

News Bulletin

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NATIONAL SKILL CONFERENCE 2009



National Skill conference on “New Perspectives, Actions, and Challenges in the Unorganized Sector on Skill Development” was held on 21-22 December 2009 at Bangalore. Mr. Albert Joseph, Executive Director, FVTRS welcomed all the guests and participants. Ms. Ellen Pedersen, Development Cooperation, Delegation to The European Union India was the Chief Guest. In her address she mentioned that EU is committed to promote Vocational Education Training for the economic development of the marginalized, vulnerable and underprivileged youth. She released the EU Souvenir on the occasion. Fr. Varghese Mattamana, Executive Director, Caritas India presided over the inaugural session. In his presidential address he said that FVTRS is unique because of its exclusive support for skill promotion, sensitization, advocacy-lobbying and networking with NGO partners. Dr. P. Basak, Board member, FVTRS spoke on the occasion.

Dr. S. S. Jena, Chairman, National Institute of Open School, New Delhi; Prof G. C. Naidu, Director, School of Vocational Training, IGNOU, New Delhi; Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, IAS, ILO, Bangalore; Dr. John Blomquist, Team Leader, Social Protection, World Bank; Mr. S. J. Amalan, Regional Director, RDAT, Apex Inst. Ministry of Labour and Employment, Govt of India were the Guests of Honour too spoke during the inaugural session highlighting activities, interests of their respective institutions.. Mr. Ramesh Zalki, IAS, Secretary, Labour Department, Govt. of Karnataka delivered his inaugural address. Later in the day they spoke about skill training scenario of unorganized sector in India and the initiatives taken by Karnataka Government through the skill development corporation, joined by Mr. Raghupathy, Joint Director and Mr. Keshav Murthy, Dy GM, Karnataka Skill Development Corporation. He clarified the queries of the participants very succinctly. Mr. M. L. Satyan, EU Project Manager, FVTRS proposed the vote of thanks.

As a conference kick-off, there was a brief presentation on FVTRS by Mr. Felix D’Souza, Programme Manager. An interface followed, with successful former trainees from FVTRS supported projects. Six entrepreneurs shared about their successful life journey equipped with adequate skills and stories of significant achievements and future aspirations. Ms. Anita Sharma and Mr. Felix D’Souza facilitated the session.



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**FVTRS Wishes You A
Happy New Year 2010**



Dr. Ravi Shanker delivering keynote address at NSC

KEY-NOTE ADDRESS

Dr. Ravi Shanker, Director, Jaypee Institute of Management Training, New Delhi delivered the keynote address. He spoke on prerequisite skill-sets that industries and modern job market are looking forward to new recruits with employers perspectives. Dr. R. S. P. Singh, Reader, IGNOU; Mr. A. K. Jha, Director, Ministry of MSME, New Delhi and Mr. S. Panikassery, MSME, Bangalore; Mr. Suresh Jacob, KITCO, Cochin; Mr. Nikhil Dey, Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan spoke on skill development initiatives on a wide ranging topics on certification, schemes and NREGS. All Board members of FVTRS too addressed the audience.

Ms. Ellen Pedersen, Chief Guest and Dr. Antony Kariyil, President, FVTRS inaugurated the exhibition where a wide range of products were displayed by the implementing partners of FVTRS. Women Drum Troupe from Kerala and a Cultural Troupe named XLNC from Bangalore entertained the guests.

Second day started with a business session of FVTRS partners, staff and Board members. President Dr. Antony Kariyil and Board members Dr. P. Basak, Dr. Hubby Mathew, Sr. Sudha Varghese and, Executive Director Mr. Albert Joseph clarified queries and sought recommendations from partners. The session was facilitated by Mr. Felix D'Souza, Programme Manager.

The newly emerged EU partners had separate deliberation with the EU delegation officials on issues pertaining to effective implementation of progress.

Mr. Raja Raman, Manager, NABARD, Bangalore; Mr. Aakash Sethi, Quest, Bangalore; Mr. Isac Singh, SWAN, Partner of FVTRS; Dr. P. S. N. Rao, Senior Consultant, Regional Trainer, Govt. of Orissa; Dr. P. Basak, Board member, FVTRS; Ms. Anita Sharma have made presentations on topics of NABARD's scheme for skill development, market relevant curricula and innovative methods, importance of EDP in skill training, skill diversification and challenges, successful best practices of skill training as facilitated by FVTRS.

