“Good leaders build institutions that live beyond them”, said Mr. Fred Swaniker, the Founder and CEO of African Leadership Academy (ALA) while visiting the Shiv Nadar University (SNU) on March 20, 2013. Mr. Swaniker was highly impressed by the initiatives of Shiv Nadar Foundation and said that an emerging University like SNU has a golden chance to create history by establishing a ground breaking institution on the lines of Harvard. He also said that the University should train young leaders so that they are prepared for the industry and impart skills that would help them for the rest of their lives.

Dr Nikhil Sinha, Vice Chancellor, SNU welcomed Mr. Swaniker and enlightened the audience about Fred’s profound experience in education and leadership development in Africa. Fred is a young and highly successful social entrepreneur. Having sensed the need for competent leaders for Africa’s development, he started the African Leadership Academy (http://www.africanleadershipacademy.org/) - a world-class secondary school which has in a short time period churned some great alumni and placed them in the best universities globally.
Stressing the importance of developing good leaders for the betterment of the society, Fred shared his experiences with ALA and leadership development with the faculty and students of SNU. He said that five skills namely, collaboration, problem-solving techniques, communication skills, ethics & good values, and leadership quality are very important for good leaders. He suggested that classroom content can be modified to inculcate these five skills among the leaders of tomorrow.

Fred also answered questions put up by the faculty and students on the various traits and qualities of leaders. He stated that “leaders are made, not born”. He stressed on the fact that anyone who resolves to make a change in the society is a leader and education is important in this transformation. Pointing out the strict rules and strong financial incentives of ALA to retain African students placed in global universities, he also highlighted the efforts of ALA in selecting quality students and honing their skills.