



Vice Chancellor

No:F(DO-VC)KU/13
November 29, 2013

Dr. Sultana N. Nahar
Department of Astronomy
The Ohio State University
Columbus, OH 43210,
USA

Ref: Invitation to visit University of Kashmir, Srinagar for a week.

Dear Dr. Nahar,

Through our communications on various topics and issues, I find it crucial that you visit University of Kashmir and participate in formulating and taking steps toward implementation of the STEM education and research initiatives in our University. Since you will be in India from late January to March for the Obama-Singh STEM Education and Research project, I would like to invite you to visit us for a week at your convenient time during stay in India. We will work together on the following items:

- 1) Physics Department program: We have processed your proposal to initiate prizes in Physics for:
 - 1) in-class teaching skill and inspiring interactions, and research guidance for faculty members,
 - 2) insprising a Ph.D. Student and two female students for academic and research excellence. I have already approved the proposal. It is now waiting for the final official approval for record in January. We will inform you as soon as the official processing is complete.

However, to oversee the whole formulation for implementation and initiate the first awarding, which is a new student oriented process here, in 2014, your presence in University of Kashmir is very important.

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Talat Ahmad
Prof. Talat Ahmad



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- II) We are very much interested in the Obama-Singh 21st project "The STEM-FACULTY PROJECT: Training the Next Generation of STEM Faculty at Higher Education Institutions in India" that the Ohio State University (OSU) received in partnership with Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) in India. As an Indian central university, like AMU, University of Kashmir would like to explore to participate in the program and submit a proposal in collaboration with OSU and AMU to UGC/DST for the STEM faculty training program. We would like to discuss to make plan exploring the opportunities for our university.

In this respect, we would also like to reinstate and expand the MOA we had between the Ohio State University and University of Kashmir which was coordinated by Professor Altaf Wani of OSU Radiology.

- III) Being a physicist with vast research experience and coauthor of the graduate textbook "Atomic Astrophysics and Spectroscopy" we appreciate your giving a seminar lectures in the Physics Department at the invitation of Professor Sheikh Javid, Chair of the Physics Department and Dean of Faculty of Science. They will be beneficial to both our students and faculty members.
- IV) I commend your work on encouraging and playing a role model for Muslim women in science from 25 countries through the "International Society of Muslim Women in Science" that you founded. The weak participation of Muslim female students in science is an issue in our university and we would certainly welcome you interactions and giving a presentation to female science students in this regard,

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank you for the two things you already have done for us:

- i) giving 8/9 astronomy books which are used in the US universities for undergraduate astronomy course to Physics Department here to introduce an undergrad astronomy course.
- ii) making it possible, waiving the costly membership fee, for our Physics faculty members and students to become members of prestigious American Physical Society.

We are offering you our full hospitality that will cover your airfare from Delhi to Srinagar, accommodation, transportation and other relevant expenses. I hope that you will accept our offer.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely

Prof. Talat Ahmad