

Third Study Visit (inclusive of Project Meetings) organized by Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP), Cambodia under the 21st Teach Skills (TS) Erasmus+ Project

Schedule (Day, date & venue): 6th – 10th March, 2023, Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Organizing body: Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Name & Designation of the Faculty who attended the third Study visit

1. Prof. Dr. Shashikala Gurpur, 21st TS Project Manager, SIU, Director SLS Pune
2. Dr. Aparajita Mohanty, Associate Professor, SLS Pune
3. Prof. Dr. Rupal Rautdesai, Visiting Professor and Research Advisor, SLS Pune, Project Consultant
4. Dr. Sophia Gaikwad, Head, STLRC, SIU
5. Prof. Kshitij Naikade, Assistant Professor, SLS Pune
6. Prof. Raj Varma, Assistant Professor, SLS Pune
7. Dr. Ujwal Nandekar, Assistant Professor, SLS Pune

Background of Project and Study Visits

Symbiosis International (Deemed University) (SIU), SLS Pune is the recipient of an impressive number of Erasmus+ Projects co-funded by European Union. One such unique project is the Erasmus+ CBHE Project “**Teacher training with specialization on life and information technology skills**” (21st Teach Skills / 21st TS) which aims to carry forward the concept of 21st Century Skills that are key for leaving an impact on the education system of the country.

This project is a multi-country consortium with partner universities from India, Greece, Lithuania, Luxembourg, China, Cambodia who are the torchbearers of change in their respective countries. University of Ioannina, Greece is the overall coordinator for the project.

Partner Institutions:

1. University of Ioannina, Greece
2. Klaipeda University, Lithuania
3. Novel Group Sari, Luxemburg
4. Banasthali Vidyapith, India
5. Symbiosis International (Deemed University) (to be executed by Symbiosis Law School Pune)
6. Southwest University, China
7. Shenzhen Polytechnic, China
8. Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia
9. National University of Battambang, Cambodia

Ambitions for education are captured in Sustainable Development Goal 4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which aims to “ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all”. In a globalized and multicultural economy and society, young people’s horizons are not broad enough to operate accordingly. Challenges, such as the rapid technological advancements and new patterns of work have created a number of demands on education,

making the inculcation of 21st century skills a necessity. Those skills need to be integrated in the teacher educational programs in order for the teachers to be effective in the 21st century.

21st century skills include skills such as critical thinking skills, creativity, collaborative problem-solving skills, global awareness, lateral thinking, self-initiative, self-direction, adaptability, metacognitive skills, empathy, employability skills such as Digital Quotient, cross cultural competencies which are essential for the modern education system for inclusive development and to promote a shared prosperous future.

The educational programme developed under the project will focus on the most important transversal skills that need to be acquired such as critical thinking, problem-solving and collaborative working, with a pedagogy and assessment focused on input and role learning. Thus, the skills that teachers and educators will need to acquire is: be able to align technologies with content and pedagogy, align instructions with standards that embody 21st century knowledge and skills, use a range of strategies to reach diverse students and create an environment to support differentiated teaching and learning, use a variety of assessment strategies to evaluate student performance and act as mentors and peer coaches with fellow educators.

Earlier under the said project, there have been two study trips (inclusive of project meetings) one in Greece, Ioannina and the other one in India organized by SLS Pune, SIU. As a follow up of the milestones of the project, the 3rd Study trip (including the project meetings) was organized by RUPP, Cambodia from 6th to 10th March 2023.

SIU, through its constituent SLS Pune has been the key partner in the project. SLS Pune in furtherance to the objectives of the project created the syllabi and content for the Module 1 on Critical Thinking Skills and Collaborative Problem-Solving Skills under the project. The project from SLS Pune is led by Dr. Shashikala Gurple, who has been the expert contributor to all the milestones in the project, and thus is the key person required for all meetings and study trips under the project. STLRC, especially Dr. Sophia Gaikwad has supported SLS Pune in preparation of the contents for the Module 1. The other members who accompanied in the third study trip at Cambodia, mentioned above, have also contributed in carrying out the project continuously at SLS Pune and thus their presence was essential.

Brief conceptual summary of the 3rd Study Visit

This study visit included discussions and deliberations amongst university leaders, and included workshops and trainings, study visits to a few schools identified to have certain unique method of teaching and learning. The visit also entailed cultural exchanges between the delegates of the partner countries. Further the deliverables under the project especially module (1 to 4) development and delivery of content were discussed and aligned during the five days of the study trip.

Outcomes achieved

The organizers RUPP Cambodia facilitated various discussions, project meetings and school visit. During 2 days of the project meetings, the partner institutions led by the University of Ioannina reviewed the progress on the deliverables and milestones of the project. Further, during the remaining 3 days of the study trip the participating members of the partner institutions worked collaboratively to align and fine tune the curriculum and contents of all the modules prepared under the project. The outcomes were as follows:

- Reviewed the progress of the deliverables of the project including modules and e-toolbox developed under the project

- Discussed the modules 2,3 and 4 and aligned the same with the standards set by Module 1 of SCES (SIU, SLS, Pune)

Benefits expected from the study visit

Indian higher education system is faced with broad challenges. One of them is the low quality of teaching and learning: The system is beset by issues of quality in many of its institutions: a chronic shortage of faculty, poor quality teaching, outdated and rigid curricula and pedagogy, lack of accountability and quality assurance and separation of research and teaching. It is stated as the highest priority the institutional collaboration in teaching and learning over the next five years, including faculty exchange. Digital learning technologies are also considered a vital component to achieving expansion and increasing access and quality.

