



## **VISVA-BHARATI**

(Founded by Rabindranath Tagore)

A Central University and an Institution of National Importance

**UGC-DRS-II sponsored Conference**

**On**

**“Role of Social Sectors and Public Policies in Economic Development”**

**To be organised by**

**Department of Economics & Politics, Visva-Bharati**

**Santiniketan-731235, West Bengal, India**

***24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2017***

***Information for the Participants who wish to attend the Conference***

### **Call for Papers**

Papers (within 8,000 words including graphs and charts) from scholars of all branches of **Social Sciences** are invited for the above mentioned conference to be held at the Department of Economics & Politics, Visva-Bharati during **24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> March, 2017**.

### **Request for Abstracts**

Extended abstracts of about 1000 words are invited along with contact address, telephone/mobile no., e-mail address and the institutional affiliation of the author(s) by electronic mail to [ybecopolconference@gmail.com](mailto:ybecopolconference@gmail.com) within **30<sup>th</sup> December, 2016**.

### **Important dates:**

Last date of Abstract submission: - **30<sup>th</sup> December, 2016**

Communication about selected abstracts: - **15<sup>th</sup> January, 2017**

Last date of submission of full or final paper: - **20<sup>th</sup> February, 2017**

Accepted full papers by Electronic Version (Ms-Word format within 8,000 words and an abstract of about 150 words) must reach by **20<sup>th</sup> February, 2017** at [ybecopolconference@gmail.com](mailto:ybecopolconference@gmail.com).

### **Details of Registration Fee, Travel and Local Hospitality:**

- **Registration fees is Rs. 1000 for the paper presenters.**
- **Local hospitality will be arranged for the selected participants on request for the days of the conference only.**
- **For selected outstation participants, 3-tier AC to and fro train fare by the shortest route will be reimbursed on submission of proper tickets.**
- **For participants from abroad, only local 3-tier AC to and fro train fare by the shortest route within India will be reimbursed on submission of proper tickets.**

**Some papers presented in the conference will be selected for publication either in an edited volume with ISBN number, or in the peer reviewed journal “*Contemporary Development Research*”**

### **About Visva-Bharati**

Founded by the first non-European Nobel Laureate Rabindranath Thakur (popularly known as Tagore) in 1921, Visva-Bharati was declared to be a central university and an institution of national importance by an Act of Parliament in 1951. The President of India is the Paridarsaka (Visitor) of the University, the Governor of West Bengal is the Pradhana (Rector), and the Prime Minister of India acts as the Acharya (Chancellor). In May 1951, Visva-Bharati was declared to be a Central University and "An Institution of National Importance" by an Act of Parliament. It was granted the status of a unitary, teaching and residential university. The status and function of all the major institutions have been redefined in successive Amendments. The present Vice Chancellor of the University is Professor Swapan Kumar Datta.

**Nearest Railway Station:** Bolpur station (roughly 150 km from Howrah station and takes about 2 and half-hours)

**Nearest airport:** Kolkata airport (164 km and takes about three hours)

## **Conference Theme**

### **“Role of Social Sectors and Public Policies in Economic Development”**

The debate over growth and development is an age old issue where growth is primarily quantitative in nature while development is qualitative. So, development talks beyond GDP and per capita income (PCI) in a multifaceted way. This multidimensionality of development calls for inclusive growth that has a long bearing on different public policies and their effectiveness. Contemplating the standard development argument, Sen and Mahabub-ul Haque introduces the concept of human development index (HDI) which, apart from PCI, encompasses factors like literacy, life expectancy etc. that are not traditionally viewed as conducive or dissuading for development in general. Therefore, all government policies aim at increasing quality adjusted life years (QALY), improving the level of skill of the youth, and enhancing the size of disposable income. Needless to say, achieving these targets requires a concerted effort for proper implementation of public policies like public distribution system (PDS), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) which are allegedly suffering from lack of awareness, appropriate machinery and mechanism, corruption etc.

In essence, public policy refers broadly to the actions, practices and decision-making processes employed by state and non-state institutions to regulate public affairs. Literature on political processes and practical experience highlight six main ‘arenas’ of governance: civil society, political society, government, bureaucracy, economic society and judiciary. Researchers and governance stakeholders in developing and transitional societies around the world, further, identify six core principles having important implications for governance and these are: participation, fairness, decency, accountability, transparency and efficiency. Through interdependence as well as interaction among six main ‘arenas’ and consequent realization of ‘six core principles’, governance influences growth, poverty reduction, equality, and political stability.

Following India’s attempts to integrate with the global economy, there has been increasing emphasis on issues of health and health care, women empowerment, literacy programs, skill India initiative, vulnerability of the poor, employment schemes, housing schemes, decentralization, urban rejuvenation etc. Attendant market and institutional reforms and policy initiatives must go hand in hand in order to ensure human capital of desired quality to promote

long-run sustainable increase in productivity, and hence HDI particularly in rural India as because of its rural dominance.

Against this background, **Papers & articles are invited for the proposed conference in all areas related to the Conference Theme. Topics of interest include, but not limited to, the following:**

1. Gender and Women Empowerment
2. Economics of Health and Health Care
3. Development Programmes and Employment
4. Environment and Public Policies
5. Economics of Education
6. Social Sectors and Human Capital

**For any additional information contact:-**

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