

TEJUS

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NEWSLETTER OF COCHIN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



Justice P. Sathasivam, Hon'ble Governor & Chancellor inaugurates the International Seminar organised by Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer Chair of School of Legal Studies. Dr. S. David Peter, Dr. N. S. Soman, Cusat Vice-Chancellor Dr. J. Letha, Dr. K. Poulose Jacob, Dr. N. Chandramohanakumar & Jean Vineetha Peter are also seen.

World University Ranking: Cusat scores again

Cochin University of Science and Technology has been placed in the prestigious "Times Higher Education BRICS and Emerging Economics Ranking". Cusat is the only University from Kerala ranked in this prestigious list of academic performance based on a comprehensive survey conducted among the 50 emerging economies including BRICS countries.

Only 26 universities from India placed in the rank list of 300 selected universities from among 50 countries. The ranking uses 13 rigorous performance indicators such as examining each university's strengths against all of its core missions-teaching, research, industry links, knowledge transfer and international outlook. The methodology has been

carefully recalibrated to better reflect the characteristics and development priorities of universities in developing economies", said Phil Baty, Editor, The World University Rankings.

The first six places in the BRICS academic ratings were bagged by Indian Institute of Science Bangalore and five other Indian Institutes of Technology.

Cusat is also the only University from Kerala to bag the academic performance rating by the NIRF of MHRD (Ministry of Human Resource Developent, Govt. of India) with 30th rank position. "The Global recognition conferred on Cusat is the result of academic reforms in tune with the changing times", said Cusat Vice-Chancellor Dr. J. Letha.

Cusat has also ranked in the Times Higher Education World University Ranking 2016-17 among the world's top 980 varsities from 79 countries.

Editorial...

Our beloved University has been reaccredited with an A Grade from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) after a pretty long period. This is a really commend able achievement! I whole-heartedly congratulate the entire CUSAT fraternity for making it possible.



Extension Infrastructure and Learning Resources, Student Support and good Governance, Leadership and contributed the maximum towards achieving the common goal and I believe that this whole process of quality upgradation of our university provides a new insight to our vision and collective wisdom.

The past couple of months were rife with accolades and achievements for our university. We secured a place in Times Higher Education World Education BRICS and Emerging Economies ranking in 2017 also. Cusat is the only university from Kerala to have a place in both the ranking we had the 30th place in the academic ranking of National Institutional Ranking - frame work under MHRD also.

All such accolades proffer a formidable responsibility on all of us in this university, by which we have to contribute relentlessly for maintaining the highest level of academic excellence in our university. I am confident that we will be able to elevate Cusat to world class levels in the near future.

- Dr. J. Letha

Accolades Galore

NAAC has awarded a score of 3.09 to our university based on an extensive evaluation process. This covers Curricular Aspects, Teaching, Learning and Evaluation, Research, Consultancy and

Management, Innovations and Best Practices.

The preparations for attaining the NAAC accreditation had begun much earlier. Everybody, from students to teachers and non-teachers

2016-17 among 980 top universities in the world. Cusat was among the thirty Indian universities that were ranked. Further, we found a comfortable place in the Times Higher

University Rankings

Cusat ranks among world's best Universities

Cochin University of Science and Technology secured a place in Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2016-2017. Cusat is the only University from Kerala to get a place in the World ranking. Overall 31 Indian educational institutions have been placed among the world's top 980 varsities, from 79 countries. The University of Oxford, UK stands first among the rankings.

According to the Times Higher Education Rankings, Cusat primarily focuses on science and engineering in its academic portfolio, but has expanded its horizons notably over recent years. Cusat has nine different faculties covering a broad range of subject areas, including various scientific disciplines along with Humanities and Law departments. Times Higher Education Rankings is the only global university performance table to judge world class universities across all of their core missions-teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook.

The Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore has been adjudged India's top institution in the list of merit.

