



# Global Alumni Association of Bengal Engineering & Science University, Shibpur

Seeks to reach, serve and engage all its alumni to foster a lifelong intellectual and emotional connection between the Alma Mater and its graduates.

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June 26, 2010.

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

At the outset let it be mentioned that we are grief stricken with the death of two of our Alumni Late Sri Jamini Kanta Das, 62 EE and Late Sri Kamala Pada Ghosal, 64 CE.

It is my pleasure in placing the Annual report on the activities of Global Alumni Association of Bengal Engineering and Science University, Shibpur (GAABESU), for the period June 2009 to June 2010, before you, the members of the Association, at this Annual General Meeting.

### **Activities of the Association**

GAABESU was formed and registered as per West Bengal Societies Act XXVI of 1961 Vide Registration no S/IL/29880 of 2005-2006 dated 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2005. The Executive Committee took over the charge from the Second Executive Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

At the very beginning, a Strategy Plan was prepared under the leadership of the President. This document articulates GAABESU's midterm strategy through 2014, identifies a set of guiding principles and goals to fulfill GAABESU's mission i.e.

- A. To reach, serve and engage all its alumni/alumnae, faculty members and students in order to foster a lifelong intellectual and emotional bond between the college and its graduate.
- B. To enhance the status of Bengal Engineering and Science University, (BESU) so that it is again recognised as a premier institution for education and research in India.

The Strategy Plan details out the policies to be followed by GAABESU and delineates strategies in order to accomplish these goals. Subsequently a calendar of GAABESU activities for the period 2009-10 was curved out as a time-line for giving shape to these strategies in its initial phase. The present Executive Committee adopted this Strategy Plan and the Calendar.

We will review in this report, the progress of activities of GAABESU in the last one year so that course correction can be made, if needed.

### **Annual Accounts and Audit Report**

The Receipts and Payments Account and Audit Report for the financial year 2008-09 had already been circulated to all members in the last year. The Receipts and Payments Account and Audit Report for the financial year 2009-10 are being placed.

Membership Funds shown below have been kept in fixed deposit with UBI till date.

1. Local Fund – Rs.19,78,149/-
2. Foreign Fund in FCRA A/c – Rs.12,20,000/- carrying quarterly interest Rs.27,908/- (net of TDS)

### **Executive Committee**

Along with the Office Bearers of the Executive Committee several Sub-Committees with their Co-Champions, members and permanent invitees were constituted. These Sub-Committees are as follows:

Corpus Fund, Emergency Fund, Publicity, External Relations, Scholarship, Campus Students' Activities, Mentorship, Seminar and Conference, Membership, Finance and Administration, Academic and Industrial Collaboration and Next Gen and Advisory.

### **Conversion of BESU**

The effort on conversion of BESUS to an Institute of National Importance was started in 2003 by a group of Alumni. With the formation of GAABESU, this activity got a big boost and a significant

numbers of Alumni have since been actively supporting this cause at all levels. The campus environment has improved significantly with the new Vice Chancellor at the helm of affairs. The Government of India has allocated some fund in its annual budget for the purpose of conversion of BESUS to IEST. The activities in Government of India towards this conversion have progressed considerably. GAABESU has been extending its full assistance to the Vice Chancellor for this cause. It is expected that BESUS will be converted to IEST very soon.

### **Corpus Fund**

The Fund Subcommittee's activities are oriented towards helping achieve GAABESU's mission. GAABESU launched fund drive to reach out all chapters, batches, groups, alumni and also solicit donations.

The fund raising projects that have been undertaken for the period 2009-10 are:

1. BESU Documentary Film: Sri Buddhadeb Dasgupta, an eminent filmmaker made a documentary film on BE College/BESU of 30 minutes duration. The project has been completed. GAABESU has raised Rs.11.5 Lakhs (which covers substantial amount of the expenditure for the project) from alumni donations and has handed over the amount to BESUS administration.
2. Chaired Professorships: Fund has been collected for one chair and a distinguished professor has joined BESUS.

The fund raising projects that have been planned for the period 2010-11 are:

1. Swimming Pool Reconstruction project at BESU. Target: Rs. 40 Lakhs
2. Chaired Professorships (Rs. 5 Lakhs as a part of expenditure of one chair): Target: 2 chairs

### **Emergency Fund**

GAABESU has been able to help a few of our Alumni/Alumnae by providing emergency assistance during their time of difficulties. All contributions are acknowledged and posted in our web site. Since the last AGM of June 2009, fund drives were undertaken

1. To help Shri Chandan Malakar, 4th year Mechanical to fight Liver Cancer (donated US\$1,000.00);
2. To help Smt. Anjali Raychowdhury, ex-Librarian, to fight Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (donated \$1,000.00) and
3. To help Shri Arindam Saha, 1st Year ETC, Post-Graduate, to fight Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (donated \$2655.00).

