



KING'S INDIA INSTITUTE

EVENTS

**EXCELLENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN INDIA:
INSTITUTION BUILDING FOR NATION BUILDING**

Location Small Committee Room KO.31

Category Seminar

Friday 14/02/2014 (12:30-14:00)

Contact india-institute@kcl.ac.uk

The talk, by Professor C Raj Kumar as part of the lunch hour session, will focus on the attempts to develop a sound higher education system in India that addresses issues relating to quality, quantity, accessibility, and equity at the same time. The focus on the need for the expansion of the higher education system through the establishment of universities and degree awarding colleges to increase the gross enrollment ratio has resulted in institutionalisation of mediocrity across Indian universities and colleges.

The talk will address the fundamental causes for why a single Indian university is not featuring in the top 200 in the world in all recognised global rankings and how it is impacting the quality of teaching, research and scholarship. It will critically examine the existing regulatory regime and its effect on the establishment of institutions of excellence in India.

It will throw light on the contemporary efforts to address the challenges of higher education and the need for promoting excellence in research and scholarship leading to publications and knowledge creation. The talk will conclude by providing a specific set of suggestions to improve the functioning of Indian universities and what can be learned from the best practices and experiences from around the world, with greater attention to universities in Asia.

This recognition of raising the quality of higher education in India is possible only if there is a thorough reexamination of the regulatory framework, including existing legal mechanisms and the working of all government bodies vested with the task of formulating policies relating to higher education and monitoring their implementation. In this regard, it is inevitable that the role of the private sector and corporate philanthropy in higher education needs to be expanded significantly with due attention given to quality and the pursuit of excellence in all dimensions.

Professor C. Raj Kumar was appointed as the Founding Vice Chancellor of O. P. Jindal Global University (JGU) at the age of 34. Professor Kumar has academic qualifications from the University of Oxford, Harvard University, University of Hong Kong, University of Delhi and Loyola College. Professor Kumar spearheaded the

initiative to establish the O.P. Jindal Global University with a US\$ 100 Million philanthropic contribution by Mr. Naveen Jindal. JGU has five inter-disciplinary schools: Jindal Global Law School; Jindal Global Business School; Jindal School of International Affairs, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy and the Jindal School of Liberal Arts and Humanities in the National Capital Region of Delhi (Sonapat, Haryana).

Professor Kumar is a Member of the National Legal Knowledge Council (NLKC). He was a faculty member at the School of Law of City University of Hong Kong, where he taught for many years. He was a Rhodes Scholar at the University of Oxford, UK, where he obtained his Bachelor of Civil Law (B.C.L.) degree; a Landon Gammon Fellow at the Harvard Law School, USA, where he obtained his Master of Laws (LL.M.) degree and a James Souverine Gallo Memorial Scholar at the Harvard University. He was awarded the Doctor of Legal Science (S.J.D.) by the University of Hong Kong. He also obtained a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) degree from the University of Delhi, India; and a Bachelor of Commerce (B.Com.) degree from the Loyola College of the University of Madras, India.

Professor Kumar's areas of specialisation include, human rights and development, terrorism and national security, corruption and governance, law and disaster management, comparative constitutional law, legal education and higher education. He has over 100 publications to his credit and has published widely in journals and law reviews in Australia, Hong Kong, India, Japan and USA, some of which are the American University International Law Review, Asia Pacific Law Review, Australian Journal of Asian Law, Columbia Journal of Asian Law, Corporate Governance International, Denver Journal of International Law & Policy, Georgetown Journal of International Law, Hong Kong Lawyer, Human Rights Quarterly, Indian Journal of Criminology, Indian Journal of International Law, Indian Journal of Public Administration, ILSA Journal of International & Comparative Law, Indiana Journal of Global Legal Studies, Journal of the International Peace Research Institute, Journal of the National Human Rights Commission, Loyola of Los Angeles International and Comparative Law Review, Michigan State Journal of International Law, New England Journal of International and Comparative Law, Proceedings of the American Society of International Law, San Diego International Law Journal, Tulane Journal of International and Comparative Law, and Tulsa Journal of Comparative and International Law.

He has authored and co-edited four books: CORRUPTION AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN INDIA: COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVES ON TRANSPARENCY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE (2011) (authored) published by the Oxford University Press; HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEVELOPMENT: LAW, POLICY AND GOVERNANCE (2006) (edited) published by LexisNexis, Butterworths; TSUNAMI AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT: LAW AND GOVERNANCE (2006) (edited) published by Sweet & Maxwell Thomson; and HUMAN RIGHTS, JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL EMPOWERMENT (2007) (edited) published by the Oxford University Press (OUP).

He has contributed shorter articles in newspapers and magazines published from Hong Kong, India and the UK, which include, South China Morning Post, The Standard,

Frontline, The Hindu, Hindustan Times, Financial Express, The Indian Express, The New Indian Express, The Tribune, The Pioneer, Seminar, Global-is-Asian and Open Democracy. He has been interviewed on issues relating to law and justice, human rights and governance, and education by the media in Hong Kong, Japan and India, including radio and television: CNN IBN, Lok Sabha TV, Rajya Sabha TV, Star News, ATV, All India Radio, RTHK and NHK.

Professor Kumar has held consultancy assignments in the field of human rights and governance. He has been a Consultant to the United Nations University (UNU), Tokyo; United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); and the International Council for Human Rights Policy (ICHRP), Geneva. He has advised the Commission to Investigate Allegations of Bribery or Corruption (CIABOC) in Sri Lanka and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in India on issues relating to corruption and good governance.

Professor Kumar is an Attorney at Law and is admitted to the Bar Council of Delhi, India and the Bar of the State of New York, USA.