

## 4th National Skill Conference

A two-day National Skill Conference on 'Get Linked and Improve Skill Training Interventions' was held on 10-11 January 2011 at India International Centre, New Delhi. The Conference was jointly organised by FVTRS and National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS).

H.E. Ms Daniele SMADJA, Ambassador, Head of the EU Delegation to India inaugurated the programme. In her inaugural address, she emphasised on NVQF interfacing with Indian players to capacitate them for vocational training.

Dr S S Jena, Chairman, NIOS, welcomed the gathering and Mr David Thompson, CEO of JobsAustralia presented his views on skill development during the inaugural session of the conference, which was attended by 200 delegates from 24 States in India. Dr. Michael Tharakan, Vice-Chancellor of Kannur University (Kerala) delivered the keynote address.

On the second day, Ms Ellen Pedersen, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation in India spoke on project interventions and the EU partnerships in India.

In the subsequent sessions, speakers from various walks of life focused on skill gap and ways and means to improvise skills-training by getting

linked with service providers. Officials from the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Rural Development, International Labour Organisation (ILO), World Bank, National Skill Development Council (NSDC), Sir Dorabji Tata Trust (SDTT), BASIX, and Workskills spoke on critical issues in skill-training delivery, inclusion, benchmarking, certification and related matters.



H.E. Ms Daniele SMADJA, Ambassador, Head of the EU Delegation lighting the lamp marking inauguration of the Skills Conference



Ms Ellen Pedersen, Deputy Head of the EU Delegation in India speaking on project interventions



Dr. Michael Tharakan, Vice-Chancellor, Kannur University delivering the keynote address.

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Releasing the souvenir



A cross-section of participants

## NIOS-FVTRS Cooperation for VT and Academic Certificate

### Interface Meeting of Accredited Partners at New Delhi

A one-day Interface and Training for FVTRS-accredited Partners was organised at NIOS, New Delhi on 13 January 2011. Mr G C Saxena, IAS, Secretary, NIOS, welcomed the participants to the NIOS family through the collaboration. NIOS officials clarified issues pertaining to accreditation procedure, requisite documentation, and the roles and responsibilities of coordinators. Representatives of 40 accredited partners and staff of FVTRS attended the meeting.



Interface with accredited partners at NIOS Office, Noida, New Delhi

### 39 Partners Accredited to NIOS

The process of accreditation was completed in the course of the meeting with NIOS officials, Dr S S Jena, Chairman; Dr K P Wasnik, Director-VT, and Dr Mamta Srivastava, Dy Director-VT on 12 February. Accreditation certificates and guidelines were issued by NIOS to 39 partners who had applied for accreditation to NIOS. Mr Felix D'Souza, Programme Manager, Mr C P Nicholas, Project Monitoring Officer, and Mr Albert Joseph, Executive Director, FVTRS, attended the meeting.



Meeting at NIOS, New Delhi

### NIOS Accredited Partners' Meet

The second round of meeting with accredited partners was conducted at Bangalore on 12 March to facilitate the process of accreditation for academic courses and to take stock of progress made in vocational courses by 39 AVIs (Accredited Vocational Institutions). NIOS officials, Dr K P Wasnik, Director-VT, and Dr Kuldeep Agarwal, Director-

Academics, facilitated the sessions.

Dr Wasnik emphasised the following three aspects to make the association successful and fruitful:

1. Extensive hands-on experience;
2. Create a brand name in alliance with NIOS, it being its best brand ambassador; and
3. Build up the confidence of trainees through vocational training to get jobs and to start their own enterprises.



Interface with accredited partners at Bangalore

Sr. Ann Marie of Kristujyoti Social Service Society, Samba, Jammu & Kashmir, who is an experienced partner with NIOS, provided valuable clarifications and suggestions to the participants

An action plan focusing on the following components was adopted at the meeting:

- ◆ Region-specific cluster-level meetings.
- ◆ Transfer of skills/ToT.
- ◆ Develop Monthly Monitoring Formats (MMFs).
- ◆ Publish an e-journal to maintain continuous dialogue among FVTRS, NIOS and partners.
- ◆ Conduct a national-level workshop.
- ◆ Ensure visibility of the co-operation.
- ◆ Select the second batch of partners for accreditation.
- ◆ Encourage partners to use on-line NIOS website or e-link via FVTRS website.

### National Partners' Meet

Partners of FVTRS met in New Delhi on 12 January on the sidelines of the National Skill Conference. They presented best practices adopted by them after discussing the challenges and plans for the current year.

