

Aayojan Centre of Excellence (ACE)

Introduction

Aayojan Centre of Excellence is a body that provides leadership, best practices, research, support, and training of teachers in various sectors. The literal meaning of a Centre of Excellence is “A place where the highest standards are maintained.”

It is a team of experts with specific knowledge whose role it is to provide leadership and purposely disseminate that knowledge within or outside the institute.

Centre of Excellence as a skilling ecosystem is envisioned to be one-stop resource centre, established/ working in partnership with Industry to raise training standards, boost productivity, address emerging skill gaps and align training and Research with Industry needs.

Objectives

- 1.To promote interdisciplinary research and innovation in key areas of research.
- 2.To provide support and direction on standardized approaches/processes, tools, methodologies, and knowledge centres.
- 3.To devise and implement a model to promote heritage-related curriculum and promotion of heritage assets of historic and indigenous sites, which strengthens our effort to protect and safeguard our rich cultural and natural heritage.

Roles & Responsibilities

1. To provide a quality education through regular educational programs and short-term programs.
2. To provide skills assessments, e-learning curriculum, classroom training, and certification programs in association with Academia and Industry.
3. To create a network of nearby institutes for capacity building and mentoring support.
4. To conduct research and development in related fields and disseminate the results of the R & D and other activities through the filling of patents and transforming them into sustainable proposals/solutions.
5. To create an online resource for the pedagogical enhancement of the Institute.

7. To support research activity at the Institute and create an innovative entrepreneurial culture that strives for excellence.

8. To assess the quality of academic extension activities such as conferences, seminars, Workshops, FDP, STTPs, PDP, QIP, TTPs and Industrial visits for the students as well as the faculty.

Composition

1. Chairperson -HoD ACE
2. Research & Publication Incharge
3. Outreach & Consultancy Incharge
4. Documentation Incharge
5. Academic Extension Incharge

Expected Support *(Academic/Administrative/Financial)*

Yearly Budgetary provision for the school magazine, monographs, and Thesis publications.

Space for working on consultancy projects.

Communication Protocol

Communication **To** P& D and Dean- All the letters/mail/Posters requesting for Exhibitions / Conferences /Seminar/ Workshops shall be forwarded to the P& D and Dean for information.

Communication **from** P& D and Dean- All the letters/mail/Posters received by P&D and Dean regarding Exhibitions / Conferences /Seminars/ Workshops etc. shall be forwarded to the HoD ACE for necessary action.

Communication **To** team ACE- Forwarding the relevant Information regarding any Academic extension activity to the respective departments under ACE for necessary action.

Communication **From** team ACE- Approval of any communication regarding event/publication/ Academic extension/outreach and consultancy received from team ACE.

Communication **To** Faculty and students- Any information related to Academic extension activities and publications inside or outside the institute shall be conveyed to all the HoDs for information and necessary action.

Communication **from** Faculty and students- Action to be taken on any application/mail requesting resources like exhibits/publication / Academic extension activity/consultancy etc.

AAYOJAN CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

MINUTES OF MEETING

A meeting of HOD ACE Prof. Archana Singh Rathore, with the following four heads was held on 27th May 2024 for discussion on the progress of work events for the academic year 2023- 2024.

1. Academic Extension (DKC)
2. Research and Publication (DKC)
3. Outreach and consultancy (NAS)
4. Documentation (BAM)

The following members were present:

1. Archana Singh Rathore (ASR) (Convener)
2. Naveen Sharma (NAS)
3. Dheeraj Chauhan (DKC)
4. Barsa Mohanty (BAM)

Parul was absent as she departed from the institution and DKC was given charge of this department. Though the formal appointment is awaited.

Following Points were discussed in the meetings:

1. Overall progress of the Aayojan Centre of Excellence
2. Review of events conducted in the previous semester
3. Planning and discussion of upcoming events for the next semester
4. Collaboration opportunities with external organizations
5. Student involvement and engagement in ACE activities
6. Other relevant points

Meeting Summary:

1. Overall Progress of the Aayojan Centre of Excellence:

The meeting commenced with a comprehensive discussion on the overall progress of the Aayojan Centre of Excellence (ACE). The Head of the Department presented an overview of the achievements, ongoing projects, and future of ACE. The discussion encompassed the impact of ACE on the department, student engagement, faculty contributions, and external recognition. The progress made in meeting the objectives and goals set for ACE was assessed.

2. Review of Events Conducted in the Previous Semester:

The meeting conducted a comprehensive review of the events organized by ACE in the previous semester. Each faculty member shared insights, feedback, and lessons learned from the events they were involved in. The successes, challenges, and areas for improvement were discussed. It was emphasized that event evaluations and feedback from participants should be utilized to enhance future event planning and execution.

3. Planning and Discussion of Upcoming Events for the Next Semester:

The department discussed and planned upcoming events for the next semester. Ideas for workshops, seminars, conferences, and guest lectures were proposed. The relevance, target audience, and potential impact of each event were considered. It was agreed to ensure a diverse range of topics and speakers to cater to the interests and professional development of students and faculty members.

