

Prof Ravinder Rena shares his experiences of India and Indonesia

Prof Ravinder Rena from the School of Business and Governance visited different universities and colleges that specialise in the areas of commerce/finance/economics/management from December 2016 to January 2017.

The ISDSI 10th International Conference was jointly organised by the Indian-Subcontinent Decision Sciences Institute (ISDSI), Maharashtra Educational Trust (METs) Institute of Management, Bhujbal, Knowledge City; Savitribai Phule Pune University and Association of Management of MBA/MMS Institutes. This conference was held from 27 to 30 December 2016.

Prof Rena presented a paper titled: *"Is Entrepreneurship a Catalyst for Women and Development: A South African Perspective"*. Furthermore, he also chaired a technical session in the area of finance and economics.

Prof Rena delivered guest lectures at the Symbiosis International University, Hyderabad and Department of Economics, Kakatiya University, Warangal from 14 to 24 December 2016, and he also delivered guest lectures at the Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies, University of Delhi, New Delhi, 4 to 5 January 2017.

Prof Rena was also invited to deliver a keynote address during the inaugural session of the XVIII Annual International Conference on *"India's Score Card in Global Perspective"*, jointly organised by Delhi School of Professional Studies and Research (DSPSR) – Indraprastha University, New Delhi; Indian Commerce Association, Indian Association for Management Development, from 6 to 7 January 2017.

Furthermore, Prof Rena was also invited to and delivered another inaugural session – keynote address at the 8th International Conference on *"Strengthening Strategies, Shaping Policies and Empowering Personnel: Key to Organisational Competitiveness"* from 7 to 9 January 2017 organised by the Prestige Institute of Management, Gwalior.

He was invited to and delivered a keynote speech at the plenary session of the Internal Conference on Changing Paradigms in Marketing of Services with a special focus on

Tourism and Hospitality (ICCPMS) from 10 to 12 January 2017, organised by the University of Hyderabad, India.

During his visit, he had the opportunity to meet the vice-chancellors, rectors, deans, directors and other senior professors and policy-makers. He is happy to report that many professors and institutions expressed their interest to have some potential research and academic collaboration with the North-West University.

He feels privileged that he was a keynote speaker, not only representing South Africa, but also the African continent as a whole. He could potentially meet some of the great scholars in Economics and Finance areas. Indeed, in all these events, there were many professors and researchers and policy-makers who attended the conference from different parts of the world, especially from America, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, UK, Finland, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Turkey, Bangladesh and India. Surprisingly, he was the only one representing not only South Africa, but also the African continent.

Indonesian Conference

Professor Ravinder Rena, NWU School of Business and Governance, was invited to deliver an inaugural session – keynote address at the 1st International Conference on Business and Finance Research Paradigm and Best Practices towards 21st Century, organised by STIE Pelita Bangsa University, Cikarang, Jakarta, Indonesia, 19 May 2017.

He was also invited to the plenary session – keynote address at the International Seminar on Applied Business and Economics, organised by FaKultas Ekonomi Dan Bisnis, Universitas Pembangunan Nasional “Veteran” Jakarta, Indonesia, 20 May 2017.

Furthermore, he provided some guest lectures to the faculty members and post-graduate students on Economic and Business Research areas.

Summary of the theme

The conference covered various aspects of economics, business, finance, management and entrepreneurship areas. There were different researchers and professors not only from Indonesia, but also from various parts of the world. They presented interesting research papers on cutting edge issues. He chaired a technical session.

His experience

He feels honoured that he was a keynote speaker, not only representing South Africa, but also the African continent as a whole. He was able to meet some of the great scholars in Economics and Finance areas. The conference was well organised and they took care of the guests with unique hospitality. Jakarta is the capital city, densely populated with more than 30 million people. He found Indonesia to be a beautiful country with frequent traffic jams, especially on national highways. Indonesians are friendly people and have a great culture towards guests and they say that the “Guest is their King”. They gave very good coverage to the South African flag and North-West University along with his name on the conference banners, bags and note pads etc. Furthermore, there were five other university deans and members of the executive management who expressed their interest in having a Memorandum of Understanding with the North-West University in order to have sustainable research and academic collaboration.