Cusat Vice Chancellor Dr. J. Letha congratulated the campus community for achiving a fair position in the academic ranking. "This achievement is a shot in the arm for the University to attain greater heights" She said.

Cusat has been accredited as 'A' grade by the NAAC Peer Team recently and also bagged 30th place in the academic ranking in the country brought by the National Institutional Ranking Frame Work, under the Ministry of HRD, Govt. of India.

Health care system neglected: Governor

The high cost of medication which is unaffordable by the marginalized section of the society coupled with lack of health care awareness jeopardize the welfare of the masses despite the high growth rate of the country, Sri. Justice (Retd.) P. Sathasivam, Hon'ble Chancellor and Governor of Kerala. According to the Governor, state of less health is directly associated with worst quality of life, where human rights are seriously violated.

The Governor exhorted the Doctors to use plain language instead of medical jargons while communicating with patients. They should also encourage the patients to ask questions regarding their health conditions. "Government schemes for health care without service of the medical practitioners is futile and ineffective". According to him "It is the doctors who have the magic wand revolutionalize the healthcare needs of the evergrowing population of India".

The Chancellor was inaugurating the five day National Conference on 'Health Care Systems in India and Human Rights concerns' organized by

Justice V. R. Krishna Iyer Chair on Human Rights at Cusat School of Legal Studies. The Chancellor has also inaugurated the launching of the Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) in Cusat during the function.

Cusat Vice-Chancellor Dr. J. Letha presided. Dr. K. Poulose Jacob, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Cusat, Dr. N. S. Soman, Dr. N. Chandramohanakumar (Syndicate Members), Dr. S. David Peter, Registrar, Dr. P. S. Seema, Director, School of Legal Studies, and Smt. Jean Vinitha Peter spoke.

CSL offers Rs. 25 lakhs CSR fund to Cusat Ship Technology Dept.

Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) has offered financial support to the tune of Rs. 25 lakhs for setting up of modern infrastructure facility for ship model making shop in Cusat Ship Technology Department. The MOU was signed by Mr. M D Varghese, General Manager (GA&IR), CSL and Dr S David Peter, Registrar, Cusat. This is the first initiative under Corporate Social Responsibility Scheme offered to Cochin University.

Students of the Ship Technology Department, with the help of the Technical Officer make models of boats and ships. Ship model making involves practical application of what the students learn in their B.

Tech classes, says Dr. K. Sivaprasad, Project Investigator of Upgradation Setupat Cusat.

Cusat Radar gets Rs.5-Cr. DST grant

The Department of Science and Technology, Government of India has sanctioned an additional grant of five crore rupees to the ST Radar Centre commissioned at Cochin University of Science and Technology under SERB Scheme.

The fund has been allotted under the Research project entitled "Studies on the Troposphere features"

and Stratosphere Troposphere Coupling process over the Monsoon region using ST radar", in addition to the Rs. 20 crore grant sanctioned earlier under the same scheme.

The ST Radar commissioned at Cusat operates at 205 MHz frequency and is the first Wind Profiler Radar in the near equatorial site to study the monsoon features in India.



Cusat Vice Chancellor Dr. J. Letha is inaugurating Regional Training Workshop on National Academic Depository for South Indian states in the presence of Dr. S. David Peter, Dr. K. Poulose Jacob & Smt. Ishitha Roy IAS.

Digitalising of University documents helps to formulate policies: MHRD Jt. Secretary

Digitalisation of University academic documents will facilitate the Union Government to formulate long term policies for human resource development, said Smt. Ishita Roy, Joint Secretary, Higher Education Dept., MHRD & National Mission Director, ROOSA.

The digitalising of University awards and its 24x7avilability with authenticity will help to prevent all certificate manipulations once and for all, she added. University awards such as degree certificates, mark lists, provisional certificates, and migration-transcript documents are going to be digitalised by National Securities Depository (NAD), shortly. The digitalisation will help the University students to keep all the documents safe and secure and facilitate to improve their employability, she

added. She was inaugurating the regional training workshop on National Academic Depository for South Indian states at Cusat.