It may be mentioned that similar efforts of fund drive started before June 2009 to help Ayan Basu, Abhijit Das, Kripamoy Mondal, Late Kamal Das, Dipak Majumder and Arindam Saha and donations were managed by Emergency Fund sub-committee of GAABESU between 2007 and 2009. The guiding document (with the scope of emergency aid, how to raise and disburse fund) has been developed and updated to reflect the current process with the names of the recipients listed in our website. Total contribution is estimated to be INR 50 Lakhs since 1998-99 (including the period prior to the formation of GAABESU).

The Emergency Fund Sub-Committee maintains a corpus fund that can be utilized in the time of need and replenish with individual campaign as and when any alumni or their family members seek help through their local Alumni Chapter, friends or relatives. Excess money from the funds of Tania Pramanik and Ayan Basu has been transferred to this general fund disbursed to supplement Chadan Malakar and Anjali Raychowdhury cases. GAABESU thankfully acknowledges the contributions of all alums to the emergency fund.

### **Publicity**

The objective was to publish newsletters in every other month and GAABESU has been able to meet the objective so far. It is a matter of pride to mention that GAABESU newsletter (ALUMNI LINK) is published professionally and carries news of the BESU community. In addition, Publicity Sub-Committee takes care of the web site too. This Sub-Committee updates the web site with news and other BESU related information regularly. When requested, this Sub-Committee also helps in editing GAABESU e-mails/letters before they are sent to the alums. In the past printed media was communicated to publicize BESU's case for conversion to INI and arranged tele-conference between BESU campus and alums living abroad. Flyers for scholarship, emergency funds,

swimming pool as well as documentary film project fund-raising were also published. Regular updates for these activities are provided and acknowledgements are sent to all donors via e-mails.

Two major tasks, not planned earlier, that have been achieved during this year are:

1. Providing big publicity for the entrepreneurship seminar held at BESU campus in January 2010. Through massive publicity and by arranging speakers, the Seminar was made successful.
2. Arranging the global tele-conference with the newly appointed VC.

The publicity group had planned to update the booklet (published for the Chancellor by a few alumni before the formation of GAABESU) detailing different fund raising activities and highlighting the successful completion of different projects.

The Publicity Sub-Committee for the next year plans to continue publishing Alumni Link, updating web site and preparing flyers for different occasions and events. If the Swimming Pool project starts before next June, the Sub-Committee has plans to prepare new flyers providing status of the project with another appeal for donations and update booklet detailing all activities from all donations.

### **Scholarship**

Among GAABESU's different activities, Scholarship Programme has been a success story. Although it started in San Francisco, USA about 12 years back, it has expanded substantially when it came under GAABESU umbrella. GAABESU has increased the number of Scholarship/admission/grants/book grants to the needy students substantially for the last three years. Since last year one scholarship have been awarded "Alumni Fellowship for Excellence" to a student on merit. This year the scholarships that have been awarded are:

1. 92 scholarship @12000.00,
2. 14 half scholarships @Rs. 6000.00,
3. 5(five) admission grants totaling Rs. 52000.00,
4. 5(five) book grants totaling Rs. 10000.00 and
5. 6(six) award for Alumni Fellowship for Excellence totaling Rs. 94500.00.

The total award amounted to Rs. 1080500.00. The names of the scholars and donors are posted in our web site. GAABESU thanks all donors for their generosity.

### **Mentorship**

It is reported that counseling program for the selected students did not make any significant progress. It is proposed that the counseling programme would commence from the next session starting in July'2010 with the help of the faculties. The pilot program of counseling would start with the Civil Engineering Department. It is suggested that the BESUs would take initiative in launching the program.

### **Seminar and Conferences**

The International Seminar on Entrepreneurship organised in early January 2010 was very successful. The participants enjoyed the Seminar and it was a very useful experience to them. The seminar was attended by many alumni from India and abroad. After the success it was decided that another International Seminar be organised this year.

It was proposed that the next International Seminar will be on "Energy, Environment and Water: 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges for Engineers and Scientists ". It was decided that the event being a huge one, it would take about one and half years to organize the Seminar jointly with BESU successfully. It would involve global participation also. It was therefore, suggested that the seminar might take place in Nov. – Dec. 2011. It was decided that a core group be formed with several members to indicate a) detail action plan, b) Broad program module and Tentative Budget.

The tentative Budget estimate for the seminar as placed by the Sub-Committee was:

- Income Budget : 100.000 Lakhs
- Expenditure Budget : 50.00 Lakhs
- Income over expenditure : BESU – GAABESU Corpus Fund for development

It was suggested that to meet the preparatory expenses for the seminar the fund might be drawn from the seed capital of BESUS.

