



UTKAL STATISTICS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION (USAA)

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Minutes of the 2nd (Second) Alumni Meet (General Body Meeting) of the Utkal Statistics Alumni Association (USAA) held on 10.01.2016 (Sunday).

The 2nd (Second) Alumni Meet of the Utkal Statistics Alumni Association (USAA) was held under the Chairmanship of Dr Pradip Kumar Tripathy, President of the Association, in the MKCG Auditorium in the Utkal University campus, Vani Vihar, Bhubaneswar on 10.01.2016 (Sunday). Registration of participants started sharp at 09:30 am and each participant was given a set of reference materials i.e. (i) programme for the day, (ii) list of participants of the First Alumni Meet (25.01.2015), (iii) details regarding the USAA Website, (iv) copy of the Annual Report of the USAA for the year 2014-15, and (v) a copy of the souvenir "USAA" (ଉତ୍ସବୀ). The Members present in the Alumni Meet is placed at Annexure-I.

The Alumni meet was organised in 4 (four) sessions i.e. (i) Inaugural Session, (ii) Interactive Session, (iii) Business Session, and (iv) Entertainment Session with a Lunch Break in the middle.

I. INAUGURAL SESSION: (11:00 am to 11:30 am)

Dr Ashok Kumar Dash, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Utkal University was invited as Chief Guest of the day and Dr Jitendriya Sarangi, former Professor (Statistics), Utkal University was invited as Guest of Honour to this occasion. Dr Pradip Kumar Tripathy, President, USAA, welcomed the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr Jitendriya Sarangi and all the Alumni Members present on the occasion.

After the welcome address, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor was requested to light the inaugural lamp. Accordingly, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor lighted the lamp amidst the Guest of Honour and the dignitaries on the dais. After lighting of lamp and the guests occupying their seats on the dais, an opening chorus with instruments (*Ek Tu Hi Bharosa from the movie Pukar (200)*) praying before god for world peace was staged by four students of the PG Department of Statistics.

- (i) For kind information of esteemed guests and the Alumni Members, **the President, USAA** gave a brief account of the initiatives taken and the progress made during the last year by the Alumni Association. He indicated that after the First Meet, several initiatives have been taken by the USAA on the basis of the suggestions that came from the members as well as the initiatives came from the Executive Committee. These initiatives are;
 - a. As a first measure, steps have been taken to register the Utkal Statistics Alumni Association (USAA) under the Societies Registration Act (SRA 1860) with clearly spelt out By-Laws and Memorandum of Association. It will be a non-profit making registered body of its kind with a Logo of its own having perpetual succession.
 - b. The Utkal Statistics Alumni Association (USAA) has prepared a strong Database of the Alumni Members for enhancing interpersonal relationship among them and thereby contributing to the objectives of the USAA.
 - c. The Utkal Statistics Alumni Association (USAA) has also hosted a Website with the address (www.utkalstatisticsalumni.in) with interactive facilities among the Alumni Members. It has been a nice forum for the Alumni of the PG Department of Statistics to search their Alumni friends and interact with them as also to give their opinion and

feedback to broad base USAA activities. This has been very useful for our Association.

- d. During the last year, Executive Body Members had met the Principal BJB College, Bhubaneswar to ensure adequate number of students taking Honours in Statistics through proper counselling and the result had been positive. Besides, they have met the Vice-Chancellor, OUAT, Bhubaneswar, Principal, Stewarts College, Cuttack and the Principal, JKBK College, Cuttack with the sole objective of opening the subject Statistics at under-graduate levels. They have shown favourable attitude to our proposal and we are pursuing the matter with them.
 - e. USAA is seriously thinking of organising Statistics Olympiad among student pursuing high school and +2 courses with a view to popularise the subject among them. We have done a good deal of exercise in that regard to come out with a full proof procedure. Selected senior alumni are working on that very seriously. Very shortly, the exercise will be complete and we shall be able to start the Statistics Olympiad like other Olympiads.
 - f. We have also thought of felicitating selected personalities who have had their life time contribution to the cause of Statistics and the Statisticians as "Fellow of USAA". Selected senior alumni are also working on that. Once we come out with a robust procedure in place, we shall be able to start process and felicitate selected personalities with the status of "Fellow of USSA". This will help encouraging the younger mass to have their life time contribution to the cause of Statistics and the Statisticians.
 - g. The USAA had made an endeavour to bring out a souvenir called souvenir "USAA" (ଉଷା). On the request of the President, the souvenir (ଉଷା) was released by Dr Ashok Kumar Dash, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Utkal University and circulated among the members.
 - h. The USAA and the PG Department of Statistics have joined their hands in organising seminars and workshops on various aspects which will help the students in doing higher studies and acquiring skill in areas of their interest in India and abroad as well as pursuing better career prospect.
 - i. While USAA has many more agenda in hands for the days to come, the President expressed his heartfelt thanks to the Alumni Members and the PG Department of Statistics for their contribution in achieving many of the agenda items during the last year and he solicited cooperation of all concerned in carrying the objectives of USAA in future.
- (ii) Dr Jitendriya Sarangi, Hon'ble Guest of Honour, who happens to be Alumnus of the first batch (1960) in his address very nicely narrated the beginning days of the PG Department of Statistics in 1958 and the then noble teachers and other personalities whose contribution was invaluable for organising the Department in the initial days. Although all those noble personalities are not present among us today, we must appreciate their contribution for the growth of our Department. Having served this Department for long many years as a faculty, he expressed his concern that the subject "Statistics" is yet to see its growth and prospect in the State at par with other subjects opened at that time.