Cusat Vice Chancellor Dr. J. Letha presided over the function. Sri. Samar Banwat, Executive Vice President, NSDL, Sri. P. S. Reddy M.D&CEO, CDSL, Dr. K. Paulose Jacob, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Cusat and Dr. S. David Peter, Registrar, Cusat spoke. Pro-Vice chancellors, Deans, Registrars, Controllers of examination of South Indian Universities participated.

The project, in tune with Digital India Vision project of the Prime Minister, will ensure the safe keeping of all certificates like the D-mat documents of stock exchanges facilitated by National Securities Depository Ltd and Central Depository Services Limited jointly.

International Symposium on Antennas held

Cusat Vice chancellor Dr. J. Letha exhorted the young scientists and researchers to prepare mentally, intellectually and technologically to be in the forefront of global technological advancements. She was delivering the presidential address at the International Symposium on Antennas and propagation (APSYM2016) organised by the Cusat Electronics Department at Cusat Seminar Complex.

Dr. S. N. Joshi, Scientist, CEERI, Pilani inaugurated the symposium. Dr. Tapan Sarkar of Syracuse University, USA delivered the key note address. Kedarnath Shenoy, Director, NPOL released the proceedings. Dr. M. H. Supriya, Director, Dr. K. G. Nair, Chairman, Dr. C. K. Anandan, Co-ordnator of the symposium and Dr. K. Suresh Nair of IEEE spoke during the occasion.



Dr. S. N. Joshy inaugurates the event in the presence of Vice-Chancellor Dr. J. Letha & Dr. Supriya.

Around 200 delegates from various countries like USA, Spain, France and Singapore participated. Over 70 papers on Recent Trends in Antennas and propagation were presented during the three day event.

Caste based vote banks are the curse: Justice Markandeya Katju

Former Supreme Court Judge and Press Council Chairman Mr. Justice Markandeya Katju, asserted that the caste based vote banks are the curse of our country. According to him only scientific, modern and rational thinking will lead our country to progress.

Justice Katiu was delivering the Public Law Lecture, organised by Cusat School of Legal studies. "Our religions are based on superstition and may be after 100 years later people will start thinking scientifically and religions will vanish", he added. Dr. N. S. Soman, Dean, Cusat Faculty of Law presided.

Earlier, the Public Law Lecture was inaugurated by Mr. Justice K. Surendra



Justice Markandeya Katju

Mohan, Judge, High Court of Kerala at a function presided over by Cusat Vice Chancellor Dr. J. Letha. Adv. C. P. Sudhakara Prasad. Advocate General of Kerala, Dr. Poulose Jacob, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Dr. P. S. Seema, Director, School of Legal Studies, Naveen S., Assistant Professor and Dr. N. S. Gopalakrishnan, Director, IUCIPRS spoke on the occasion.

Employability should get equal importance: **Pro- Vice Chancellor**

Employability of students should get equal importance in higher education, at par with quality education and research, said Dr. K. Paulose Jacob, Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Cusat. According to him the institutions of higher education should understand the relevance of employability in tune with the changing global scenario. He was delivering the presidential address at the inauguration of Intl. conference on HRD, "Human Capital and Competency Building" at Cusat organized by Deen Dayal Upadhyay Kaushal Kendra. The programme was inaugurated by George Pathivil Jose, HR Director, UST Global. A book titled Human Capital. Employability and Competency Building was also released. Dr. A. Mujeeb, Member, Syndicate, Dr. K. A. Zakkariya, Director DDUK, Rassal M., & Dr. Renjini D. spoke.

City Girl Tops Maths Olympiad

S. Shreya of Saraswathy Vidyanikethan Public School, Elamakkara, Ernakulam has topped the Regional Mathematical Olympiad sponsored by the National Board of Higher Mathematics and coordinated by the Department of Mathematics, Cusat.