Some of the best practices included:

- ◆ Campus Interview;
- ◆ International/National Curriculum and Certification;
- ◆ Linkage with different service providers for on-job training, placement, financial assistance and for market opportunities for trainees;

- ♦ Linkage with Government departments and available schemes and with CSR wings of corporate houses;
- ♦ Loan schemes of MFIs and other financial groups;
- ♦ Training-cum-production centres;
- ♦ EDP training; and
- ♦ Training programmes for women and minority groups.

interested doers, as well as to assure funding support from FVTRS.



Participants of the Gangtok consultation

### RTI Convention at Shillong

FVTRS participated in the Right to Information (RTI) National Convention organised by the National Commission on People's Right to Information (NCPRI) and the Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangthan (MKSS) at Shillong from 10-12 March.

His Excellency Ranjit Shekhar Mooshahary, Governor of Meghalaya, inaugurated the convention. RTI activists from all over India converged on the occasion to share experiences and for greater bonding to make the movement stronger. The RTI Commissioner, Mr Satyananda Mishra, former Election Commissioner Mr J M Lyngdoh and former Supreme Court Chief Justice, Sri J S Verma were among the dignitaries present on the inaugural and subsequent days. Themes related to RTI were presented with role and street plays, drama, and music.

Ms Aruna Roy, Mr Nikhil Dey and Mr Sankar Singh, from NCPRI and MKSS, coordinated the programme.

### "Make Skill-Development a Movement"

The Network Partners' Meet held on 5 March at Ahmednagar in Maharashtra categorically felt that skill development cannot be a subject only for few ministries and ITIs or polytechnics. It has to be taken as a cross-cutting theme in all aspects of human life from educational institutions to end-of-life situation. It is important to communicate to all stakeholders that it is the skilled labour that ultimately saves precious natural resources and contributes to the nation's economy.

The meet was attended by 30 participants from Maharashtra and Gujarat. It was a follow-up to the EU-supported project of 2007-09.

**Technical skills alone will not help; one should have soft skills to go further in one's career.**



Presentation by a partner at the Partners' Meet, New Delhi

### Promotional Consultation at Alleppey

A Promotional Consultation was organised at Alleppey under the auspices of Kerala Social Service Forum (KSSF) on 28 January 2011. Fr Romance Antony, Director, KSSF, mobilised 32 participants from many NGOs and from Diocesan Societies, who attended the programme. The one-day programme was inaugurated by Dr Antony Kariyil, President of FVTRS. Mr Albert Joseph facilitated the sessions.



Dr Antony Kariyil inaugurating the consultation

### Promotional Consultation at Gangtok

A one-day Promotional Consultation was organised on 9 March at Gangtok, Sikkim in collaboration with Pragathi Diocesan Social Service Society (PDSSS). It was facilitated by Mr Roshan Rai, Member, General Body, FVTRS and Fr. Michael, Director, PDSSS who were able to gather 24 representatives of different NGOs from south, east and west districts of Sikkim.

The objective of the consultation was to promote vocational training in Sikkim for school dropout youth by sensitising them and making them



Partners' Network meet at Ahmednagar

### 'Increase the Catchment Area'

'Increase the Catchment Area' was the theme of Network Partners' Meet held at Raipur, Chattisgarh on 17 March as a follow-up to the EU-aided project of 2007-09. It was felt that unless the dignity of skill training is not properly communicated to students in their early days in school, aimless pursuit of education would continue resulting in the producing graduates and post-graduates not employable for any meaningful job.

The meet was attended by 35 partners and representatives from various agencies located in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand.



Participants of Partners' network meet at Raipur

### Workshop on Business Plan

A two-day workshop on Business Plan & Finance Analysis in Micro-Enterprises was organised by SPiN Network at Chennai on 29 and 30 March. Eighteen participants attended the workshop. Prof V Ault Justin Dhas, Director, Kanyakumari Community College, was the principal resource person.

### Misereor Consultant in FVTRS

Ms Ellen Schmitt, Consultant-HIV/AIDS, Misereor, visited FVTRS on 23 and 24 March to discuss and incorporate HIV/AIDS awareness programmes in the course curricula of vocational training.

A concept note, curriculum and action plan was developed with the help of Dr P S N Rao, Consultant, HIV/AIDS, from Orissa.



Ms Ellen Schmitt and Dr PSN Rao with FVTRS Team

### Participation in Meetings/Conferences

#### Donor Round Table Meeting

A round table meeting of donors was organised by Credibility Alliance on 11 February at New Delhi. The participants spoke about areas where donors should focus more while implementing interventions together with NGOs.



