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THE NEW INITIATIVES OF AIACHE

Dear Friends,

Prayerful greetings and good wishes from AIACHE.

I hope to find you doing well in your ministry of Christian higher education during the time of pandemic outbreak.

It has been a great joy for me to be a part of AIACHE. I am very happy to be associated with AIACHE and with you all in our common mission for meaningful and relevant involvement in Christian Higher Education in India. Under the able leadership of its past Presidents, General Secretaries and Board members, AIACHE has made significant milestones in the field of Higher education in India during the past 54 years.

Taking forward the road map suggested by the Executive Board of AIACHE in its concluding session of the 135th meeting, we would like to accomplish the following activities.

1. PUBLICATION OF THE BOOK ON "CONTRIBUTIONS OF CHRISTIAN HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA"

The Christian Higher Education institutions in India have undoubtedly contributed to significant developments in the livelihood of people at different levels. It is apt and appropriate to document those achievements by undertaking multi-dimensional research on the Contributions and outcome of Christian Higher Education in India. Given the socio-politico-religio-cultural context of today, AIACHE would like to publish two volumes:

Volume 1: *Contributions of Christian Higher Education in India.* It will be 'Telling our own story in an interesting way (Facts, figures and trends)'.

- Yes, it will be facts/evidence-based analysis/interpretation of Christian contribution. It will serve as a **powerful advocacy material** in the present social context, not compromising on academic research ethos.
- It will also serve as a resource book for reading and further research.

Volume 2: *Impact of Christian Higher Education in India.* This volume will be like "Others telling our story – How Christian Education helped them to become leaders."

- Each contributor to the book will narrate what impact CHE has had on them in the successful and value-based ways of execution in their respective professions at the national and the international levels.

- Each contribution will be like a personal testimony to what CHE has done to them in their personal, academic and professional life with reference to nation-building. It must serve as a ***symbolic testimony/witness*** to what Christians have contributed to this country and its people.

To collect the list of illustrious alumni from different walks of life (Politics, Bureaucrats, Judiciary, Entrepreneurs, Businessmen, Media celebrities, Film industry, Sports men, Social activists, Physicians, Scientific researchers, Educationists, *etc.*), we have requested the members institutions to send the names of prominent alumni from your respective institutions. We have received good response and an Expert Committee is working on this project. Those of you would like to send some more names, or if you haven't yet, you are most welcome to do so.

2. AIACHE AND ASIANETWORK

In a joint meeting at the AIACHE Secretariat New Delhi in November 2019, it was decided by ASIANetwork, Hongkong, and AIACHE, New Delhi, to go ahead with proposals of networking and collaborative programmes for the betterment of higher education in India, especially among the AIACHE member institutions and the Asianetwork institutions.

A Committee consisting of experts from the higher education was set up and has prepared a draft MOU after many online meetings and discussions. It is between AIACHE and ASIANetwork. In order to finalize this MoU and execute the action plans an Online meeting was held on 20th November 2020 with the Office bearers of ASIANetwork and AIACHE along with the members of the Expert Committee. Now the MoU has been finalized and the final outcome will be made known to you very soon.

3. NEW FRONTIERS IN EDUCATION (NFE) – JOURNAL OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

AIACHE has been publishing the quarterly journal "**New Frontiers in Education**" since 1967, the year it was established. Its first issue appeared in 1967 under the title "Journal of Christian Colleges in India". The present name New Frontiers in Education was approved by the Registrar of Newspapers and was published first in January 1971. Since then, the Journal has been published with unflinching regularity every quarter of the year. It is registered ISSN: 0972-1231. Now the journal is not in the UGC List but we are trying our best to add it in the UGC approved list.

The Executive Board has decided that now onwards the journal will be published with the collaboration of member institutions. We are very happy to inform you that the Salesian College, Sonada has come forward and agreed to collect the articles and publish the journal 'New Frontiers in Education' in the name of AIACHE for the period of one year. We request you to kindly send the articles on higher education to AIACHE so that we can forward it to Salesian College.

4. FORMATION OF THINK TANK UNIT – TO RESPOND POST-CORONA SOCIO-ECONOMIC REALITY IN INDIA

COVID days have made it nearly impossible to hold a face to face meeting, but have made it much easier for all of us to meet together and find time more easily to meet and share our concerns and lead ourselves into collective action, thanks to the virtual platforms available.

We are very happy to inform you that AIACHE has organized a series of **Regional Review Meetings** Online and we have successfully conducted the regional meetings Online in eight regions.

One of the important agenda discussed during the regional meeting was the importance of forming a **THINK TANK UNIT OF AIACHE** to respond post-Corona Socio-Economic Reality in India. The idea is to form expert committees at the headquarters level in order to reflect on the perceived consequences of pandemic condition and prepare realistic action programmes that could be implemented at all levels: local, regional and national.

AIACHE has initiated the process to form a group of experts, committed and skilled personnel who can think differently (out of the box) and suggest probable, effective and appropriate programmes. We have sent out the invitation to the member institutions and we have received the names of 39 Experts from different colleges. You are welcome to add or change names. Very soon we will initiate the project.

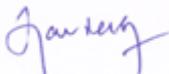
5. SETTING UP OF A RESEARCH PLATFORM IN AIACHE

Many of our member institutions need professional assistance in promoting research climate in their institutional environment. (The proposed research team may facilitate the member institutions in such areas as : Identification of potential research areas in the member institutions, Preparing the specific Departments to focus on research, Guiding them to establish research infrastructure, Linking the departments with external organizations for improving quality research, Guiding the faculty to collaborate with Government and Non-government industrial research departments, etc.) Hence we plan to take up this new initiative by establishing a research team consisting of professional expert from educational institutions, national and international research institutions. This visioning is part of the subcommittee of the Executive Board in operation and also intends to work on a Faculty Training Program as part of this initiative.

We hope to accomplish the above mentioned activities with the help and support of each one of you. We strongly believe that good work done in God's name will survive and thrive.

Looking forward to your continued support and with warm regards

Yours in the Lord,



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