Merely holding a good academic degree and doing a good job is not enough for us. Statistics having its application in diverse fields, there is need for us to popularise the subject among the young generation, open the subject at +2 levels and +3 as also to allow wide range of optional groups inclusive of Statistics. There is need to introduce specialised course curriculum at PG levels so that our students will get better scope in the job market. With this he concluded that Alumni Body in collaboration with the PG Department of Statistics should think on these aspects and do something in the interest of the subject as well as the younger generation.

- (iii) On the request of the President Dr Prakash Kumar Tripathy, General Secretary of the USSA read out the Annual Report of the Association for the year ending 2014-15 for information of esteemed members of USAA and all concerned. Dr Tripathy gave a detailed account of various activities done by the USAA during last year, the present position and the steps to be taken ahead in respect of (a) USAA Database, (b) registration of USAA, (c) USAA Website, (d) organisation of Seminars and Workshops, (e) career counselling, (f) opening of the subject in different colleges, (g) preparation of the souvenir (ଶୁଭା) and etc. In giving the receipt and expenditure position of USAA he stated that during the year 2014-15 the total receipt was of the order of Rs. 126300/- against which the expenditure was of the order of Rs. 87430/- and the balance in hand was Rs.38870/- at the end of the year. The measure expenditure was on account of the First Alumni Meet held on 25.01.2015 details of which is available in the office. The account for the year 2014-15 has also been audited by an authorised Chartered Accountant. Further, he stated that for effective discharge of the functions of USAA, we have been holding Executive Committee and Advisory Body meetings at regular intervals and taking their advice. However, he solicited the cooperation of all the members in strengthening USAA and making it vibrant. He also requested all the Alumni to please give their considered opinion and valued suggestions for better functioning of the Association.
- (iv) Dr Ashok Kumar Dash, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, in his inaugural address, expressed his extreme pleasure that the Statistics Alumni Association has done good progress during one year of its existence. In thanking the Alumni for their contribution in that regard, he hoped that the Association should keep up this tempo in the years to come. He emphasised that Association should play vibrant role in nourishing the subject matter "Statistics" in the State. Besides, there is need for opening specialised applied branches of Statistics like Bio-Statistics, Statistics in Big data analysis, Statistics in Psychology, Industry, Bioinformatics etc so that the Department can produce skilled Statisticians who can have easy entry to the present day job market. There is urgent need for diversification from the traditional method of teaching and in other words the teaching should always be of applied nature rather than more of theoretical nature. He also expressed that the articles presented in the Souvenir (ଶୁଭା) are all qualitative and they cover applied areas of Statistics in diverse directions of present day need which alternatively gives to understand that the Alumni Body as a whole is a store house of knowledge and expertise and the Department should take advantage of that. The PG Teaching Department of Statistics in collaboration with the Alumni Body can work out modalities for growth and prospect of the subject. Wherever necessary, the University is there to support.
- (v) Dr Kunja Behari Panda, Vice-President, USAA and Head of the PG Department of Statistics acknowledged that the gracious presence of Dr Ashok Kumar Dash, Vice-Chancellor as Chief Guest, Dr Jitendra Sarangi, as our Guest of Honour on this occasion

