

AULA MAGNA

Special Kairos Edition

Office of International Affairs and Collaborations
(OIAC), MAHE



MAHE celebrates Kairos International students' day

On August 9, 2019, a series of events conducted under the name of Kairos was conducted to celebrate International Students' Day known as 'Kairos'. The cultural games and events were first held in Marena, the indoor sports complex, following at the Dr TMA Pai auditorium. OIAC is the University's comprehensive resource for study abroad, research abroad, internship abroad, and other educational experiences worldwide. Kairos was marked with a fascinating mix of cultures from different lands and traditions make MAHE truly international. At Marena, Dr Raghu Radhakrishnan, Director, International Collaborations, enthusiastically inaugurated the event. The students of various countries put up stalls to portraying something interesting from their home-towns. The programme was then followed, at the Dr TMA Pai auditorium that initiated with the procession of the students from 58 countries. Various fun-filled activities and performances took place.

The Pro Chancellor Dr HS Ballal launched MAESTRO - Manipal Academic Exchange and Student Traineeship for Research Outreach- a portal exclusively outlining all the internships and projects that the International Students can undertake in Manipal. Apart from MAESTRO, the Vice Chancellor Dr Bhat had also launched 'Aula Magna', a quarterly newsletter published from the International office entailing all international details, features and news.

International students of MAHE celebrate Kairos 2019

Navneeth

Office of International Affairs and Collaborations (OIAC), MAHE organized a potpourri of events to celebrate the International Students' Day named "Kairos", on Friday, first at Marena, the Indoor sports complex, and later in the day at the Dr TMA Pai auditorium here. OIAC is the University's comprehensive resource for study abroad, research abroad, internship abroad, and other educational experiences worldwide. By promoting intercultural competence, meticulous erudition and acquisition of foreign languages, OIAC provides opportunities for international experience. It also administers student exchange programmes with partner institutions around the globe. MAHE has close to 300+ international linkages and facilitates over 1000+ mobilities with universities across the globe.

This is one day in the calendar of the University the international students look forward to. The OIAC meticulously works out a good blend of programmes which evince a lot of interest. And, the students look forward to the celebrations enthusiastically to let their hair down. A fascinating mix of cultures from different lands and traditions make MAHE

truly international. All that was on display during the programmes. At Marena the mood was that of a carnival. Dr Raghu Radhakrishnan, Director, International Collaborations inaugurated it. Bingo, World Cafe and Jive made it lively. The students of some of the countries put up stalls to showcasing something interesting from back home. The programme at the Dr TMA Pai auditorium began with the procession of the students from 58 countries. Each of them carried a flag of their home nation and pinned them on to the world map, symbolic of international presence in Manipal. Pro Chancellor Dr HS Ballal and Vice Chancellor, Dr H Vinod Bhat congratulated the students.





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Spotlight with the Vice Chancellor

How do you think that the institute of eminence status would promote internationalization for a mature institution like MAHE?

Manipal is the most successful of Indian universities to go overseas. This is not my quote, this appeared in the issue of October 2015 of The Economist. Internationalization is not limited to student mobility alone, it includes campus overseas, core-taught programs, core-supervised PhDs, multi-country consortia for research, opportunities for faculty to do their sabbaticals overseas. So these are all the things that make up internationalization. Internationalization and research are paramount to Manipal getting an institute of eminence and this in-turn I feel brings more opportunities, IoE status now gives us a chance to increase our international intake of students from 30% of all students, from 15%. It gives us the

freedom to hire international faculty, and also there are opportunities for for strategic tie ups for the best universities of the world.

I associate internationalization with travel. How important is it for students to travel to a different country and experience a different culture and different learning experience?

Student mobility was contemplated and carried out for the first time at the end of the second world war when there was widespread devastation across the world. So at the end of it, the world, especially Europe though that the best ambassadors for peace would be students, and therefore large scale mobility of students across countries and continents would lead to lasting peace across the world and this

was an assumption I truly believe in that travel is not so much for pleasure and not just for the student and individual, but for the world as well. Extended stay and study in an environment away from home, opportunities for looking at higher learning and employment in a foreign country, are some of the tangible outcomes from such mobility.

I'm from Czech Republic and I study in the United Kingdom and my question for you is how are the universities across the globe helping students to gain international experience?

Universities across the world who foster this student mobility, have an international office which facilitates not merely agreements to be signed



by universities but also creates opportunities for students to do internships, projects, or study abroad with their partners. In addition, various universities have student chapters for exchanges and I can only look at Manipal's example where we have the local chapter for IAESTE, AIESEC, now IPSF, for SPIE and several others which work independently and autonomously, under the tutelage of a faculty, to facilitate these exchanges. So I think these are the kind of things universities worldwide, which have a focus on internationalization, do.

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Student Testimonials

Natalia Markowiak

Lodz University of Technology

Kairos is an incredible experience. The one leaving memories you would not ever see fading and at the same time you wish to immediately forget, so that you get the chance to relive it all over again, with the same loads of positive emotions. It is about celebrating culture and people, appreciating the beauty of diversity, as well as creating a platform for free discussion and opinions exchange. It starts with you only hoping you will have some fun and perhaps make one or two new friends, and ends up with you knowing words from a few of South Africa's official languages, learning dance choreographies out of Bollywood movies, trying foods whose names you cannot pronounce correctly and finally making not a few, but at least tens of friends (that is how it worked in my case). It feels like stepping into the colourful world of various languages, cuisines, national dances or even diverse clothing styles. You are amazed and overwhelmed by the beauty of each and every one of them, however finally what strikes you the most is that in all that diversity there is unity of humans interested in each other and humans willing to share some part of them with their surroundings.

Julia Blikova

Exchange student at WGSHA

The program was educative, entertaining but mainly showed that students can also enjoy good fun. For me it was a unique opportunity to represent my country by holding my national flag. After that I really enjoyed the performances which the international students participated in. over the world. . Thank you for the experience of Kairos!

Matthieu

Exchange student at Manipal Institute of Communication

This event was really good day, I was appreciate that . The atmosphere and feeling was very good, the dinner was nice and the Bollywood dance was great. Maybe one meeting game to meet all international student during the morning for example is an another idea for next idea for next time. So if you ever wonder if it is worth your time and your energy - it totally is! Personally, I wish I could participate in Kairos once more... or twice, or maybe in all the next editions." I cannot wait for the next Kairos!

Culturals

Pictures courtesy of MTTN, The Photography Club Manipal, Manipal Digest