Devika M. Narayanan and Fathia Zarin Faizal (Saraswathy Vidyanikethan Public School, Elamakkara) along with other winners will be awarded KSCSTE cash prize, Prof. C. Venkataraman and Prof. Abdi memorial prizes at the

merit evening, according to Dr. A. Vijayakumar, Coordinator, Maths Olympiad.



Shri. George Pathiyil Jose, HR Director, UST Global inaugurates the Intl. HRD Seminar. Dr. K. Poulose Jacob, Dr. A. Mujeeb & Dr. K. A. Zakkariya are also seen.

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Acquire competency in soft skills: KSIDC chairman

Students with competency in engineering will find it difficult to get lucritive foreign asignments and advancements in their career without acquiring soft skills, said Dr. Christy Fernadez IAS, Chairman, KSIDC.

He was inaugurating a three day International conference on Recent Trends in Engineering and Technology organised by School of Engineering at Cusat. He exhorted the technologists to convert technology for the welfare of the common man.

Cuast Vice Chancellor Dr. J. Letha presided over the function. Dr. Earl Ingram, Senior Vice Chancellor, Troy University, Dr. Tatsuyuki Yamamoto, Professor, Shimane University, Japan, Dr. N. Chandramohana Kumar, Member, Syndicate, Cusat, Dr. Radhakrishna Panicker, Principal, School of Engineering, Cusat and Dr. K. K. Saju, Conference Chair, spoke during the inaugural function.



Dr. Christy Fernandez IAS, Chairman KSIDC inaugurates the International Conference on Recent Trends in Engineering. Dr. M. R. Radhakrishna Panicker, Cusat Vice Chancellor Dr. J. Letha & Dr. K. K. Saju are on the dais.

Need to enforce food security criteria at primary fish production: Dr. A. Ramachandran

Fishermen and fish farmers should strictly adhere to food safety guidelines for producing fish safe for human consumption, opined Dr. A. Ramachandran, Vice Chancellor, Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies. Though stringent quality standards

are enforced to fish and fishery products exported from the country, fish reaching domestic markets are not subjected to strict quality monitoring systems.

He was inaugurating a seminar on "Emerging Techniques for Safe Seafood", organized by School of

Dire Rese Dr. Jaya EIA, Dire Fish Con Jaha

Dr. A. Ramachandran, Vice Chancellor, KUFOS inaugurates a seminar organized by the School of Industrial Fisheries, Cusat

Industrial Fisheries, Cusat. Prof. K. T. Thomson presided over the function. Smt. Sairabanu, Additional Director, Dept. of Fisheries, Govt of Kerala and Commissioner, Kerala Fishermen Welfare Fund Board was the Guest of Honour. Dr. M. K. Mukundan, Director, Council for Food Research and Development, Dr. John Mohan and Sri. Jayapalan, Deputy Director, EIA, Govt. of India felicitated.

Dr. M. Harikrishnan, Director, School of Industrial Fisheries, Dr. S. Sabu, Convener, Dr. Sanvar Jahangir, Dr. V. S. Basheer, Dr. T. V. Sankar, Dr. Laly, CIFT, and Dr. S. Sanjeev, Cusat spoke.

Innovations should reach commoners: Vice Chancellor

The gap between innovations in the laboratories and commoners is the major impediment in the progress of science, said Cusat Vice Chancellor, Dr. J. Letha. She exhorted the scientists and social scientists to bridge the gap between the laboratory and the society. "What we want is a need based research for the well being of the society", she added.

She was inaugurating the 50th Sasthragathi Annual Celebrations organized by the Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad (KSSP), Centre for Science Communication of Cusat & KSCSTE at Cusat. Dr. K. P.



