

DBHEI Annual General Meeting

Innovating in Higher Education: Embracing Autonomy, Technology, and Industry Collaboration

Venue: Salesian College (Autonomous) Sonada

Dates: 15 - 17 November 2024

Schedule

Day I: 14 November 2024

(Arrival of the participants) Bagdogra International Airport and New Jalpaiguri Railway Station (Participants will be picked up from the Airport or Railway Station, taken to Siliguri Campus, and then to Sonada by evening) *Logistics-in-Charge*: Mr Anirban Ghosh – *Team Leader*: Fr Jagjivan Tirkey SDB (Bursar)

Note: Salesian College Sonada is 58.6 km from Siliguri. Approximately it takes 2 hours (if the traffic is clear) to reach.

Day II: 15 November 2024

07:00 am Holy Eucharist presided over by Rt Rev Stephen Lepcha, Bishop of Darjeeling

08:00 am **Breakfast**

08:30 am Registration

Inaugural Ceremony

09:00 am Welcome Address by Fr (Dr) Johny Nedungatt SDB, Rector, Salesian College (Autonomous) Sonada

09:10 am Lighting of the Lamp

09:14 am Prayer Dance by Students of Salesian College (Autonomous)

09:15 am Felicitations (*khada arpan*)

09:25 am Opening Remarks by Fr (Dr) Babu Joseph SDB, Principal, Salesian College (Autonomous)

09:35 am Keynote Address by Fr (Dr) Joby Joseph SDB, Secretary, DBHEI

09:45 am Presidential Address by Fr (Dr) Jose Koyickal SDB, (Provincial, Salesian Province of Bangaluru)

10:05 am Message by Fr (Dr) Oscar Lozano SDB, General Coordinator, IUS Rome

10:15 am Message by Fr (Dr) Biju Michael SDB, Regional Superior, South Asia

10:25 am Hymn to Don Bosco: All hail to you Don Bosco (Seminarians)

10:30 am Vote of thanks: Br (Dr) Augustine Joseph SDB, Vice Principal, Salesian College (Autonomous) Sonada

10:38 am **Tea Break**

Technical Sessions

11:00 am Technical Session I: 'Autonomy Case Study: Making Institutions Entrepreneurial' by Prof Aloysius Edward J.

12:30 pm **Lunch Break**

- 01:30 pm** Technical Session II & III: ‘AI Integration in Higher Education’ by Fr (Dr) Sabu Thomas SDB, SH Tevera
- 03:30 pm** **Tea Break**
- 04:00 pm** Visit to Sonada – Buddhist Monastery
- 07:00 pm** **Fellowship Dinner**

Day III: 16 November 2024

- 07:00 am** Holy Eucharist presided over by Rev Fr (Dr) Joseph Pauria SDB, Provincial, INC
- 08:00 am** **Break fast**
- 09:00 am** Technical Session IV: ‘Skill Education Industry Academia Interface’ by Dr Anjo Joseph, Don Bosco University, Assam
- 11:00 am** **Break**
- 11:30 am** Technical Session V: Proactive Collaboration (UB)
- 12:30 pm** **Lunch**
- 02:00 pm** Technical Session VI: ‘International Exposure & Fund Raising’ by Dr George Kolath

Valedictory Session

- 03:15 pm** Closing Remarks: Fr (Dr) Tomy Augustine SDB, Rector & Controller of Examinations, Salesian College (Autonomous)
- 03:25 pm** Interactions: Delegates speak
- 04:00 pm** Vote of Thanks: Dr Terence Mukhia, Dean
- 04:10 pm** Visit to TIEEDI and Tea
- 07:00 pm** **Fellowship Dinner**

Day IV: 17 November 2024

- 07:00 am** Holy Eucharist by (Provincial-in-Charge/Regional)
- 08:00 am** **Breakfast**
- 08:30 am** Photo Session
- 08:45 am** Region wise Breakout Session facilitated by Br (Dr) Augustine Joseph SDB, Vice Principal, Salesian College (Autonomous) Sonada
- 10:00 am** Bus and Traveller leave for Darjeeling Darjeeling *Darshan*: Chowrasta, Padmaja Naidu Zoological Park, St Joseph’s College and School Department
- 07:00 pm** Dinner in Glenary’s Darjeeling

Day V: 18 November 2024

- 07:00 am** Holy Eucharist (celebrated by a Senior Priest)
- 08:00 am** **Breakfast**
- 09:00 am** Departure for Siliguri

About the theme of the Annual General Meeting

The 2024 DBHEI Annual General Meeting, hosted at Salesian College (Autonomous) Sonada from November 15-17, will centre on the theme of “Innovating in Higher Education: Embracing Autonomy, Technology, and Industry Collaboration.” This year’s sessions will

address how Don Bosco Higher Education Institutions can advance by becoming autonomous institution with entrepreneurial approaches, leveraging artificial intelligence, and fostering stronger industry-academia ties. The technical sessions include case studies on institutional autonomy, AI in education, and skill development interfaces, reflecting a commitment to evolving educational paradigms. Delegates will also explore proactive collaboration strategies and international fund-raising, aiming to enhance educational quality and outreach. The AGM will provide a platform for dialogue on maintaining Don Bosco's educational mission while adapting to contemporary challenges, ensuring institutions remain dynamic and responsive to societal needs. The event will also feature cultural activities and local explorations, enriching the overall/wholistic experience for attendees.

