

SCS a step away from Reaccreditation

The much awaited Peer Team visit commissioned by National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC), Bangalore to Salesian College Sonada and Siliguri campuses took place from 20 to 24 November 2011.

NAAC is an independent body under UGC to assess and grade the Universities and Colleges in India in an effort to create and sustain quality in higher education without, at the same time, affecting the access and retention of students belonging to lower economic strata.

The visit of the Peer Team takes place after the submission of the Reaccreditation Report (RAR) in order to validate the contents of the report by checking documents and interacting extensively with the stakeholders. A confidential report is sent to the NAAC Office after the visit together with the Grade which will be made known by NAAC after due procedure.

The visit of the Peer Team began on 20 November at 7.00 pm with a dinner meeting with the Governing Body at Hotel Sarovar in Siliguri in which officials from North Bengal University too participated. Prof. Satinder Singh, former Vice Chancellor of Amritsar University was the Chairperson of the Peer Team with Prof. Rajan Varghese, Principal of Marthoma College, Perumbavoor as Member Coordinator and Dr. Nishi Pandey, HoD of English at Lucknow University as member.

On 21 and 22 November the team visited the Siliguri and Sonada campuses and interacted with the Principal, staff and students, the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), parents, alumni and the local people. They also visited the various departments, the numerous facilities offered in the college, the expansion works in progress, and checked documents that were kept in the specially prepared NAAC room. The whole of 23 November was spent in writing and finalizing the report which was signed and sealed in the presence of the Principal.

The exit meeting was held on 24 November at 9.00 am during which Prof. Satinder Singh spoke about his impressions of the college and gave several recommendations. While speaking in glowing terms about the quality and standard of various facilities and courses offered in the College and the high level of commitment to the social context, he insisted on the need for qualification of the staff, promotion of research and publication by staff and the need for offering more relevant and job oriented courses suited to the region. The team members were truly impressed by the quantum leap the College has made after the first accreditation in 2004 when it was awarded a C++ grade and

from their off the scene remarks we can realistically expect a good grade this time. Of the 20,000 colleges in India, only 4000 have opted for accreditation so far though accreditation has been made compulsory by the UGC for receiving funds. For reaccreditation only 636 colleges have gone in so far. Salesian College is the first college under North Bengal University to go in for Reaccreditation. The sole credit for this as well as for the spectacular growth of the institution during these past few years goes to Fr. George Thadathil, the Principal, who was specially singled out for mention in the report by the Peer Team as a very 'dynamic and visionary' Principal of high intellectual calibre.

All the stakeholders would agree that the process of Reaccreditation climaxing in the Peer Team visit to the College has brought in fresh dynamism and sense of direction to the college and a sublime desire to scale greater heights. This is the best thing that could have happened to the college at this historic juncture when it stands at the threshold of celebrating the Platinum Jubilee.



