

## **Biosketch of Swami Atmapriyananda**

Swami Atmapriyananda is the Vice Chancellor of Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University, a multi-campus University trying to actualize Swami Vivekananda's educational vision and devoted to teaching and research in a variety of unique Faculties. On account of its unique features, particularly its emphasis on 'gap areas' (areas scarcely addressed by the conventional Universities in India), this new University has been awarded full membership of 'Global University Network for Innovation' (GUNI), a Europe-based global organization networking Universities with social commitment. Swami Atmapriyananda received his Ph.D. from the University of Madras, India, in Theoretical Physics for his work in particle theory and has a number of research publications in reputed international journals. Inspired by Ramakrishna-Vivekananda ideology, he joined the Ramakrishna Order of monks in 1978 and was posted at Ramakrishna Mission Vidyamandira, a premier college of Ramakrishna Mission at Belur Math, where he taught Physics for nearly 25 years besides serving as Vice-Principal and Principal for 19 years before taking charge as Vice Chancellor of Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda University in July 2005.

As a monk and an educationist, his present interests are: (i) Swami Vivekananda's educational vision education for character building in the youth (ii) Yoga-Vedanta vis-à-vis modern science, (iii) Ramakrishna-Vivekananda thought in the context of present day challenges, (iv) Consciousness Studies as taught in the Upanishads, (v) Synthesis of the four yogas as taught by Swami Vivekananda and Bhagavad-Gita, and (vi) Harmony of religions as lived and taught by Sri Ramakrishna. He has a good number of publications on the above subjects in the journals of Ramakrishna Order and of various organizations.

Swami Atmapriyananda participates on invitation in various religious and educational seminars, symposia, colloquia, workshops and conferences in India and abroad organized by Universities, research institutes and religious organizations on the subjects of his interest as mentioned above. He toured Europe twice during 2008-2009 on invitation to act as a Resource Person at international and national yoga conferences in Italy organized respectively by *Sarvayoga International* and *Italian Yoga Federation*. As a member of the Elijah Board of World Religious Leaders, an arm of Elijah Interfaith Institute, a global organization working for interreligious understanding and peace, he attended on invitation a conference at Haifa, Israel, in October 2009 on *The Future of Religious Leadership*. He was an invited speaker at the Parliament of World Religions organized in Melbourne, Australia, in December 2009, on *The Training of Religious Leadership in a Multi-religious World*. He attended on invitation a meeting of religious leaders of various world religions at the 'Guerrand Hermes Forum for the Interreligious Study of Mysticism and Spirituality', a project of the Elijah Interfaith Academy and Elijah Board of World Religious Leaders, held at Marakesh, Morocco, during 22-26 February 2011. On his way back, he had lively talks and interactions with groups of interested spiritual seekers at Dubai and Abu Dhabi.

During March-May 2012, he again visited the following countries abroad:

1. Marrakesh, Morocco, to attend the second meeting of the Guerrand Hermes Forum for the Study of Mystical and Spiritual Life, organized by Elijah Interfaith Institute, held during 15-18 March 2012,
2. Oxford, UK, to attend a meeting of the Elijah Board of Religious Leaders, organized by Elijah Interfaith Institute, held at Oxford during 18-21 March 2012,
3. Curitiba, Brazil, to attend the second meeting of the Executive Council as a member of 'World Day of Prayer and Action for Children', a global organization working for holistic welfare of children with Secretariat at New York, during 21-24 March 2012,
4. New York, USA, to attend the first meeting of the Executive Council as a member of 'World Day of Prayer and Action for Children', a global organization working for holistic welfare of children with Secretariat at New York, during July 2011,
5. Assisi, Italy, to attend the third international yoga conference of 'Sarva Yoga International', Italy, held during 29 March – 1 April 2012,
6. Vedanta Centres of the Ramakrishna Mission in USA, viz., Ridgley Manor, New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Olema Retreat, Berkeley, Los Angeles' Hollywood centre, Santa Barbara centre, Trabuco centre for talks, discourses and interactions on spiritual matters,
7. New York to attend a High Level Meeting convened by the Royal Government of Bhutan, upon the invitation from the Prime Minister of Bhutan, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 2 - 4 April 2012 to discuss the developing of a new economic paradigm 'Gross National Happiness' in place of 'Gross National Product' or 'Gross Domestic Product'.
8. South Africa during the first two weeks of May 2012 on the occasion of the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the starting of the Ramakrishna Centre in South Africa. He visited and spoke at the main centre at Durban and the satellite centres at Chatworth, Phoenix, Pietermaritzburg, Ladysmith and Johannesburg.

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