Cusat Vice Chancellor Dr. J. Letha is releasing the Golden Jubilee issue of Sasthragathi at a function organized by KSSP, Cusat Centre for Science Communication & KSCSTE at Cusat.

Aravindan, President, KSSP presided. Dr. J. Letha released the Golden Jubilee Annual issue of Sasthragathi by handing over a copy to Sri. Sreejesh Panicker, Cusat Union Chairman. Dr. K. Babu Joseph, Dr. K. G. Nair, Sri. P. Murali, Prof. M. K. Prasad and Dr. N. Shaji

spoke. Prof. S. Sivadas, Dr. Anil Kumar Vadavathoor, Dr. Prabha Chatterji and Dr. T. Jayaraman presented papers during the Seminar on Science Popolarisation and Literature in Malayalam. Dr. Kavumbai Balakrishnan was the moderator.

Mukthibodh's writings surpass time- Dr. Rajesh Joshi

The literary works of famous Hindi writer Gajanan Madhav Mukthibodh will surpass time and give renewed vigour to mankind,

opined Shri. Rajesh Joshi, noted Hindi writer, in his keynote address at the three day UGC National Seminar on the writings of

विदिवसीय ख. जी. सी गाईया संगाईति ति विद्यासन हीं. जी किया सामा जि. औ. राजेव विद्यासन हीं. जी किया सामा विद्यासन हों. जी किया साम

Cusat Vice Chancellor Dr. J. Letha is inaugurating the UGC National Seminar. Dr. R. Sasidharan, Dr. K. Vanaja and Dr. Rajesh Joshy are also on the dais.

Mukthibodh. The Seminar was organized by the Department of Hindi, Cusat to commemorate the 100th birth anniversary of "Mukthibodh". One must understand the background of his works as well as the idealogies that influenced him to understand Mukktibodh fully, he added.

Dr. K. Vanaja, Head, Dept. of Hindi, Cusat presided. Cusat Vice Chancellor Dr. J. Letha inaugurated the function.

Dr. Ajai Tiwari, Dr. Anand Patil, Dr. Vivek Nirala, Dr. P. V. Vijayan, Dr. R. Sasidharan and Prof. Ajitha spoke during the occasion.

<u>Cusat to establish intensive fish</u> farm in Kuttanad campus

The unutilized land of Kuttanad campus of Cochin University of Science and Technology will be converted in to a state-of the- art model facility to intensify fish production by utilizing indigenously developed technologies and systems.

The unique project forms part of the university's efforts to showcase innovative research projects that would promote sustainable aquaculture in the country. Cochin University College of

Engineering (CUCEK) will provide the technological support for the proposed National facility for Sustainable Aquaculture Production Systems

According to Cusat Vice Chancellor Dr. J. Letha, the aim of the initiative was to develop a project that would enable an integrated aquaculture model to boost fish production. Cusat would seek the help of NABARD for this venture, she said.

Cusat to be partner in Newton Fund Global Research

The varsity received another major boost as its National Centre for Aquatic Animal Health (NCAAH) was selected as a partner in the Newton Fund Global Research Partnership programme, which aims at developing aquaculture for food security, development and poverty reduction in developing countries.

The Central Institute of Fisheries Technology, Kochi and Kerala University of Fisheries and Ocean Studies are also partnering in the project that aims at evaluating the costs and benefits of prophylactic health products and novel alternatives on smallholder

aquaculture farmers in Asia and Africa. Senior researchers associated with the project said that the three institutions could spend an estimated Rs.2.34 crore under this programme. Cusat's National Centre for Aquatic Animal Health will focus on developing a drug that would effectively check the impact of white spot syndrome virus on shrimp culture globally.

Dr. I. S. Bright Singh, UGC-BSR Professor, National Centre for Aquatic Animal Health, Cusat will be the Principal Investigator of the project representing Cusat.

The project would be spearheaded by Cusat's National Centre for Aquatic Animal Health. A facility for designing and manufacturing the required tools and machinery for re-circulating aquaculture systems (an environment-friendly and highly productive closed fish farming system) will be set up at the campus.

