

## **ACTIVITY REPORT OF MOU**



**Rajiv Gandhi University**  
**(A Central University)**  
**Rono Hills, Doimukh**  
**Arunachal Pradesh, India**



**University of Missouri**  
**Columbia USA**

## 1. Introduction

The Memorandum of Understanding was agreed upon between the University of Missouri (Columbia USA) and Rajiv Gandhi University (A Central University), Rono Hills, Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh on 12 June August 2014 for exchange of educational and research materials, publications, academic information. Additionally, exchange the faculty and research personnel for the purpose of collaborative research teaching and academic discussion. Long and short term academic faculty exchange program to develop opportunities to carry out research and sharing technical knowledge.

## 2. About the Institutions

### 2.1 Rajiv Gandhi University

Rajiv Gandhi University (formerly Arunachal University), the premier institute of higher learning in Arunachal Pradesh, has completed thirty-seven years of its existence. Smt. Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, laid the foundation stone of the University on February 4, 1984. Subsequently, it started postgraduate courses from the Academic session 1988-89 in the sprawling and picturesque Rono Hills. The University was converted into a Central University on April 9, 2007 by a notification of Ministry of Human Resource Development (now Ministry of Education), Government of India. The RGU was ranked as 2<sup>nd</sup> in the country amongst the other central universities of India by the UGC (Ministry of Education), New Delhi based on the performances in 17 parameters.

The only affiliating University in the state, has, its jurisdiction encompassing whole of the state. In total, there are 45 colleges affiliated to this university. The University offers academic programmes from certificate to doctoral degree through its different departments with its motto "*Vidhyaamritshnute*" i.e. "Excellence and Immortality through nectar of Education". In a span of around four decades, the Rajiv Gandhi University has grown into an institution with

proven academic excellence, social commitment and cultural interest with a clear vision for its future growth.

## **2.2 University of Missouri (Columbia USA)**

The University of Missouri (Mizzou, MU, or Missouri) is a public land-grant research university in Columbia, Missouri. It is Missouri's largest university and the flagship of the four-campus University of Missouri System. MU was founded in 1839 and was the first public university west of the Mississippi River. It has been a member of the Association of American Universities since 1908 and is classified among "R1: Doctoral Universities – Very high research activity". University of Missouri alumni, faculty, and staff include 18 Rhodes Scholars, 19 Truman Scholars, 141 Fulbright Scholars, 7 Governors of Missouri, and 6 members of the U.S. Congress.[20] Two alumni and faculty have been awarded the Nobel Prize:

Enrolling 30,000 students annually, it offers more than 300 degree programs in thirteen major academic divisions. Its Missouri School of Journalism was founded by Walter Williams in 1908 as the world's first journalism school; it publishes a daily newspaper, the Columbia Missourian, and operates NBC affiliate KOMU. The University of Missouri Research Reactor Center is the United States' sole source of isotopes used in nuclear medicine. The university operates University of Missouri Health Care, running a number of hospitals and clinics in Mid-Missouri.

Its NCAA Division I athletic teams are known as the Missouri Tigers, and compete in the Southeastern Conference. The American tradition of homecoming is claimed to have originated at Missouri.

The campus is home to the State Historical Society of Missouri, and the Museum of Art and Archaeology. Its historic center, Francis Quadrangle, is a National Historic District. Jesse Hall and the Missouri Theatre are large performance

### 3. Programmes and Activities

The following activities were undertaken as per the mutually agreed provisions of the MoU:

1. Ms. Liyir Karso, a research student received 2017 Albert Bates Lord Fellowship in Oral Tradition sponsored by the Center for Studies in Oral Traditions, University of Missouri-Columbia.
2. As per the provision of MoU the institutions have exchange education and research material, publications, and academic information. The institutions will also exchange faculty and research personnel for the purpose of collaborative research, teaching and academic discussion.
3. Long term and short term academic and faculty exchange program to explore opportunities to carry out research and sharing technical knowledge and enrollment of qualified students in the other academic programs, where each student involved in the programs will be subjected to the requirements of admission and tuition and fees of the host institute.
4. Special education and training program opportunities wherever feasible to students, faculties and staff from each institution.



## Center for Studies in Oral Tradition

University of Missouri-Columbia

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RE: LIYIR KARSO, 2017 Fellow, Albert Bates Lord Fellowship in Oral Tradition

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to report that LIYIR KARSO has satisfied all of the requirements and discharged all of the duties associated with her tenure of the 2017 Albert Bates Lord Fellowship in Oral Tradition sponsored by the Center for Studies in Oral Tradition. During her residence August 21, 2017 through February 27, 2018 she has carried out research in the libraries of the University of Missouri, and studied and consulted with faculty in the Department of English, the Department of Religious Studies, the School of Law, and the director of the Center for Studies in Oral Tradition working toward completion of her project "The Customary Laws of Arunachal Pradesh: A Historical Study of Traditional Galo Society." In connection with this work she also visited the Smithsonian-National Museum of the American Indian, New York, N.Y., formerly the George Gustav Heye Center established in 1922.

LIYIR KARSO gave the 7th Albert Bates Lord Fellow's public lecture Monday, December 4, 2017 on this university's campus "The Customary Law of the Galo of Arunachal Pradesh: A Social Construction of Oral Tradition, which was well received by the students, faculty, and members of the public in attendance. Her lecture brought attention to the complexities of reconciling traditional practices and mores with modern policies and economics demands.

In closing, it has been a great pleasure personally and rewarding academically to host LIYIR KARSO during the period of her fellowship, here. She has contributed to enriching the intellectual life of the campus. Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills, can justifiably congratulate itself on her accomplishments, and I wish her success in all of her future endeavors.

Sincerely,