

**NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON
BUILDING A NATIONAL REPOSITORY
OF OPEN COURSES
3.00 – 5.30 pm, Friday 9 October 2020**

Report

The National Consultation on Building a National Repository of Open Courses was convened by Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA) and National Digital Library of India (NDLI).

Date and time:

The consultation was held between 3.00 – 5.30 pm on Friday 9 October 2020. The consultation was held through videoconferencing.

Objective: The objective was to deliberate on a proposed initiative to develop a National Repository of Open Courses (NROC) with Open Universities in India.

Participants:

Chair and Chief Guest	
1	<i>Chair:</i> Prof. Nageshwar Rao, Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU
2	<i>Chief Guest:</i> Mr Rakesh Ranjan, Additional Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, GOI
Vice-Chancellors of Open Universities	
3	Prof. Vidyashankar S. Karnataka State Open University
4	Prof. Om Prakash Singh Negi Uttarakhand Open University
5	Prof. E Vayunandan Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University
6	Prof. Karamjeet Singh Jagat Guru Nanak Dev Punjab State Open University
7	Prof. K Parthasarathy Tamil Nadu Open University
8	Prof. Srikant Mohapatra Odisha State Open University
9	Prof. Ami U Upadhyay Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University
10	Prof. Jayant Sonwalkar Madhya Pradesh Bhoj Open University
12	Prof. R L Godhra (represented by colleague) Vardhman Mahaveer Open University
13	Prof. Bansh Gopal Singh Pandit Sunderlal Sharma Open University
14	Prof. Kandarpa Das (represented by colleague) Krishna Kanta Handiqui State Open University
CEMCA	
15	Prof. Madhu Parhar, Director
16	Dr Manas Ranjan Panigrahi, Senior Programme Officer (Education)
17	Dr Shiffon Chatterjee, Senior Programme Officer (Online & Blended Learning)
18	Mr Dalip Kumar Tetri, Adviser, Administration and Finance
National Digital Library of India	
19	Prof. Partha Pratim Chakrabarti, Principal Investigator, NDLI and former Director, IIT Kharagpur
20	Prof. Partha Pratim Das, Joint Principal Investigator
21	Prof. Plaban Kumar Bhowmick, Co-Principal Investigator
22	Prof. Prabuddha Ganguli, Co-Principal Investigator
23	Mr Nanda Gopal Chattopadhyay, Chief Technical Officer
25	Mr Anirban Sarma, Chief International Outreach and Communications Officer

The welcome remarks were presented by Prof. Madhu Parhar, Director, CEMCA. Prof. Parhar outlined the objectives and strategies of CEMCA, and the rationale for the NROC in the context of Open Universities and the National Education Policy 2020. Prof. Partha Pratim Chakrabarti, Principal Investigator, NDLI and former Director, IIT Kharagpur, presented the vision, aims and development of NROC.

The address by Mr Rakesh Ranjan, Additional Secretary, Dept of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, GOI, focused on the following aspects: NEP 2020 and the idea of a common digital repository; how NROC will strengthen visibility of OUs and will support MOE's goals; the key role of Vice-Chancellors of OUs and need for more courses in newer areas. He also emphasised how NROC will enable improvement of quality of courses; regional language translations of courses; and curation of courses by drawing on elements from the best courses available online. He mentioned that participation in NROC initiative is purely voluntary.

Prof. Nageshwar Rao, Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU and Chair of the National Consultation lauded the proposal from CEMCA and NDLI, and posited that it will concretize the idea of *'One Portal One Nation'*. Vice-Chancellors of Open Universities presented their views. They applauded the NROC initiative and articulated their support for it.

There were four thematic presentations. These were:

1. 'Integrating Contents on to NROC': Prof. Partha Pratim Das, Joint Principal Investigator, NDLI
2. 'Architecture and Features of NROC': Prof. Plaban Kumar Bhowmick, Co-Principal Investigator, NDLI
3. 'Copyright issues and content sharing': Prof. Prabuddha Ganguli, Co-Principal Investigator, NDLI
4. 'Capacity development support for Open Universities': Prof. Madhu Parhar, Director, CEMCA

In the closing remarks by Prof. Nageshwar Rao, Vice-Chancellor, IGNOU, the initiative was approved and action points were suggested: draft MOU to be sent to a small group of VCs for general acceptance and then to all VCs; timelines to be set; and Ministry of Education to be requested for a supporting letter. The meeting concluded with vote of thanks by Prof. Madhu Parhar, CEMCA, and Prof. P P Chakrabarti, NDLI.





