

**TWENTY YEARS OF MATHEW'S THEORIES
OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY/
INFORMATICS/KNOWLEDGE**

(1985- 2005)

**ONE-DAY SEMINAR ON
MATHEW'S THEORIES**

**10.30 a. m.
Wednesday, the 9th February 2005
Seminar Hall of the
Department of Library & Information Sciences,
Calicut University**



**DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY AND
INFORMATION SCIENCES
CALICUT UNIVERSITY
KERALA- 673 635**

Phone (0494) 2401144 * 286

2005

Now knowledge has been recognised as wealth or a valuable commodity with sound theoretical and methodological tools. Till 1985, almost all theories of knowledge had been formulated by taking knowledge as non-material and intangible, as there were no sound theoretical tools to measure and categorize knowledge as a material commodity. Even the Marxist theoreticians of the then USSR of Academy of Sciences could not develop such tools.

Dr, Raju M. Mathew of Calicut University, now internationally known or cited as Mathew R.M. with his book '**Library Resource Allocation**' published from the USA and the UK by the MCB University Press in 1981, applying complex economic theories and principles to Information and Knowledge had explored the possibility of treating Information / Knowledge as a material commodity for consumption and production. The work became internationally known among experts in diverse fields besides, world bodies like UNESCO (Paris), IEI (Rome) and FID (The Hague). Its 10th edition has been brought out recently.

In the World Conference on Strategies and Policies for Informatics for Development (SPIND) organized by the Intergovernmental Bureau for Informatics (IEI), an autonomous body created by the UN and the UNESCO, held at Rome, in July 1984, Mathew's paper got the status of 'official document for reference' and hence appeared in eight languages. In the paper, he had expounded 'Two-way Flow Principle' with regard to Trans-border Data Flow between Developed and Developing Countries, that had been well appreciated.

Further, in the paper, Mathew had proposed to set up a **World Centre** in India, preferably in Kerala, to **Redesign Information Technology for Third World Development**. IBI approved the proposal and offered \$20 million in Aug. 1984. But no government or university was prepared to take up such a big project and thus Kerala had lost a golden opportunity to become a flag ship in Information Technology as early as 1984. The same fate had happened to the UNESCO Project of 1989 offered to Kerala, under the Intergovernmental Informatics Programme (IIP) for putting Information Technology for the service of Development.

After going through his works, in 1983 Prof. A. I. Mikhailove, the father of Informatics and also the Director of VINITI of the USSR Academy of Sciences and the Chairman of FID Committee on Research on Theoretical Basis of Information Science, had nominated Raju M. Mathew as one of the twelve members of the Committee, having consultative status with the UNESCO. As a project of the Committee, Mathew had formulated two fundamental theories in Informatics / Information Technology in 1984 that got to light in the book, 'Theoretical Problems of Informatics' published jointly by VINITI and FID from Moscow in 1985.

Subsequently, those theories appeared in different languages from different parts of the world and now they are known as 'Mathew's Theories of Knowledge/ Informatics/

Information Technology'. Two doctoral theses based on Mathew's Theories have been produced and awarded. Besides, they are also incorporated in the M. Phil syllabi. Experts in Informatics, IT, Epistemology, Expert Systems, Semiotics, Cognitive Sciences, Educational Psychology, Knowledge Engineering, Linguistics, etc have shown keen interests in these theories.

In Nov. 2000 Mathew had successfully predicted the crisis of the IT Industry and proposed counter strategies to deal with it and thereafter he became internationally known in IT Policies.

After their twenty years of inception, now it is time for critically assessing the worth, relevance and validity of Mathew's Theories in the University of Calicut, where Dr. Raju M. Mathew has served more than thirty years. At present he is working as Reader & Head of the Dept. of Library & Information Sciences, Calicut University.

The Members of the Faculty, the Research Scholars and the Students of the Department of Library & Information Sciences, Calicut University are organizing a one-day seminar on Mathew's Theories on 9th Feb. 2005. Active participation of_ the teachers and research scholars of the various Teaching Departments of the University of Calicut, including Mathematics, Statistics, Physics, Philosophy, Psychology, Zoology, Education, Mass Communication, Management, English, Sanskrit, History and Malayalam are expected.

Mr. T. M. Vasudevan and Mr. A. Vijayakumar (Organizing Secretaries) Dept. of Library & Information Sciences, Calicut University. Kerala. Mobik:9447842013,9447334114

Those who are interested to participate in the Seminar are requested to contact Mr. A. Vijayakumar, M.Phil - PhD Scholar, Department of Library & Information Science, Calicut University, Dr. K N. Soman, Assistant Librarian, Calicut University or Mr. T.M. Vasudevan, Senior Lecturer, Dept. of Library & Information Sciences, Calicut University.

Mr. T. M. Vasudevan and Mr. A. Vijayakumar (Organizing Secretaries) Dept. of Library Information Sciences, Calicut University. Kerala. Mobik:9447842013,9447334114

Mr. M. G. Sreekumar (General Convener) Librarian, IIM, Kozhikode (Research Scholar, Dept. of Library & Information Sciences, Calicut University). Mobile: 9447152511

10th January 2005,
Calicut University P.O