The 3rd study trip will provide an opportunity to gear up to the aforementioned challenges and bring home the best practices in the field of education. This will work in our favour as India moves towards the National Education Policy, 2020 implementation, which also requires Universities in India to adopt 21st Century Skills in teaching and learning.

All the participants who visited Cambodia during the 3rd Study Visit are Professor/teachers/administrators who in the process will acquire these 21st Century Skills, will implement them while teaching students in the University, and also train other teachers in the home country as well as within the University.

Summary of Events

Day 1- 6th March 2023

9 am to 10 am- Welcome, Press Release, and Visit RUPP

- Official welcoming to participants from RUPP Top Management.

10 am to 12 noon- Press Conference-

- Dr. Sovila initiated the press conference introducing the project and highlighting the project requirements.
- UoI presented the importance of the Project and contribution of each partner university to the press officials.
- Each partner University's representative (from UoI, Greece, SCES, India, BV, India, Novel Group, Luxemburg, NUBB, Cambodia, RUPP, Cambodia, KU, Lithuania, SWU, China, SZPT, China) addressed the press highlighting the contribution and importance of the project in their own country. Further each partner representative also highlighted the need of the disseminate the project deliverables.
- RUPP's representative Dr. Sovila translated the addresses of the partner institutions representative's speeches for the press in Khmer language.

1:30 pm to 3 pm- Discussion on the deliverables under the project along with alteration of official agenda took place.

- UoI addressed the importance of study visit considering the contribution from partner universities.
- UoI mentioned SCES's (SIU, SLS, Pune's) contribution and requested other partners to follow the standards maintained by SCES while delivering content of the Module 1.

- UoI further mentioned the contribution from RUPP towards Module 4 and requested for the early compliance since deadline for the deliverables are already over.
- UoI further presented the assessment of the project considering the delivered deliverables from each partner university.
- SCES's (SIU, SLS, Pune's) representative Prof. Dr. Shashikala Gurpur highlighted and presented the accreditation status from partner university as available/ mentioned by the partner university on OneDrive. Further, Prof. Dr. Shashikala Gurpur added and stressed upon the accreditation process and proofs from partner countries which is mandated under the project. Some of the partners had submitted the accreditation certificates without any signatory (personnel). SCES requested them to comply with the proper documentation. SCES (SIU, SLS, Pune) further circulated the email communication (1 email for accreditation status and process of accreditation in their respective country).
- SCES's dissemination was conducted during 2nd study visit to Pune, Maharashtra, India. SCES's (SIU, SLS, Pune's) representative Prof. Dr. Shashikala Gurpur presented WP 6.1. wherein SCES (SIU, SLS, Pune) is the leader and circulated the questionnaire requesting other partners for their contribution.

Day 2- 7th March 2023

- RUPP initiated the day 2 proceedings with the project meeting,
- UoI presented the WP 1 and discussed the challenges, further 21st TS consortium discussed resolving the issues raised by the partners regarding delaying the deliverables.
- WP 2 report presented by BV India wherein, it was mentioned that RUPP should expedite the process of the delivery of the content regarding Module 4.
- Also 21st TS consortium unanimously agreed to follow SCES content development as a model to fulfill the criteria.
- 21st TS Consortium requested each partner responsible to develop and deliver the module to discuss the challenges and difficulties they are facing while developing the content.

Day 3- Cultural Visit to Angkor Wat, Siem Reap, Cambodia was organized by RUPP for the two Indian Universities due to the ancient Hindu Culture connection to the temple Angkor Wat. This trip to Angkor Wat enhanced the knowledge of the participants regarding the history and culture of the Cambodia and its people, its connection to India and other Asian countries.

Day 4- 9th March 2023

- UoI circulated the feedback for 3rd study visit and requested for compliance.
- 21st TS proposed exhaustive discussion and finalization on “Project Implementation/WP2/Final Deliverables/ D2.6_Specifications for e-Toolbox” all the details and methodology to deliver the Best Practices.
- Each partner university proposed its best practices and with the help of voting 21st TS consortium selected the final best practices. SCES (SIU, SLS, Pune) and BV recorded results of voting.
- Further, 21^{TS} consortium discussed e-toolbox platform accessibility which Novel Group presented and requested all partner universities to create their account in the said platform available at official website of 21TS Project website.
- Novel Group representative presented the 1st format of the Module deliverables and requested for the suggestions from the partner universities. (Delivery of the content as per the format of 21st TS Project)

- RUPP organized a networking event along with dinner for 21st TS consortium at Sunway Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. 21st TS consortium participated in the networking event. RUPP's Vice Rector Dr. Kean Tak addressed the gathering and congratulate 21st TS consortium for a successful 3rd Study Visit. Representatives of each partner addressed the gathering and shared their experiences during the 3rd study visit.