### **Membership**

As on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2010, a total of 1280 alumni have joined GAA by either paying membership fee or by donating GAA projects, e.g., the documentary film, and the reconstruction of swimming pool. It may be noted that out of 1280 total members, 749 are life member, remaining being annual members.

GAA successfully added more than 500 members during the last one year, out of which 317 outgoing students agreed that their caution money @ Rs. 1000.00 be considered as the initial installment towards membership, before leaving the college in 2009. This year (2010), 352 students agreed the same.

In North America, the alumni enrolment is very poor; only 12 alumni (including 3 from North America) have joined GAA.

The membership status of GAABESU, as of 26<sup>th</sup> June 2010 is as follows:

Life Member (Active)	–	686
Life Member (Pending)	–	63
Annual Member (Active)	–	523
Annual Member (Pending)	–	8
<b>Total Members</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>1280</b>

### **Membership Efforts**

#### **North America**

GAABESU efforts towards membership drive were mainly by sending e-mails and occasional phone calls. But the efforts were not very successful as may be noted from the fact that only 12 alumni including three from Canada joined GAABESU.

Presently there are 150 members from USA, and another 25 from Canada. This participation rate is very low because there are total of 1200 alumni living in USA. Reason for Poor Result may be attributed to unsuccessful effort of mobilizing other EC members to put in some effort of approaching alumni.

Few alumni in Massachusetts were encouraged to initiate an organization for the alumni living in New England states. If this effort succeeds, there may be opportunity of enrolling few alumni from that region. Harder attempts are required to appeal alumni in California for inculcating their interests in GAA activities. Similarly alumni in D.C., Washington State, NY, NJ are to be approached more energetically. Unless more EC members put in some effort whatever little it may be, it may not be possible to increase the membership in a big way. Recent policy decision that allows an alumnus becomes a life member when the individual alumnus donates \$ 300 or more for any GAABESU project has shown some promise. It is hoped that during the upcoming fund raising effort for reconstruction of swimming pool few more alumni will earn their life memberships.

#### **India**

The implementation of the effort of convincing the outgoing classes to empower GAABESU their caution money @ Rs. 1000 as the down payment for their life membership has resulted a great success in enrolling 300 plus graduating students each year for the last two years 2009 and 2010. GAABESU efforts need to be emphasized in upgrading these groups of outgoing students to life membership. Now that GAABESU has two full time employees in the office, some successes are anticipated.

Membership drive in India may be organised in the following areas:

- a) BESU campus,
- b) B. E. College Ex Students' Club, Bidhannagar
- c) IIT (Kharagpur) campus,
- d) Greater Metropolitan Kolkata (including Jadavpur University and Howrah), and

e) Durgapur Steel Plant, Durgapur NIT and its surrounding region.

Only recently GAABESU effort in approaching BESU campus has been carried out.

Dr. Indranil Manna of IIT, Kharagpur arranged a meeting with approximately 30 alumni in the campus in the first quarter of this year. E-mails (with GAA application form as attachment) were sent to the attendees requesting them to join GAA. No positive responses were received. Dr. Manna is requested to follow up with these alumni.

Now that GAABESU is established and is operational for the last 4-6 years, more alumni in the Greater Metropolitan Kolkata areas may be more favorable of joining GAABESU as shown by their willingness to participate in GAA projects and joining GAABESU. It is encouraging to see them willing, but we need to pursue alumni in this area more aggressively. We are lacking in number of willing alumni/ EC members to participate in membership drive. If possible we need to recruit 6-8 willing alumni to help the Membership Sub-Committee.

With the perseverance, GAABESU has succeeded enrolling several alumni from Rourkela Steel plant and Durgapur Steel Plant. GAABESU office staff must carry on efforts in recruiting few more alumni from this region.

During the farewell, GAABESU presented outgoing students a GAABESU-monogrammed cup as a farewell gift. Students appreciated the token gift.

#### Membership Sub-Committee recommendations

GAABESU efforts should be put into convincing the passed out students of classes of 2008-10 for upgrading their membership.

Unless efforts are made to convince the alumni staff in the BESUS campus for joining GAABESU, successes in other campuses, e.g., IITs, Durgapur NIT, Rourkela NIT, etc may not be achieved.

All the members of GAABESU must utilise any opportunity to talk about GAABESU activities and try to enroll the alumni in the Association.

#### **Finance and Administration**

##### Office Assistants for GAABESU Office

There was no Office Assistant in the GAABESU office when the present Executive Committee took charge. An Office Assistant, Sri Sourav Kayal was recruited in September 2009 through a well programmed Selection Process organised by a Selection Committee. Later on in March 2010 another Office Assistant, Mrs. Tultul Roy was recruited. With the induction of these Office Assistants GAABESU office is now being managed at par with the increased work load. GAABESU extends thanks to these Office Assistants.

