cancers in personalized cancer treatment.

Developing the services of 'Hand Rehabilitation' in Rwanda

Rwanda, a small Central African country has very few occupational therapists. Though the first OT training program has just started, the OT practice remains at a very early stage and has not yet diversified and specialized. The Rwanda Association of Occupational Therapy (RWOTA) had expressed their desire to have Dr. Shovan Saha on board to facilitate the development of Hand Rehabilitation as a service in Rwanda. As a first mentoring engagement, on 1st May, 2022 Dr. Saha was invited by RWOTA to conduct a webinar on 'hand splints and low-tech adaptive device' and sharing with them the clinical perspective based on Dr. Saha's work in India.



SPIE Optics and Photonics Education Scholarship Awarded

Flanish D'Souza has been awarded a 2022 Optics and Photonics Education Scholarship by SPIE, the international society for optics and photonics, for his potential contributions to the field of optics, photonics or related field. D'Souza is a master's student in photonics in the Department of Atomic and Molecular Physics, at the Manipal Academy of Higher Education (India). He is a mechanical engineer by training who has worked on projects like Plasma-assisted Methane Reforming for Hydrogen-rich Syngas production, and the design of Non-Thermal Plasma reactors in the Combustion, Gasification and Propulsion Laboratory at the Indian Institute of Science. His main interests are Laser-Wakefield acceleration, Laser induced plasma, Atomic Physics and their interdisciplinary approach to energy research. D'Souza also currently serves as the president of the SPIE Manipal University Student Chapter.



MIT Faculty bags SERB Fellowship



Dr. Anitha H, Professor, Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, MIT Manipal, has been provisionally selected for the SERB International Research Experience for the year 2022-2023.

The research is supported by the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), a statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. The fellowship has been approved for a maximum duration of six months with Jayaram K. Udupa, PhD, at Radiologic Science in Radiology, Medical Image Processing Group Department Of Radiology, University Of Pennsylvania, USA.

PhD Scholar visits Division of Rehabilitation at University of Nottingham

Ms. Apoorva M Shankaranarayana, Ph.D. scholar, Department of Physiotherapy, MCHP, Manipal, had secured the travel grant from the European Stroke Organization (ESO) for the "Department to Department visit". As part of it, she visited the Division of Rehabilitation, School of Medicine, University of Nottingham, the UK, from 23rd May 2022 to 28th May 2022.



Alumnus receives Gandhi-King Fellowship

Ms Lavanya NK, a proud alumna of the Gandhian Centre for Philosophical Arts and Sciences, MAHE, has been chosen for the prestigious Gandhi-King Fellowship being awarded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, USA. Among the ten Indians selected for this fellowship, she is the only one from Karnataka.

The ultimate goal of the Gandhi-King Fellowship is to inspire and develop a network of aspiring young civic leaders from India and the USA to work together to advance civil rights, social justice, and inclusion locally, nationally, and internationally by exploring the history and legacies of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr Martin Luther King, Jr. Ms Lavanya NK was a student of MA Ecosophical Aesthetics at GCPAS from 2019 to 2021. MA Ecosophical Aesthetics is an only-of-its-kind postgraduate program designed to meet contemporary times' needs. It intersects journalism, philosophy, ecology, arts, and sciences.



Crossing Boundaries with Alumni at Germany

Mr. Dhanur Iyer, Alumnus of Manipal School of Life Sciences, MAHE, who completed the MSc degree in Medical Biotechnology in 2012, met and discussed with the then Director, Prof. K. Satyamoorthy, Dr. T.S. Murali, Associate Professor and Ms. Shruptha, Research Scholar during IGSTC sponsored workshop on Challenging antibiotic resistance: Perspectives on novel tools and diagnostics for efficient management at Global AMR R & D Hub, Berlin, Germany during 16 - 17th May 2022. Mr. Dhanur Iyer is currently working for his Ph.D. in Dr. Aydan Bulut-Karslioglu's Lab at Max Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics, Berlin, and is also a recipient of the prestigious DAAD Ph.D. fellowship. His research focus is on miRNA-mediated regulation of mammalian development.



Diversifier - CAM hosts French Consul General in Manipal

C'est toujours le bon moment- It's always the right time. "Diversifier" a one of its kind talk show, hosting the French Consul General, was organised by Campus Ambassadors Manipal in association with Department of Languages.

An interactive session was held providing insights to students from various domains about the future opportunities that France has to offer, starting from scholarships to placements. Students also had a chance to interact one on one post the formal event. This event took place on the 4th of July at MIT Library Auditorium. While this was the first of its kind, CAM hopes to host many more of such events in the future.



Guest Visits From Across the Globe



University of Arizona



University of Binghamton



National University of Oman

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