A brief report on the Refresher Course in Experimental Physics held at the Department of Physics, Tripura University, from 8-23 March, 2016

The proposal for conducting the Refresher Course was submitted with the approval of Tripura University in August 2015 which was formally accepted by the Academy in November 2015. An advertisement was floated in Current Science journal for inviting participation in the course. The advertisement was also widely circulated to all colleges and universities in India and especially in North-East India. Total 60 applications were received. Out of 60 applicants, 35 participants were selected based on merit and submission of no objection certificate (for teacher applicants) and recommendation letter (for student applicants). Finally, 27 participants attended the course, out of which, 14 were teachers and 13 were under student and research category.

Due to its difficult geographical location, North East India faces many challenges. Tripura is a small state landlocked by international border with Bangladesh in its three sides. In spite of local difficulties, we were able to successfully conduct the course with the coordinated efforts, planning, sincere contributions of departmental faculties, staffs, research scholars, students and the funding support from the Academy and the university.

The course was inaugurated on 8th March 2016 at 10 am by Prof. Anjan Kumar Ghosh, Honourable Vice-Chancellor of Tripura University. Theoretical and practical classes started on the inaugural date followed by a high tea. Regular classes were held on time every day under the strict supervision of the course Director Prof. R. Srinivasan and the resource persons Dr. R. K. Dwivedi, Er. Manish Devbarma and Dr. Anirban Guha. All the participants enjoyed the classes.

A local tour was organised on 13th March 2016, Sunday. Several places like Ujjayata Palace located at the heart of the Agartala city, Tripura State Museum, Heritage Park, Indo-Bangladesh border was visited. All the participants and the resource persons enjoyed the tour program.

Three special lectures were organised during the entire course period. First lecture was delivered by Prof. Barin Kumar De, senior most professor of the Physics department on Ionospheric Propagation of VLF radio waves. The second lecture was delivered by Prof. Debajyoti Bhattacharjee, Head of the Department of Physicon Nano Technology and third lecture was delivered by Professor Anjan Kumar Ghosh, Honourable Vice-Chancellor, Tripura University, related to Fiber optic communication and sensor applications, its principle and uses. Participants and resource persons had positive interaction with all the special invitees.

Each group of two participants presented one experiment after completion of seven or eight experiments by them as a Power Point presentation. The topics of the presentations were chosen by the candidates by their own preference. All the participants performed excellently during the presentations and all the sessions were very interactive. Prof. Srinivasan expressed his valuable suggestions on each presentation. Overall, the presentation sessions were very effective in understanding the basic principles of many physical laws.

The valedictory session was held on 23rd March 2016 at 11 am. The session was chaired by the Head of the Department of Physics, Prof. Debajyoti Bhattacharjee. All the participants and resource
persons shared their feedback during the course. Participants also submitted their completed feedback form in the session. Lastly, Professor SrinivasanSir handed over the standard experimental kit gifted by the Academy to the Head of the Department.

With the introduction of a new kind of refresher course, in which, performing hands on experiments are a must in contrast to other refresher courses, our department has become highly benefitted by conducting such a course. The course has also become highly beneficial to the faculty members of different colleges. We are planning to develop a permanent experimental laboratory having all the experimental kit provided by Indian Science Academy and run the course on regular basis twice a year.

I personally express my sincere acknowledgement to the National Academy of Sciences for providing us all the supports to contact such a beautiful course. I look forward conducting such a course in future.

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