Several new pieces of furniture and one desk top computer have been purchased for use in GAABESU office.

##### GAABESU Executive Committee Meetings

There have been 8 Executive Committee Meeting, normally at an interval of 6 weeks, held since the present Executive Committee took over charge. In every meeting Tele Conference facilities were extended particularly to the Executive Committee members residing abroad and members residing in India outside Kolkata. These facilities would not have been possible without the untiring efforts put by Sri Swapan Saha.

##### Maintenance and upkeep of GAABESU accounts

All the matured Fixed Deposit amounts have been reinvested. All the accounts under the control of GAABESU are maintained on regular basis. Maintenance and updating supports are being extended on regular basis to BESUS Foundation Account which have been created to receive the foreign contribution from GAABESU members outside India.

##### Issuance of acknowledgement, receipts and 80G certifications to subscribers and donors

All the person depositing subscriptions for membership or donation in response to the fund raising campaigns for Development Projects or Emergency Fund are promptly provided with the acknowledgement and receipts electronically through e-mails or surface mail (in case of non-availability of e-mail ID) to their deposits once the amount is debited to the GAABESU or BESUS Foundation Account, without any fail.

GAABESU has already sent to all the Indian donors the 80G Certifications issued by the Finance Officer of BESUS.

#### GAABESU Certification for 80G status

GAABESU Working President, Sri Shyama Prasad Datta had contacted one Income Tax Practitioner to seek his assistance for submission of application for grant of approval to GAABESU under section 80G(5) (VI) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 and necessary follow-up action to get the approval. The person agreed to do the needful. Sri Datta was authorized to interact with the person and decide steps that would be necessary for processing the matter.

#### Application for FCRA Approval (one time)

GAABESU member Sri Ananta Deb Datta posted in Delhi is pursuing the matter with the Union Home Ministry. GAABESU President Sri Arun Deb reported that he had a talk with Mr. Ananta Deb Datta when Mr. Datta mentioned that FCRA Office is working on both of our one time application as well as of our permanent application. Mr. Datta would make a plan to visit the FCRA Office toward the end of June, 2010.

#### FCRA Application 8C for permanent approval

GAABESU Working President, Sri Shyama Prasad Datta would complete the application for registration within a short time. He expressed that it might be better to submit application for registration after getting approval (one time) for which application had been made already.

#### Welcome ceremony to new alumni

The welcome ceremony to the outgoing students '2010 as new alumni was successfully held on 7<sup>th</sup> May'10 at 6 p.m. in the Institute Hall with GAABESU Working President Shyama Prasad Datta in the chair. Prof. Ajoy Kumar Ray Vice-Chancellor BESU graced the occasion by his presence as Chief Guest.

At the outset the student were greeted with rose buds on behalf of GAABESU. Guests were then invited to take their seats on the dais. Sri S.P. Datta, Sri Aditya Bandyopadhyay, Sri Indra Nath Sinha, Lt. Col. Prof. Anjan Ghosh, Sri Santanu Karmakar, Sri Amitabha Datta delivered their speeches highlighting the activities and various objects of GAABESU. The Chief Guest Prof. Ajoy Kumar Ray also delivered his speech inspiring the alumni students to actively participate in the welfare activities of GAABESU. During the function membership forms were handed over to 200 students and 165 completed forms were received back on the spot. Mementos (coffee Mug) and refreshments were also distributed among the new alumni.

#### Recognition

GAABESU recognizes the alumni/alumnae who have reached commendable milestones in their careers during the last year. We salute them. These are not only their personal accomplishments but also recognition of our Alma Mater that has nurtured them.

#### Appreciation

I, on behalf of the Executive Committee, appreciate the selfless works put up by all Executive Committee members, Permanent Invitees and many other Alums all over the world without which GAABESU could never function. I shall also fail in my duty if I do not mention help and co-operation extended by the Office Assistants of GAABESU, whose help and active participation were essential to run GAABESU smoothly. I appreciate all help extended by BESUS authorities, faculty members and others in the administration without their help it would not have been possible to move GAABESU forward. At the end, I thank all Alumni/Alumnae irrespective of their affiliations with GAABESU for their help and guidance in making GAABESU the best Alumni Association in India and a true representative of all alums in its interaction with BESUS.

With warm regards to all the members of GAABESU,

(Arun Kumar Deb)  
President, GAABESU

(Aditya Bandyopadhyay)  
Hony. Secretary, GAABESU

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Registered under the West Bengal Societies Registration Act, 1961. S/1L/29880 of 2005-2006.

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