The facility will also showcase integrated multi-trophic aquaculture (sustainable ecological aquaculture system) and zero water exchange aquaculture production.

Training will be offered to stakeholders in the fisheries sector in greener aquaculture practices. They will receive assistance in boosting farming practices that reduce the amount of water and space required to intensively produce fish products.

The university has formed a co-ordination committee led by Dr. E. G. Silas, renowned fisheries scientist, to carry out the project. Researchers associated with the project said that the cost of fish production could be considerably reduced as indigenously developed aquaculture tools, devices and machinery would be used at the site.

(with inputs from Sri. G. Krishnakumar @ The Hindu dtd. 30.08.2016)

Cusat gets Rs.17 crore support from Dept. of Science and Technology

The Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India has sanctioned Rs.17 crore to Cochin University of Science and Technology as part of its Promotion of University Research and Scientific Excellence (PURSE) initiative.

The grant comes in recognition of the significant increase in the total number of publications and their

improved performance measured with H-index values which assess the impact and productivity of a group of researchers at a department or university. The university had earlier received Rs.9 crore under the first phase of the incentive scheme.

"Cusat had received an excellent rating in the first phase. The latest grant is an acceptance of the varsity's sustained efforts

to foster research and its relentless pursuit of excellence in various scientific areas," said Vice Chancellor Dr. J. Letha.

Cusat could utilise the support for optimizing research man-power cost, augmentation of equipments and computational facilities, research consumables, organisation of scientific conferences/workshops travel and maintenance of facilities.

New merchant shipping bill in coming parliament session: Deepak Shetty IRS

A new merchant shipping bill to cater the interest of all stakeholders will be introduced in the next session of the Parliament, said Deepak Shetty IRS, Director General of Shipping and Secretary, Ministry of Shipping. The Directorate General of shipping will be

fully digitalized within a short span of time, he added.

He was inaugurating the Maritime Research programme at KM School of Marine Engineering. KM School of Marine engineering is the first institution in the country to

start a research programme in environmental protection.

He exhorted the researchers to give priority in reducing the atmospheric pollution and ocean pollution from merchant ships.

Cusat Vice Chancellor Dr. J. Letha stressed the need for application oriented research in Science in her presidential address.

Dr. K. Paulose Jacob, Pro-Vice Chancellor, Cusat delivered the key note address. Sri. Uday Purohit, General Secretary, Institute of Marine Engineers (India), Sri. N. M. C. Nair, Chairman, Institute of Marine Engineers Cochin, Dr. S. David Peter, Registrar, Cusat and Dr. K. A. Simon, Director, K.M. School of Marine Engineering also spoke.



Shri. Deepak Shetty IRS inaugurates the Maritime Research programme at School of Marine Engineering. Dr. J. Letha, Dr. K. A. Simon, Shri. N. M. C. Nair, Shri. Uday Purohit, Dr. K. Poulose Jacob & Dr. S. David Peter are also seen.

Campus Notes

Dr P. S. Sreejith participated in Intl. Green Symposium



Dr. P. S. Sreejith, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Cusat has delivered an invited lecture on Effects of

Dr. Sreejith P.S. on Effe

tool tilt angle on high speed friction stir welding of AA6082-T6 aluminum alloy in the International Symposium on Green Manufacturing and Applications Congress at Nusa Dua, Bali, Indonesia held on 23^a June 2016.

Oral Presentation Award to Shalini Menon

Shalini
Menon,
Research
Scholar
working under
Dr. K. Girish
Kumar, Dept.
of Applied



Shalini Menon

Chemistry, Cusat won the Best Oral presentation Award for the paper 'A dual channel optical sensor for norepinephrine' in the World Congress on Drug Discovery & Development held from 23rd - 25th November 2016, IISc. She has also won the Best Paper Award in the 26th Swadeshi Science Congress and the International Seminar on Recent Advances in Solar Energy Applications.

