

Open access to research discussed at SDM-IMD

Mysore, Dec. 23- The world-wide community of scientists can be brought closer if we move away from the current system of scholarly communication based on 17th century technology and adopt open access, opined Prof. Leslie Chan of the Centre for Critical Development Studies, University of Toronto, Scarborough, Canada.

Prof. Chan visited Shri Dharmasthala Manjunatheshwara Institute for Management Development (SDM-IMD) in city on Dec. 20 and addressed scientists, librarians and academicians.

The group discussed how open access journals and repos-



Prof. Leslie Chan

itories can help improve the visibility of an institution's research strengths, help attract research collaborators for authors and increase the return on investment.

Prof. Chan was particularly critical of the current trends, in evaluating both researchers and their institutions using impact factors of journals in which they publish their research papers as the yardstick. Journals pub-

lished from the West may not publish papers from the Global South dealing with the concerns of the South. Unfortunately, these journals set the research agenda even for southern researchers.

He said the right way to forward was to make journals open access and set up many repositories. But he was not for setting up new journals or mandating open access.

He recommended that authors should not surrender all the rights to journal publishers but keep the right to place the full text of their papers in open access repositories.