The Round Table Conference

#### Cooperation with ILO for ToT Experts

Mr Albert Joseph held discussions with Mr Hideki Kagohashi, Enterprise Development Specialist, International Labour Organisation (ILO), and his colleagues in New Delhi on 14 January, 23 February and 23 March. FVTRS has submitted a proposal for entrepreneurship training for partner-organisations. The ILO has approved the proposal and ToT trainers from Sri Lanka would be made available to FVTRS' partners and trainees.

To take this partnership to the next level, a one-day meeting would be organised in April with employers, trade union leaders and ILO officials in New Delhi.

#### Community College Inaugurated in Kottayam

The community college under Kottayam Social Service Society was inaugurated on 19 February. Prof Rajasekharan Pillai, Vice-Chancellor of IGNOU inaugurated the programme in the presence of Mr Jose K Mani, Member of Parliament from Kottayam; Mr Thomas Chazikadan, MLA from Ettumanoor and Bishop Mathew Moolekattil of Kottayam Diocese. Mr Albert Joseph gave the keynote address on the occasion which was facilitated by Fr Michael

Vettickat, Director of Kottayam Social Service Society.



Prof Rajasekharan Pillai inaugurating the Community College

### IGSSS Golden Jubilee Celebration

The Golden Jubilee of Indo-Global Social Service Society (IGSSS) was celebrated on 23 February at India International Centre, New Delhi. H.E. Mrs Daniele SMADJA, Ambassador, Head of Delegation of EU to India was the chief guest.

Other dignitaries included Dr Josef Sayer, Managing Director of Misereor, and Dr. Fusser Ulrich, Head of Asia Department, Misereor.

### Meeting with Secretary, Labour and Employment, Andhra Pradesh

FVTRS Team held discussions with Mr Sriramulu, Secretary, Labour and Employment, AP on 4 March at his office on possible collaboration between FVTRS and ITIs in AP. The discussions centred on possibilities to improvise training delivery in 42 ITIs in the State that have shown keen interest to cooperate with FVTRS. Dr P Basak, Governing Board member was present to facilitate the cause.

### Research and Study Policy Paper

FVTRS finalised its policy paper on Research and Study to address relevant topics in the unorganised sector in its last governing board meeting held on 2 March. The guidelines are available at FVTRS website for interested persons/groups to take up the same.

### KSSF Visit to FVTRS

The staff of Kerala Social Service Forum (KSSF), visited FVTRS on 4 February for an interactive session. A brief introduction of FVTRS, along with screening of the documentary film 'Not Born to Burn', was done to familiarise them with the activities of FVTRS.

### Internal Auditing

Interim auditing of FVTRS-MISEREOR accounts up to 30 September and of the EU accounts up to 31 December 2010 has been done and the report was submitted.

### Misereor Auditors Visit FVTRS

Ms Hartmann-Ritgens, Claudia Hartmann and Mr Diego Ferriera visited FVTRS on 29 and 30 March

to audit the accounts and to share methods of following accounting practices.

### Foreign Delegation Visits FVTRS

A foreign delegation of 18 members from 12 developing countries facilitated by MSME Hyderabad visited FVTRS on 7 March. The exposure was the part of the Training of Trainers in Entrepreneurship and Skill Development.



Foreign Delegation accompanied by NI-MSME at FVTRS, Bangalore

### Staff Education Tour

A two-day educational tour was organised after the National Skill Conference on 14 and 15 January to Delhi and Agra. The team visited places of interest, such as the Rashtrapathi Bhavan, India Gate, Kutub Minar, Lotus Temple, Rajghat, Veer Bhumi, Shakthi Sthal in Delhi and Fatehpur Sikri, Taj Mahal and the Fort in Agra.



FVTRS Team at Fatehpur Sikri, Agra

### Governing Board and PSC Meetings

A meeting of the Governing Board was held in Bangalore on 3 March to finalise the budget and plans for FY 2011-12.

The meeting of the Project Selection Committee was also held on sidelines of GB meeting where 35 project proposals including 10 projects supported by the European Union were approved.

### Project-Related Information

- ◆ 30 projects visited by Project Support Staff Team for monitoring and for pre-assessment.
- ◆ 63 new project proposals received.

**‘Vocational Education and Training for Vulnerable and Marginalised Groups in India’**

**Promotional Consultation at Guwahati**

A one-day Promotional Consultation on ‘Prospects of Skill Training in The North-East’ was held at Bosco Reachout, Guwahati, on 2 February. Thirty-one NGO representatives from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland and Tripura attended.

