

**“Networking will ensure inclusive and sustainable growth of institutions in Higher Education” – Dr.R.Kannan, Ph.D., I.A.S.**

“The UGC concept of Networking among the Universities for the purpose of sharing the Resources will ensure inclusive and sustainable growth”, observed by Dr.R.Kannan, Ph.D., I.A.S., the Principal Secretary of Higher Education, Government of Tamil Nadu while inaugurating the first “On site” workshop on “Computational Genomics” at Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati on Monday, September 19, 2011 at 09.30 a.m.

In his inaugural address he further added that Madurai Kamaraj University was one among the nine prominent Universities in the country recognized with the status of University with Potential for Excellence (UPE) by the UGC. He recalled the services rendered by late Prof. S. Krishnaswamy in establishing the School of Biological sciences during late 60s when Madurai Kamaraj University was carved out from University of Madras during 1967. The students graduated from this school are scientifically competent and they are occupying prestigious positions at the international level.

Realising the potential and competencies of the School of Biological Sciences, the UGC recognized Madurai Kamaraj University as a UGC-Networking Recourse Centre in Biological Sciences. The School of Biological Sciences of Madurai Kamaraj University is one of the two centres established by University Grants Commission (UGC) focusing on Biological Sciences in the country. The other centre recognized by UGC is the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. Thus, Madurai Kamaraj University has taken up the responsibility of empowering the Departments of the Biological Sciences in the southern part of the country. He complemented the good work done by the team of Scientists under the leadership of Dr.P.Gunasekaran to train the young research scholars of Andhra Pradesh at SV University, Tirupati.

The research team of School of Biological Sciences from MKU will provide research training and to impart technical skills in the area of “Computational Genomics” to the research students in and around Tirupati. Twenty five research students were selected to attend this workshop among the one hundred and ten applications received.

The “On site workshop” at SVU is first of its kind in this country and Dr. Kannan stressed that the Higher Education Department, Government of Tamil Nadu always encourages the state universities to establish strong research collaborations with the industry. He touched upon the human sequencing projects and the importance of sequence analysis in drug discovery and drug target interactions. Recent advances in the genome sequencing technology have resulted in complete genome sequences of many organisms including microbes, plants, animals and humans. He emphasized that genome technology along with the nanotechnology would provide new direction for targeted drug delivery toward cancerous cells.

NRCBS-MKU has received overwhelming response from the researchers all over the country to participate in the NRCBS summer/winter schools and NRCBS-MKU has

moved to organize this kind of “On site workshops” to cater the need of researchers deprived of resources for research. He also indicated that NRCBS-MKU has transplanted its facilities and personnel towards conducting this event.

Prof. P. Gunasekaran, Coordinator of UGC-NRCBS, Madurai Kamaraj University briefed the establishment and activities of the centre along with the theme of the present workshop. Prof. Murugesan, Dr Sridhar, Dr Murugan, Dr Mahalakshmi and Mr Devi Prasad formed the core group from MKU in conducting this workshop. Later, Prof. A.R. Reddy, Vice-Chancellor, Yogi Vemana University, Kadapa has delivered a key note address. Prof. K. Jayantha Rao, Principal of SVU College of Sciences welcomed the delegates and participants. Prof. S. Budhudu, Dean Development, SVU presented the profile and recent developments of SVU. Dr. Ch. Paramageetham, local organizing secretary proposed vote of thanks.

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**Issued By:-**

**Commissioner, Information & Public Relations Dept.,**

**Secretariat, Chennai-9**