Day 5- 10th March 2023

At RUPP, Phnom Penh

- Presented by UoI- Requested each partner for comparison between the module content with the help of review list and suggested maintaining uniformity.
- Each partner responsible for Module development and content delivery presented the sample for the review checklist. Each Module developer provided a review of one Unit each and compared it for the discussion.
- SCES (SIU, SLS, Pune) submitted and presented the module checklist as per requirements.
- UoI presented the status of each partner who has purchased equipment's under the project. And further requested the partners to comply with the requirements.
- SCES (SIU, SLS, Pune) and UoI assisted RUPP regarding content development regarding Module 4 along with maintaining uniformity.

Day 6- Departure March 11, 2023

Reflections

The 3rd study trip provided an opportunity to gear up to the educational challenges and bring home the best practices in the field of education especially in regard to the 21st Century Skills. It also provided opportunity for integration and synergy between modules, standardization of structure and best practices. This works in our favour as India moves towards the National Education Policy, 2020 (NEP, 2020) implementation, which also requires Universities in India to adopt 21st Century Skills in teaching and learning. Thus, this experience, exposure and learning of the participants will help SIU, SLS Pune to adapt to the NEP, 2020 faster and in better manner. This will help in adding value to the existing teaching learning practices at SLS Pune and cascade it further through STLRC to teachers of other institutes of the SIU.

Training by KU helped in generating the 360° feedback idea. All the participants who visited Cambodia during the 3rd Study Visit are Professor/teachers/administrators who in the process have acquired knowledge, information and training on the 21st Century Skills, which they will implement them while teaching students in the SLI, and also train other teachers in the home country as well as within the University.

Way forward

21TS consortium will in a short period deliver the final content as required under the project. Module 1, 2, 3 & 4 needs to be converted into MOOC the deliverable format. A MOOC based course management tool is also in the process of being developed as one of the important deliverables under the project. It is estimated that at least 50000 participants are expected to benefit through the outcome of the project. The project will provide a link to the learning environment and the courses offered in the different HEIs. Gaps

will be filled in each WP and SCES's own gap to be ready for 4th Study Visit to China to test rest of teacher training and to be ready for delivery.

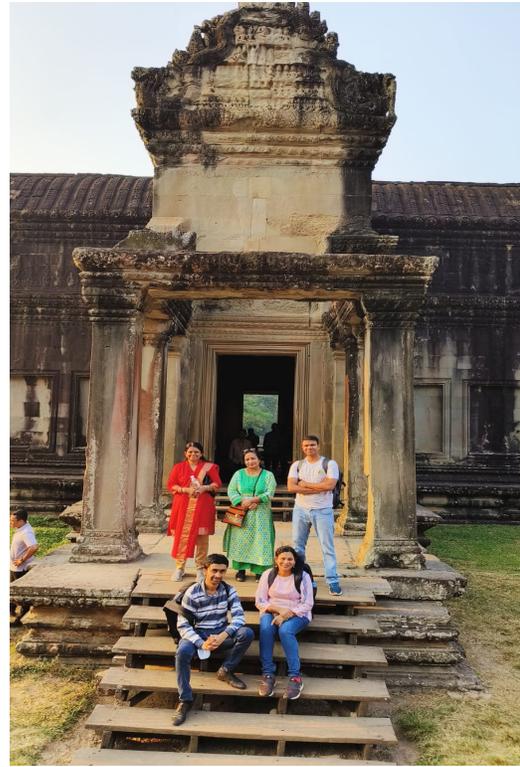
Photographs from the 3rd Study Visit to RUPP, Cambodia



SCES/ SIU/ Symbiosis Law School, Pune 21st Teach Skills Project Team at 3rd Study Visit to Sunway Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia



SCES/ SIU/ Symbiosis Law School, Pune 21st Teach Skills Project Team discussing the project activity during the 3rd Study Visit to Sunway Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia



SCES/ SIU/ Symbiosis Law School, Pune 21st Teach Skills Project Team's Cultural Visit to Angkor Wat, Krong Siem Reap, Cambodia. (3rd Study Visit to Sunway Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia



SCES/ SIU/ Symbiosis Law School, Pune 21st Teach Skills Project Team at Networking Event during 3rd Study Visit to Sunway Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia



Prof. Dr. Shashikala Gurpur, Project Manager, 21st Teach Skills Project SCES/ SIU/ Symbiosis Law School, Pune with Dr. Reda Jacyne, Klaipeda University at 3rd Study Visit to Sunway Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia



Prof. Dr. Shashikala Gurpur, Project Manager, 21st Teach Skills Project SCES/ SIU/ Symbiosis Law School, Pune with Dr. Katerina Plakitsi), Project Coordinator, University of Ioannina, Greece at 3rd Study Visit to Sunway Hotel, Phnom Penh, Cambodia