University Union Office Bearers



Sreejesh B. Panicker Chairman



Anju Muralidharan Vice chairperson



Cusat: Kerala Piravi Celebrations

The process development of every states should be based on the mother tongue, said Prof. P. Pavithran, Professor, Malayalam Department, Sanskrit University, Kalady. He was delivering the keynote address during the Kerala Piravi Dav celebrations conducted by Cusat Hindi Department. Dr. Vanaja, Head, Department of Hindi, Cusat presided over the function. Dr. R. Sasidharan, Syndicate Member, Dr. Ajitha and Dr. Gireesh Kumar spoke on the occasion.

Cookery Show under the aegis of Amethyst

The Dept. of English and Foreign Languages organized a Cookery Show, lead by Mr. Joshy P. V. and Mr. Jennison of FCI, Kalamassery for the campus

community under the aegis of Amethyst, a club envisioned by the department of Foreign Languages to promote various aspects of culture.



The Cookery Training Programme organized by the Dept. of English & Foreign Languages is progressing at the Department hall.

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The World Shipping Industry is facing a grave threat due to the Global economic recession, said Shri. C. J. Mathew IRS, Commissioner of Customs & Central Excise Appellate Tribunal, Mumbai. However the Shipping Industry



Shri. C. J. Mathew IRS is inaugurating the Passingout Ceremony. Dr. J. Letha, Dr. K. A. Simon, Dr. Paulose Jacob, Dr. A. B. Shasi, & Prof. N. G. Nair are also seen.

K.M. School of M a r i n e Engineering, Shri. Reuben Mathew Jacob IRS, Managing Director, Lakshadweep Development Corporation Ltd., Dr. K. Paulose Jacob, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Cusat

Global Economic Recession-Threat to Shipping Industry

is poised for a giant leap once the recession is over, he added. He was inaugurating the Passing-Out Ceremony for the Ninth batch of B.Tech Marine Engineering students at K.M. School of Marine Engineering, Cusat. Cusat Vice-Chancellor Dr. J. Letha presided over the function. Dr. K. A. Simon, Director, Prof. N. G. Nair, Course Co-ordinator KM School and Dr. A. B. Bhasi, Controller of Examinations, spoke.

Kerala become the capital of lifestyle diseases: Dr. Suresh Das

Kerala has become the capital city of lifestyle diseases like diabetics, cardiac diseases and cancer related ailments which require lot of biotechnological interventions for remedial measures, said Dr. Suresh Das, Executive Vice President, KSCSTE.

Kerala has so much potential in terms of natural resources and of human resources; however we don't perform well in the area of research in Biotechnology. We have to invest a pretty sum in this very important

area," he added. He was inaugurating the International Conference on Biotechnology and Neuroscience organised by Department of Biotechnology, Cusat in collaboration with National University of Singapore (NUS).

Vice Chancellor Dr. J. Letha presided. 'Dr. C. S. Paulose Research Excellence Award' was presented to Dr. Soong Tuck Wah, Professor, Department of Physiology, NUS, Dr. M. K. Jayaraj, Syndicate member,



Dr. Suresh Das, Executive Vice President, KSCSTE is inaugurating the Intl. Conference on Biotechnology & Neuroscience. Dr. J. Letha, Dr. Saritha G. Bhat and Dr. M. K. Jayaraj are also seen.

Dr. Saritha G. Bhatt, Head, Department of Biotechnology and Dr. Sajikumar Sreedharan, Asst. Professor, Department of Physiology, NUS spoke during the function.

The three day event had sessions on Marine Biotechnology, industrial Biotechnology, Nano Bio-technology, Medical Biotechnology and Plant Bio-technology and Plant Bio-technology. Dr. Ajith Vengellur was the Convener of the International conference on Biotechnology.