has been immensely useful for us. The guidance and the advice we received from them will no doubt help us in taking forward the objectives of the USAA in right direction. He extended his heartfelt thanks to Dr Ashok Kumar Dash, Dr Jitendriya Sarangi and Dr Pradip Kumar Tripathy, President USAA for the valuable time they had spared in attending this meeting and the guidance they have given to us. He also opined that formation of the Utkal Statistics Alumni Association (USAA) was felt long since and it has made considerable progress during a short period. He promised that the Department and the USAA will go hand in hand and will jointly work out modalities for growth and prospect of the subject as well as for securing better career prospect of the young Alumni. Arrangement of the today's Alumni Meet is not a small task. Many of our Alumni members, our students and the faculty members had been working for this starting from planning, arrangement of different activities including invitation of Guests and as well as invitation of Alumni Members. Dr Panda extended his thanks to one and all involved in the process of arranging this meet. Last but not the least, he was extremely happy that participation of Alumni on this occasion was quite large spread over across the batches many of whom are placed in far long places like Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bangalore, Hyderabad etc and as well in different districts of Odisha. He thanked all the Alumni for their kind participation and hoped them to participate in larger numbers on subsequent occasions.

At the end of the inaugural session, Ms Upasana Mohanty our Alumni of 2012, presently working as a Lecturer in Pranath College, Khurda, performed an Odishi dance and the performance was highly appreciated among all. With this, the inaugural session was closed over a cup of tea.

II. INTERACTIVE SESSION-I: (11:30 am to 01:30 pm)

Around 250 Alumni Members participated this meet. They were very happy to have attended the meet and quite eager see their old friends and teachers as well as to interact with Alumni of other batches within the same premises of the University campus where they had studied in the past. Alumni Members of different batches starting from 1960 batch in order of chronology came to the dais, gave their introduction and interacted with their friends as well as those in the audience.

In this session, more than 50 Alumni Members starting from 1960 batch to 1980 batch came to the Dais and gave their introduction as well as interacted with their friends on the dais as also those in the audience. They being the senior batches possessed rich and valuable experiences. They had given useful advice to the younger generation as well good suggestions for better functioning of the USAA. All the suggestions have been listed separately.

At the end of this session, Ms Upasana Mohanty our Alumni of 2012, presently working as a Lecturer in Pranath College, Khurda, performed a Solo Dance on the song "*Ameje tumar from the movie Bhool buleya (2007)*". This piece of Solo Dance was quite enjoyable and thanks goes to Ms Upasana Mohanty.

Subsequent to the Solo Dance, a Group Dance was performed by the 6th year (2016 Bactch) students on the song Ek Tara from the movie Wakeup Sid! (2009). The Solo Dance was quite amusing ant the credit goes to the 2016 batch of students of the Utkal University.

Finally, Sri Anil Kumar Mishra, our Alumni of 2004 batch sang a song from a movie 1942 A Love Story (1994) and his performance was marvelous.

With this, there was a lunch break and all the members were invited to a lunch.

LUNCH BREAK: (01:30 Pm to 02:30 pm)

III. INTERACTIVE SESSION-II: (02:30 pm to 04:00 pm)

In this session, more than 70 Alumni Members starting from 1981 batch to 2000 batch came to the Dais in chronological order and gave their introduction as well as interacted with their friends on the dais as also those in the audience. They being our senior as well as alumni actively engaged in different activities possessed wide range of experience in diverse field. They had given useful advice as well good suggestions for betterment of the Alumni members and better functioning of the USAA. Their suggestions have been listed separately.

At the end of this session, the 5th year students (2017Batch) presented a Group Dance on the title song “Prem rattan dhan payo from the movie *Prem Ratan Dhan Payo* (2015)”

IV. INTERACTIVE SESSION-III: (04:00 pm to 05:30 pm)

In this session, more than 140 Alumni Members beyond 2000 batch and students of the current batches came to the Dais in chronological order and gave their introduction as well as interacted with their friends on the dais as also those in the audience. Even though they belong to the younger generation, they are quite knowledgeable and energetic possessing vision in a wider spectrum. Their contribution to this Alumni meet is commendable. They had given very useful and valuable suggestions for betterment of the Alumni members and better functioning of the USAA. Their suggestions have been listed separately.

At the end of this session, the 5th year students (2017 Batch) presented the song, “Mere sapnoki rani kab aegi tu from the movie *Aradhana*(1969)”. Besides, the 6th year students (2017 Batch) presented the song, on the title “Meri Ungli pakadke Chala from the movie *Ladla*(1994)”.

V. SUMING UP and Vote of Thanks: (05:30 pm to 06:30 pm)

Dr Pradip Kumar Tripathy, President USAA appreciated that there was good participation and proper interaction among the Alumni. Besides, entertainment programmes were all attractive and colorful. Many Alumni expressed their satisfaction over organization of this meet, the activities performed in the meet as well as the contribution of selected Alumni for whom this Alumni Meet was a grand success.

