

ENABLING ENTREPRENEURSHIP THROUGH ACADEMIA AT ST. ANTHONY'S COLLEGE, SHILLONG

September 23, 2022: The awareness program on 'Enabling Entrepreneurship through Academia', an initiative taken by BIRAC BioNEST Bioincubator (B3I) Facility was conducted in St. Anthony's College on September 23, 2022, from 1:00 PM onwards. In this program, a group of 11 faculty members from three neighbouring



institutes of Shillong namely, St. Mary's College, William Carey University and St. Anthony's College participated. The program started with a self-introductory session of the B3I team and Dr Suman Kumar Nandy, Chief Executive Officer of B3I narrated the long-term goal of the program as ensuring incubatee flow for the development of entrepreneurial ecosystem in Meghalaya and the role of the faculty members as "Entrepreneurial Ambassador" helping the enablers in scouting the innovative minds among the student community. Dr Nandy further briefed the audience about the role of B3I Facility in Business Development through the presently available tri-phasic hand-holding program with infrastructural, mentoring and funding support. He also emphasized the focus areas and the specific sectors where the endorsement is offered to the entrepreneurs for ideation, scaling up, commercialization and sustaining the business. Dr Nandy further gave details of the various schemes under Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) and those from various funding agencies like DST, MSME, PRIME Meghalaya etc. The current call of Biotechnology Ignition Grant for north-eastern Region (BIG-NER) is also discussed in detail. The meeting was a very interactive one with questions shooting up from the faculty members about the responsibilities of the institutes, objectives of different schemes. Dr Nandy along with Ms. Alva Margareth Kharkongor, Program Manager, B3I Facility answered all the queries. Soon after the discussion, the faculty members have decided unanimously to organize Business Plan Competition for innovative idea pitching probably in the month of February next year for the present students and alumni of the Shillong Academia in collaboration with the PRIME Startup Hub, Government of Meghalaya.