The Chief Guest was Mr K K Mittal, IAS, Principal Secretary, Govt. of Assam. In his inaugural address, Mr Mittal emphasised on developing skills to improve productivity and gainful employment that would ultimately contribute to the growth of the economy of the country.



Mr K K Mittal, Principal Secretary, Govt. of Assam, addressing the participants

**Promotional Consultation at Bhopal**

A one-day Promotional Consultation on ‘Prospects of Skill Training in the Unorganised Sector’ was held at Bhopal on 15 March, that was attended by 112 participants from various organisations in imparting skill training to the underprivileged youth.

Mr Pramod Gujral, State Head, Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), spoke about skill deficiency in the country and how to enhance skills with added components of EDP and by improvising the curriculum pattern to meet the demands of the current market. Mr Pramod Srivastava, Vice President-South Asia, International Vocational Education and Training Association (IVETA), also addressed the gathering. He touched upon the Gandhian concepts of micro-enterprises and how one must interlink this to functional vocational training for the unorganised sector in the country.

A panel discussion by experts from the social development sector was held on issues such as gender discrimination, moral, social and cultural backgrounds, social barriers in implementing VET, and on entrepreneurship model in VT and its innovative approaches.



Promotional Consultation at Bhopal

**STNA at Guwahati**

A two-day Skills Training Needs Analysis (STNA) workshop was held at Bosco Reachout, Guwahati on 3 and 4 February, attended by 29 representatives of 15 NGOs from Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland and Tripura.

The objective of the workshop was to fine-tune the proposals and to assess the skill-training needs and understanding of skills and trades suitable to youth to earn a livelihood in dignity. Sessions comprised need for VET, methods of market analysis, successful and skill modules. A practical session on market analysis was also held where participants went out to survey, study and record their observations in the nearby market.



Participants at STNA, Guwahati

**STNA at Bhopal**

A one-day STNA session was organised for prospective partners in Madhya Pradesh at Bhopal on 16 March. This was attended by 42 participants from 19 organisations. Mr Felix D’Souza, Programme Manager, FVTRS, took a session on technical issues and skill perspectives in the international and national contexts, taking into account the present needs and demands of vocational training. A session on Business Skills in FVT was facilitated by Mr Prashanth R B, Central Documentation Officer and Mr Balakrushna Panda, Asst. Project Manager, FVTRS spoke on the relevance of Participatory Market Analysis (PMA) Assessment and its importance in vocational training.

There was active participation from the floor. Many recommendations and suggestions were captured during the discussion for possible implementation.

The European Union





Participants at STNA Bhopal

### Youth Convention at Jodhpur

A one-day youth convention attended by 175 participants including 68 youth trainees of four partner-organisations of FVTRS (EU-supported project) and students of ITI was held at the ITI premises in Jodhpur on 9 February.

Dignitaries Mr Madhusudan Trivedi, Principal, ITI-Jodhpur and Mr A R Choudhary, Dy Director, Technical Education, Jodhpur, inaugurated the programme. In his address, Mr Trivedi asserted that skill is the currency for youth. Prof M P Singh, Training and Placement Officer, VNS Institute of Management, Bhopal, led a session on motivation, and on the importance of skill and vocational training.



Participants of the Youth Convention, Jodhpur



At ITI-Jodhpur

### EU 'Contact Day'

Mr Prashanth, EU-Central Documentation Officer and Ms Noyala Sheela, Finance Executive, FVTRS attended the half-day contact programme on financial and contractual aspects – budgeted line items, auditing, availability of records for EU audit, etc. It was organised by the European Union for its EU Partners in South India at Hyderabad on 8 February.

### Market Fair at Jodhpur

Partners of FVTRS from northern States participated and displayed their products at the ten-day Market Fair organised by Paschimi Rajasthan Udyog Hastshilp Utsav 2011 from 2 to 11 January. The objectives of the Fair were to showcase the products of the trainees, and to provide a platform to the artisans to understand the market dynamics of demand of goods, response to goods produced and to create marketing opportunities. These events created awareness among different stakeholders and result in a ripple effect in the region to enrol more practitioners for skill training.



At the Jodhpur Market Fair

### Market Fair at Hyderabad

A nine-day market fair was organised by Innovative Mega Trade Fair (IMTF), Hyderabad, at People's Plaza, Hyderabad from 2 to 9 March where FVTRS-EU-supported partners showcased products of trainees. The Market Fair was inaugurated by Mr Shailjanath, Minister of Primary Education, Government of Andhra Pradesh.