4. Collaboration Opportunities with External Organizations:

The meeting explored potential collaboration opportunities with external organizations, including research institutions, architectural firms, NGOs, and government agencies. Faculty members shared their existing connections and ideas for collaborative projects, joint workshops, and research endeavors. It was agreed to initiate discussions and formalize partnerships to enhance the impact and reach of ACE.

5. Student Involvement and Engagement in ACE Activities:

The importance of student involvement and engagement in ACE activities was highlighted. Strategies to encourage student participation, such as forming student committees, organizing student-led events, and providing opportunities for research and publication, were discussed. It was emphasized that ACE should actively support and nurture the talent and aspirations of students.

6. Certificate of Appreciation

A decision was made to distribute Certificates of Appreciation for students who hold positions such as documentation in charge, members of the student Council, winners of sports and cultural events, and other similar roles.

Faculty Signature

Copy to P & D/Dean/HOD

Documentation Cell (Summary)

The documentation cell is an integral part of the institution. As we are working towards NAAC accreditation, documentation of all the activities, academic work and administrative proceedings is highly required to be carried out with higher efficiency. The documentation cell has been successfully working towards improving the documentation procedure and ensuring quality and presentation of files.

Following are the proposals for the new academic session :

1. Rearrangement of documentation drive: The documentation drive holds very crucial information about the institution and it needs to be rearranged in such a manner that it is easier to access.
2. Allocation of printer for documentation cell: As documentation work involves a lot of paperwork , it is necessary to have a printer handy in the documentation room for ease of work.
3. Involvement of faculty members: Year coordinators should also hold some position in the documentation cell, so that they keep a check on the proceedings of events, workshops , seminars held for their respective years and thus documentation can be timely submitted.
4. Event report: It has been observed that event reports are not uploaded on time. There could be a rule to submit the event report within one week of the event both in soft and hard copy, after being approved by the HoD,ACE.
5. Hard copy of student work: The institution needs to display students' work in case of COA visit , so it is advisable to keep the hard copies of sheets handy. More storage space / racks etc is an important requirement for this purpose.
6. Monthly exhibition of students work: Best works of the students of each semester can be displayed in the octagon every month so that everyone in the institution gets aware of the proceedings in studios.
7. Annual magazine: After completion of each academic session an annual magazine could be produced highlighting all the important events which took place in that academic session i.e workshops, seminars, guest lectures, site visits, collaborations, selected thesis and design projects , etc.

Research and Publication (Summary)

The Research and Publication Cell under the Aayojan Centre for Excellence has undertaken several initiatives to facilitate the publication of theses and dissertations in the **Indian Institute of Architects (IIA) Journal**. These initiatives aim to promote high-quality research in the field of architecture and related disciplines, ensuring that significant academic contributions reach a wider audience. Here are the key initiatives:

The Research and Publication Cell has developed a structured submission process to streamline the publication of theses and dissertations. This includes clear guidelines on formatting, documentation, and submission protocols, making it easier for researchers to prepare their work for publication.

The Cell provides mentorship and guidance to students and researchers throughout the publication process.

The Cell collaborated with the IIA Journal to publish thematic issues and special volumes dedicated to specific areas of architectural research. These publications provide a platform for comprehensive coverage of emerging topics and significant advancements in the field, highlighting the contributions of researchers affiliated with the Aayojan Centre for Excellence.

Thesis and Dissertation of three students were published in the IIA journal in this year.

1. Simran Gandhi Batch 20
2. Harsh Aggarwal Batch 20
3. Jasreen Kaur Batch 20

Research paper of Kshruti Shukla of Batch 20 will be published in the July month of Academic year due to two issues of IIA being based on JIIA award.

Academic Extension Activities (Summary)

| Events 2023-24 | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------------|------------------|
| S.N o. | Event Details | Concer ned Faculty | Date |
| 1. | Seminar on Intellectual Property Rights | PRK | 18 July 2023 |
| 2. | Seminar on Sense and Sensibility | PRA | 14 July 2023 |
| 3. | NASA ANDC Trophy | PRK | 5-30 August 2023 |
| 4. | Introduction programme for First Year Masters in Architectural Conservation and First year B.Arch. | PJA/ DKC | 11-13 Sep.2023 |
| 5. | COA TRC Awards of Excellence in Documentation of Architectural Heritage | PRK | 2 October 2023 |
| 6 | Academic Collaboration between ASA Jaipur and IIID | PJA | 13 October 2023 |
| 7. | COA TRC Awards of Excellence in Architectural Thesis | NSR | 10 |
| 8. | Educational Site Visit - History of Architecture - Ahmedabad | PRK | 21-25 october |
| 09. | Educational Site Visit - Ecology and Build Environment - Kishanbagh | PLU | 2 December 2023 |
| 10 | Education Tour to Srinagar | NSR | December 2023 |
| Even Semester 2023-24 | | | |
| S.N o. | Event Details | | Date |
| 1 | Lecture on Concept | BAM | 5 Feb 2024 |
| 2 | Guest lecture by Ar. Shirish Beri at Manipal University | BAM | 23 Feb.2024 |
| 3. | Documenting Traditional water system of Udaipur | ANJ | 3-5 March 2024 |
| 4. | Lime Workshop | SHP | 20 March 2024 |