In expressing his deep appreciation over the participation of the Alumni in this meet and the kind of suggestions given by them, he informed the house that some of Alumni Members could not attend this meet but they have sent their good will and good wishes to our alumni friends over mail. They have also sent some suggestions in absentia. Briefly, the suggestions received from the Alumni Members on this occasion as under;

- a. Alumni being torch bearers of the Department, their knowledge and experience will certainly provide inspiration to younger generation,
- b. Alumni may arrange seminars inviting experts of repute to popularise the subject and efficient analysis of statistical data in decision making process.
- c. USAA should aim at improving library facilities in the area of Statistics in the Utkal University which will facilitate the students and Research Scholars.

- d. While USAA is conveying all messages to the Alumni through electronic media, the Alumni Members should also keep in touch with the USAA and their member friends from their side from time to time to know about the day to day developments and they should attend the meet in greater number.
- e. Vision of USAA should be clear so that people can connect, support and contribute.
- f. The Website of USAA should be user friendly.
- g. There is significantly high demand for personnel with specialisation in Analytics in the Corporate Sector. As such Special paper on Analytics should be introduced in our PG programme.
- h. Setting up of Training and Placement Cell in the Department is needed for the benefit of the Students. The major task of the cell shall be regular interaction with Industry and other organisations for employment of Statistics students.
- i. USSA should form a Core Group to provide Consultancy Services for Surveys, Market Research etc. The students will be associated with this activity who will gain experience and earn some money as well.
- j. Department should interact with Corporate Sector and our students should specialize in areas of current interest such as Analytics, Big Data Analysis, Bio-Statistics, and other Applied Branches of Statistics like Statistics in Psychology, Industry, Bioinformatics etc so that the Department can produce skilled Statisticians who can have easy entry to the present day job market.
- k. There is urgent need for diversification from the traditional method of teaching. In other words, the teaching should always be of applied nature rather than more of theoretical nature.
- l. The PG Teaching Department of Statistics in collaboration with the Alumni Body can work out modalities for growth and prospect of the subject.
- m. Students should be given guidance for preparation, for All India Services like ISS, AISSS,
- n. Students should be given guidance for preparation, for ISI Entrance Examination for Graduation and PG Levels.
- o. USAA and the PG Department of Statistics should work together for the growth and prospect of Statistics in the State.

Vote of Thanks:

Dr Kunja Behari Panda, Working President, USAA and Head of the PG Department of Statistics expressed his satisfaction over the grand success of this Second Alumni Meet. This has been possible due to participation of Alumni in greater number, their proactive interaction as well as constructive suggestions given to USAA. Dr Panda

extended his deep sense of gratitude and thanks to one and all the Alumni present on the occasion as well as those who have conveyed their good wishes through mail.

Dr Panda further indicated that the date for this meeting and tentative programme was merely decided by the Executive Committee in advance. A set of dedicated Alumni Members and our students voluntarily came forward and distributed different items of activity relating to this meet among them like invitation guests and participants, arrangement and practice of cultural programme, collection of articles, editing and printing of the souvenir, drafting and printing of reference materials, collection of funds, and the many. Had they not come forward voluntarily and discharged their responsibilities in a dedicated manner, it would not have been possible to have a successful programme like that of today. He extended his heartfelt thanks to one and all these organizers for their dedicated contribution.

Dr Prakash Kumar Tripathy, General Secretary of the Association expressed his deep satisfaction and gratitude for the pains taken by different teams in performing their activities and programmes on this occasion starting from registration of Alumni to valediction of the meet in a smooth, timely and cordial manner. The registration team was quite polite, hospitable and punctual. Our artists had spent good deal of time in practicing their role in advance and their performances of cultural programmes were quite amusing and enjoyable. Decoration and arrangements including the gate were heart touching. Light, sound and music arrangements were excellent. Tea, snacks and the lunch was not only of good quality and palatable but it was served timely. Stage arrangement and stage management was excellent. Photographs and videos of conspicuous occasions have been recorded which will remain as our memory for the future. Last but not the least; anchoring was so good that it made the entire programme quite lively which was beyond our imagination. This apart, lot many persons have extended their cooperation in organizing this meet. According he acknowledged their contribution and extended his thanks to one and all.

The General Secretary also sought for cooperation of all the Alumni members to make the USAA vibrant and to continue giving their considered opinion and suggestions for growth and development of USAA.

With this, the Alumni Meet was concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Bhubaneswar:
Dated: 10.01.2016

Sd/-
(P K Tripathy)
PRESIDENT