

Congratulatory Remarks

Launch of the Diploma in ELT with ICT Skills for Upper Primary Teachers

Gauhati University
India

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Presented by
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Vice Chancellor and staff of Gauhati University,
Honourable guests, ladies and gentlemen

It gives me great honour and pleasure to be part of this historic occasion when Gauhati University is launching its Diploma in ELT with ICT Skills for Upper Primary Teachers. I know that the road to this has been long and hard but today we celebrate those giant steps that were made. I wish to salute all those that have helped bring us here.

1. I salute the staff of the Department of ELT for their hard work and dedication to this project. I know you must have sacrificed many hours to the modules done but I also believe that now you can look at these modules and celebrate your achievements.
2. I salute Dr. Padmini Boruah for leading the project and for all her commitment to the project.
3. I salute the University administration for providing the right environment for the staff to produce these modules and for all the administrative and logistical support you gave
4. Last but not least I wish to thank my predecessor, Dr. Abdurrahman Umar for his input into this project and all the consultants that were involved.

You all worked hard. Thank you

English Language is currently spoken as a first language by approximately 359 million people whilst between 470 million and 1 billion are estimated as speaking English as a second language. It is also seen as the lingua franca of the global world. The importance of English language in our countries and in the global stage is therefore unquestionable. The challenge for us is to ensure we have highly qualified and competent teachers. I therefore commend Gauhati

University for mounting this diploma programme. I believe it will meet real needs and as COL we are pleased to have been part of this endeavour.

I also wish to interest the University in a whole host of learning resources available on the COL website as OER (<http://bit.ly/1rHAI8q>). In the area of English Language we have 6 modules covering a variety of topics in English Language and these are also available as OER (<http://orelt.col.org/>) you are free to access these resources and use them in your programmes. Just let us know when you want to do this.

Now, allow me to say a few things about the Commonwealth of Learning (COL). We are an intergovernmental organisation created by Commonwealth Heads of Government to encourage the development and sharing of open learning/distance education knowledge, resources and technologies. COL is helping developing nations improve access to quality education and training. We currently have projects in a number of countries in Asia including Bangladesh, India, Malaysia, Maldives, and Sri Lanka. These projects are in two major areas:

1. Education

- Open Schooling;
- Teacher Education;
- Higher Education; and
- the Virtual University for Small States of the Commonwealth (VUSSC)

2. Livelihoods & Health

- Technical and Vocational Skills Development (TVSD),
- Lifelong Learning for Farmers (L3F), and
- Healthy Communities

As I come to the end of this speech, permit me once again to say congratulations to the University for launching this programme and best wishes as you run it. I hope you will keep us informed of your progress in this programme – we would love to always celebrate with you.

Warm greetings and salutations from the President of the Commonwealth of Learning, Prof Asha Kanwar and from all the staff

Thank you ladies and gentlemen