On 3 March, Mr Albert Joseph, Executive Director and Dr P Basak, Member, Governing Board, FVTRS visited the Fair. The objective was to showcase products and promote sales.



At the Market Fair in Hyderabad

### Monitoring and Pre-Assessment Visits

FVTRS Regional Teams visited 17 organisations for pre-assessment reasons and 13 partner-organisations for monitoring purposes in the last quarter. These visits covered Assam, Manipur, Tripura, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Pondicherry. Mr B K Panda, Asst. Project Manager (EU), FVTRS also joined the Regional Teams in these visits.

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EU-SUPPORTED PROJECT

## From the ED's Desk

**Increasing the 'Catchment Area' is the Key to Make the Nation Skilled ... China did not look at opportunities that existed elsewhere. They created it.**

The first window in the life of young person is the school and that is shut to them for reasons of access, poverty and tradition as planners put it. The second window that could be opened in the lives of young people is through a 'skill window' which has dignity, an equalising effect and currency role as the person takes on life.

There is no perceptible effort done at secondary educational level to sensitise and orient the young to understand that it is stigma that prevents them from entering the 'skill world' and thus save them from the aimless pursuit of higher education.

The archaic teaching curricula in the ITIs, poor infrastructure, and the fossilised teaching methods will all become a thing of the past if young dedicated minds start to enter these premises and the governance feels the heat to improvise the infrastructure, curricula and expertise. Proportionate improvement of enrolment and services will follow vertically as a sequel.

For that to happen a 'skill movement' should take place from school education and at plus-two level onwards increasing the catchment area where young impressions are formed at an early age. The realisation for the young will be that skill training is second to none, and the nation can take advantage of the young demographic profile.

No conference in India today gets over without a mention of China in one context or other. It is often told that we have to take advantage of the emerging opportunities in the globalised context. There is a dependency side to it and if opportunities begin to stagnate, nobody knows where to move on. China does not look at opportunities that existed elsewhere. They created it. Assessing opportunities in other countries may not be the compulsion to train our young work force. It should be internally-driven and pushed to cater to the domestic needs based on R&D with strong entrepreneurialism. **Otherwise, it may be like the koel avoiding the botheration of creating its own nest and putting its eggs in a crow's nest!** Are we different?

Albert Joseph

## Vocational Education : Implemented in Child Labour School

### SEBA JAGAT Experience

Seba Jagat, a voluntary organisation working in one of the most-neglected economic regions of Orissa, namely Kalahandi and Kondhamal districts, home to millions of tribals and downtrodden, has been running vocational education programmes in two Child Labour Schools with the support of the National Child Labour Project, a Government of India-supported activity, since 2000.

The schools aim at mainstreaming non-school-going children and school dropout youth who are engaged in different types of work. A student can study up to Standard 5 in a period of three years. Afternoon sessions in the school are devoted to vocational education. Vocational training is offered tailoring

and knitting; bamboo craft, and in palm leaf craft.

The impact of vocational training in these schools is manifold. Among them are retention of students in schools and keeping them engaged; enhanced competency in both academic and vocational streams, and enabling students to learn by doing.

Most of the students are not only competent in vocations but are keen competitors studies, sports, cultural programmes.



Students learning bamboo craft

### Staff Matters

Ms Chinmayee Subash and Ms Usha R. resigned from FVTRS.

FVTRS thanks and wishes them all the best for their future endeavours.

### Forthcoming Events

1. Finance Review by Misereor on 5 and 6 April
2. Meeting with ILO on ToT and with EU on finance matters on 7 April
3. CII National Conference on Inclusive Growth on 8 and 9 April, New Delhi
4. Ms Ellen Pedersen from EU visits Nagaland from 11 to 15 April
5. Project Monitoring Review by Dr Joseph Sebastian, IGSSS, on 25 April
6. EU-Project staff meeting at Hyderabad on 26,27 April
7. New Project Partners' meet Hyderabad - 28 April
8. NIOS unit inauguration at Alleppey on 30 April
9. Interview for Project Monitoring Officer - 3,4 May
10. AGBM on 9-10 June Bangalore
11. Training Needs Analysis Hyderabad - 14 June
12. Entrepreneurs' and Youth Convention Hyderabad - 15,16 June
13. Entrepreneurs' Convention Jodhpur - 23 June
14. Promotional Consultation Meet - Salem in June
15. VT Resource Team Meet - June



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