

Press-Note

Ambassador Dr. Deepak Vohra Speaks at Central University of Jammu's Ambassadorial Lecture Series

The Office of International Affairs (OIA), Central University of Jammu organized the Ambassadorial Lecture Series on 22nd September 2017 by Ambassador Dr. Deepak Vohra, former Ambassador to Poland, Special Advisor to Prime Minister, Lesotho and Guinea-Bissau and to Govt of South Sudan, Special Advisor to Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils, Leh and Kargil. The guest was welcomed by Prof. Mallika Joseph, Head Department of National Security Studies (NSS) and Public Policy & Public Administration (PPPA). Prof. Ashok Aima Hon'ble Vice Chancellor welcomed the Ambassador and presented a memento on behalf of the University.



Unveiling of UNAI Member Certificate of CUJ by Ambassador Dr. Deepak Vohra and Prof. Ashok Aima Hon'ble Vice Chancellor



Ambassador Dr. Deepak Vohra addressed the gathering of faculties, students and Intellectuals on '*Global Mega Trends*'. Dr. Vohra stressed that India was

acquiring new assertiveness amid emerging political, economic, social and attitudinal megatrends in a fast shaping world order. Viewed in Indian Context he said that India was set to play a pivotal role in international arena. The gross domestic product (GDP) of India would quadruple by the year 2020. The world order was likely to change in coming 30 years. Even International Monetary Fund (IMF) had predicted that India would grow faster than China, he added. Economic and international political power were shifting as there was a moderation of military balance. Mr Vohra said "Asia has crossed ageing North America and Europe combined in terms of global power based upon GDP, population size, military spending and technological investment. Talking about Indian economy, he highlighted that India's debt to GDP ratio was incredibly low (less than 10 per cent) in comparison to many European nations including Greece, Italy, Portugal, Belgium and Ireland. "It is a positive sign" he said. Quoting French Historian, Alfred Sauvy, Dr. Vohra said that Europe would become "a society of old people, living in old houses, ruminating about old ideas; Each major world power had been undergoing deep internal economic readjustment. The US had been transitioning to an energy and innovation driven economy while China was looking up to domestic source of future growth in consumption. India is preoccupied with building infrastructure, urbanization and industrialization, he added. He said that sentiment in India was "anti-immigration, anti-EU and anti-austerity. Even the US President Barack Obama and US secretary of State, Hillary Clinton had acknowledged that India was set to outcompete their country because of economic growth.

On the occasion, Ambassador Dr. Deepak Vohra and the Vice Chancellor Prof. Ashok Aima, unveiled the United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) Certificate of Central University of Jammu. Prof Ashok Aima appreciated the endeavours of the Office of International Affairs (OIA) in making Central University of Jammu a proud member of UNAI making it more visible globally by joining the league of 1,000 member institutions in more than 120 countries that reach millions of people in the education and research sectors around the world. The United Nations Academic Impact (UNAI) is an initiative that aligns institutions of higher education with the United Nations in actively supporting and contributing to the realisation of UN goals and mandates including the promotion and protection of human rights, access to education, sustainability and conflict resolution.

Prof. Deepshika Kotwal, Head Department of English, proposed a formal vote of thanks and described Ambassador as statesman with dynamic energies connecting with younger generation. The event was coordinated by Dr. Rouchi Chaudhary, Coordinator and Dr. Paul Sugandhar, Deputy Coordinator, Office of International Affairs (OIA) Central University of Jammu.