About DBHEI

Don Bosco Higher Education India is a body set up by the Salesian Provincial Conference of South Asia (SPCSA) for reflection, sharing and coordination among those involved in the youth ministry in Don Bosco institutions of Higher Education. It operates as part of Don Bosco Youth Animation: South Asia (DBYA SA), with relative autonomy as determined by its statutes. The official name of this body is Don Bosco Higher Education India (DBHEI). In order to ensure the effectiveness of Salesian Higher Education Institutions (DBHEIs), it is crucial for DBHEI Institutions to continuously reflect on their identity and mission. Each institution should regularly evaluate and innovate its academic management to align with Salesian values. Maintaining a strong Salesian presence, both religious and lay, is essential for driving cultural, scientific, academic, and pastoral initiatives. Institutions must uphold their strength and educational quality to meet the holistic needs of students and adapt to societal changes. Effective financial management is required for sustainable self-reliance while focusing on supporting underprivileged youth. The educational model should follow Don Bosco's preventive system to foster students' personal and professional growth. Additionally, academic activities should have a social impact, addressing the needs of marginalized groups. Strengthening the DBHEI network, enhancing employability skills through practical projects, and securing funding for research and extension activities are also important goals.

About Salesian College (Autonomous) Sonada & Siliguri

Salesian College (SC) is a government-recognised, minority educational institution run and managed by the Salesians of Don Bosco, Kolkata Province. Located in Sonada and Siliguri, West Bengal, SC accommodates over 3,000 students across Arts, Commerce, Science, and Professional courses at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Established in Shillong in 1933 and relocated to Sonada in 1938, SC is governed by sections 2(f) and 12(B) of the UGC Act 1956. Originally affiliated with Calcutta University, it transitioned to NBU in 1962 and has since expanded its academic offerings, including honours programmes and post graduate programmes. The Siliguri Campus, inaugurated in 2009, provides various undergraduate and master's programmes, and SC also functions as an IGNOU Study Centre. Accredited by NAAC with an 'A' grade since 2012, SC became an Autonomous College on 31 May 2023, introducing innovative courses and dual major options. Post-pandemic, SC adopted a blended learning approach using an advanced ERP and LMS. With the New Education Policy 2020 in place, SC is poised to enhance its infrastructure and programmes to meet future educational demands.

About Gorabari & Sonada

Gorabari is a small village with linear settlement along the Hill Cart Road. *Gora* in local Nepali language meant ‘white’ referring to white Britisher from the British Raj. The present Salesian College (Autonomous) Sonada was a brewery for British soldiers bought by Italian Priests (Salesians) to start a new brewing – a seminary. Coincidentally, *gora* is also a Himalayan Salamander found only in two or three places in Darjeeling district (endemic species), one being Sukhia Pokahri and the other being Gorabari. Hence, Gorabari has two roots to be called so, first being more popular.

Sonada is a census town situated within the Jorebunglow Sukhiapokhri block of the Darjeeling Sadar subdivision in the Darjeeling District, West Bengal, India. It lies in the southern section of the Darjeeling Himalayan hill region. In Darjeeling Sadar subdivision, 61% of the population resides in rural areas, while 39% live in urban areas. The district hosts around 78 tea estates that significantly contribute to the local economy through Darjeeling tea production and export. Sonada is 17 km from Darjeeling, 16 km from Kurseong, and connected via National Highway 55. Attractions include Sonada Monastery, Tiger Hill, and the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway station. The surrounding Sonada Valley features numerous tea estates and the Balason River, noted for trout fishing. Chatakpur Eco Village, located 6 km uphill, offers scenic views and is a popular tourist destination.

Weather and Winter Wear Advisory

November in Gorabari precludes the incoming of very cold winter. Woollens, insulation, down jackets are desirable. Foot wear must be very comfortable as the delegates of DBHEI will have many walks in the hills. Darjeeling, Sonada and the other locations mentioned in the brochure are all ‘walking towns/villages’.

*Local Organising Team
DBHEI Annual General Meeting
Salesian College (Autonomous) Sonada & Siliguri*