

Chancellor George Yeo meets Nalanda University Community

Chancellor George Yeo is on a two-day visit to Rajgir. This is his first official visit after taking over the office of the Chancellor.

The Chancellor of Nalanda University, Mr. George Yeo met the University Community in Rajgir on September 9, 2015 for the first time after taking over as the Chancellor.

In his address to the community he said “It is an honour for me to take over from Amartya Sen as Chancellor. I can't fill his shoes. Happily, he has promised me to continue his involvement with the development of the University. He remains on the Governing Board and will help me engage members of the International Advisory Panel.”

Talking about the re-appointment of the Vice Chancellor he said, “Vice Chancellor Dr Gopa Sabharwal is doing an excellent job as the CEO. I have secured the Governing Board's agreement to have her reappointed when her present term ends in November. However I've since been informed that there are certain procedural formalities to go through which I'll do at our next Board meeting, most probably in December. There will be no break because the Statutes allow Dr Gopa to continue until her reappointment is formalized by the Visitor.”

Chancellor Yeo also put on record his appreciation of the former Dean (Academic Planning) Dr. Anjana Sharma's contribution in setting up Nalanda University in its initial years. He said “It was unfortunate that Delhi University was unable to extend the deputation of Dr Anjana Sharma, our Academic Dean. She was deeply involved in establishing the University and I would like to record here our deep gratitude to her.”

Talking to members of the local media he said “My visit to Rajgir is short because I have to rush back to Singapore to vote at the General Elections on 11 Sep. Nevertheless, I had wonderful meetings with students and faculty. We are working overtime to improve their living conditions here. The Bihar Government is helping us to secure additional accommodation and improve healthcare amenities. For the current academic year, which began in August, our student intake is about 50.”

He also said that a new school for Buddhist Studies, Comparative Religions and Philosophy will be established next year. Talking further about future plans he said, “There will be a steady ramp up of the student intake in the coming years so that, by the time, the first phase of the new campus is ready in 3 to 4 years time, there will be close to a thousand, if not more.”

Chancellor Yeo is on a two-day visit to Rajgir. Earlier last week he also met the President who is the Visitor of Nalanda University to update him on the progress of the University.

Before being appointed as the Chancellor, Mr. George Yeo was chairing the International Advisory Panel of the Nalanda University Governing Board since its inception. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2012 by the Indian government.

A graduate of Cambridge University and a Master of Business Administration from the Harvard Business School, Mr Yeo served in the Singapore Government, as Minister of State for Finance, then as Minister for Information and the Arts, Health, Trade and Industry, and Foreign Affairs.

Besides being actively involved with the founding of Nalanda University Mr. Yeo is also associated with several other institutions. He is on the Advisory Board of Harvard Business School, the International Advisory Board of IESE Business School and the International Advisory Committee of the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies in Japan.