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UoH Teahouse/Intercultural Hub

Introduction

UoH Teahouse/Intercultural Hub has been created as part of the EU-HARMONY project, funded by the Erasmus Programme for capacity building in Higher Education. The University of Hyderabad is one of the partner organizations in the two continental initiatives involving three universities/institutions from Europe and seven from Asia. The project aims to bring together students and academics/academic administrators from Europe and Asia to enhance inter-cultural ethos and understanding as well as promote exchange among various university stakeholders, and to support universities' internationalization at home (IaH).

The key purpose of the project is to build intercultural knowledge and instill the spirit of diversity across various communities/groups/classes/races and ethnicities. One of the tangible outcomes of such an approach is to set up a Teahouse, an intercultural hub at the Office of International Affairs (IOIA), UoH.

The Hub is mandated to build intercultural skills and capacities among various stakeholders, especially among students. This would be operationalized through the conducting of various co-curricular and extra-curricular activities such as campaigns, talks, and meetings that address cultural diversities in the country and more specifically in the university.

Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct provides the guiding principles/policies to be strictly followed and respected by every individual/stakeholder who visits and utilizes the Teahouse and its facilities. These are guidelines for respectful behaviour in everyday interactions with each other. The teahouse will follow all general guidelines and protocols, provided to the university community, from time to time, to maintain order and discipline in the university, which is being supervised and regulated by the Dean, Students' Welfare, University of Hyderabad.

Practice of Principles of Diversity

The practices of diversity form a cardinal principle in the policies and programmes of UoH apart from the embedded philosophy that diversity enriches the lives of all stakeholders of the university community. In addition, the university expects all stakeholders to respect all people regardless of their gender, caste, race, class, origin, ideological positions, health impairment, disability, and sexual orientation and support different life situations and life plans. Equality is always emphasized in the general interactions at our university. Students of foreign origin are treated on par with any other students from within the country.

Fair Communication and Resolutions of Conflict

We treat each other openly and respectfully and communicate fairly and in partnership in all areas of our university, irrespective of status and group affiliations. We are committed to communicating with each other with mutual respect, tolerance, openness, and accountability, and resolving conflicts objectively and constructively.

Inappropriate Behaviour and Discrimination

The following behaviour, in particular, is unacceptable at the Teahouse

- Sexual Harassment and Discrimination - Verbal, non-verbal and physical sexually determined and sexualized conduct at the teahouse is considered offensive, derogatory and harassing and is deemed to be unacceptable and illegal. 'Unwelcome' is the yardstick that determines the very nature of sexual harassment
- Ragging - Any disorderly or unacceptable act, either by words, written or spoken or an act which has an effect of treating fellow students with rudeness, indulging in indiscipline and through bullying, that can result in physiological or psychological harm as well as causing different kinds of hardships is not acceptable. The University of Hyderabad has a 'Zero Tolerance' towards ragging as a matter of policy.
- Threats and Violence: Activities that assault, threaten, or physiologically or psychologically harm others are unacceptable at the Teahouse.

Usage of Prohibited Items

The usage of prohibited items, such as drugs, alcohol and pornographic materials, is strictly not allowed in the Teahouse. Since University is a tobacco-free campus, smoking is also not allowed in the teahouse. Please refer to the University policy on the prohibition of the consumption of alcohol and narcotics on campus http://www.uohyd.ac.in/images/pdf/prohibition_of_alcohol_narcotics_040417.pdf

Usage of Equipment at the Teahouse

Usage of equipment at the teahouse should adhere to university rules and regulations, apart from handling them with extreme care and responsibility. All generally acceptable ethical norms should be followed while using the equipment. The commitments that follow from such norms, among several other things, include neat maintenance of the place, appropriate handling of electrical and electronic gadgets as well as the furniture in the room. Stakeholders who use the equipment are responsible for the proper upkeep of the same.

Booking of Teahouse

Student members (who have attended the boot camp) will be given the charge (initially) to conduct activities, and programmes in the teahouse. The teahouse can be used by other stakeholders as well through the prior booking. The booking request will be addressed to Prof. N. Siva Kumar, Harmony Team Lead whose email address is nsk1@uohyd.ac.in or Office of International Affairs (OIA) (internationaluoh@uohyd.ac.in).

N. Siva Kumar 12/07/2023

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