Certificates were distributed to partner organizations who participated in the exhibition and the trainees during the valedictory session. Mr. Vivek Albuquerque, Management Expert from Allen Management spoke during valedictory. Ms. Anita Sharma moderated the two-day conference.

NSC PHOTO GALLERY



Mr. Ramesh Zalki, IAS, Labour Secretary, Karnataka addressing the audience



Participants at NSC



Dr. Antony Kariyil, President of FVTRS and Ms. Ellen Pedersen from EU inaugurating exhibition during NSC



Successful Trainees at NSC



Drum troupe trainees at NSC



The EU Partners' Meeting: A Brief Report



Ms. Ellen Pedersen address the partners

Three groups were formed thereafter to discuss on the following issues:

- Addressing the issue of multi-sector collaboration – linkage and working arrangements between state, non-state and private sector in VET.
- Identification of areas of needs for collaboration within EU contracts
- Future plan of action for collaboration

The following action plans were prepared by the participants after group presentations:

1. Mapping of Projects – sector wise, geographical area wise, strengths and expertise.
2. Formation of e-Group consisting of EU partners in VET to provide a platform of continuous communication and sharing.
3. Sharing of Training Calendar/Workshop/ ToTs/Events by all partners on a continuous basis.
4. Meeting with Director of IGNOU on discussing possibilities of submitting joint proposal of interested organisations (among EU partners) on a GoI programme
5. Inclusion of EU's specific priorities in the curriculum.
6. Standardization of publications.

The European Union had organized a meeting on 22 December, 2009 for its new partners on the occasion of the National Skill Conference held at Bangalore. 18 participants including the EU officials from Delhi took part.

Ms. Ellen Pedersen, Development Cooperation, Delegation to the European Union, India spoke on the following objectives in her introduction:

- Make the partners aware of each other in terms of their work and their presence in the VET sector in India under EU, VET programme through civil society
- Familiarise with EU commitment for new projects, the scale of operation and the potential impact that would result out of this commitment, from early 2010 over the next 5 years.
- Discuss points of synergy and start a platform of discussion amongst all on skills development.

She emphasized on the importance of working collectively as a group which will contribute to discussions at a professional level and provide input at macro level as well at National Policies.

Mr. R.M.P. Jawahar from Tiruchirappalli Regional Engineering College Science and Technology Entrepreneurs Park (TREC-STEP) made a presentation on “Building True Market Competencies”. Ms. Nivedita Varshneya from Deutsche Welthungerhilfe did a presentation on “Skill sectors in rural settings generating meaningful employment and access to quality training for the disadvantaged communities”. It was followed by a presentation on “Strengthening local economy and avenues for entrepreneurship development through Vocational Education Training” by Mr. Dibyendu Chaudhuri of PRADAN. Dr. Nalini Gangadharan from CAP Foundation made a presentation on “Institutional arrangements for quality assurance and certification”.



Group Presentations

The meeting was moderated by Ms. Anita Sharma and facilitated by Ms. Anasuya Gupta from EU Office, Delhi. FVTRS was represented by Mr. Satyan, EU Project Manager. The next meeting of the EU partners will be held at New Delhi in March, 2010.

GOVERNING BOARD MEETING

Governing Board of FVTRS was met on 30 November at Bangalore.

PROJECT SELECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

11 projects at a cost of Rs 54,82,425/- were approved during PSC meeting that was held on the sidelines of Governing Board meeting on 30 November, 2009.

MONITORING AND PRE-ASSESSMENT VISITS

Monitoring visits to four projects in the States of Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Jharkhand and Gujarat along with pre-assessment visits to 16 new projects in West Bengal, UP, Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand and Karnataka were carried out.

NEW PROPOSALS

58 new project proposals were received during the quarter..

FUNDS RELEASED

Rs. 57,42,433/- has been released for 26 projects.

DFID PROPOSAL

A proposal for two districts of Bihar is submitted to DFID under PACS programme on MGREGS, on skill related activities.

CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMMES

Ms. Arpana Bharti, Advocacy and Documentation Officer, attended a two-day training programme on “Start writing case studies” at KKID training centre, Coimbatore on 3-4 November, 2009.

QUALITY ACCOUNTS

A one-day in-house orientation programme on good accounts governance was facilitated by statutory auditor Mr. Vittal Rao on the financial, accounting and legal procedures concerning FVTRS as a separate entity on 10 November, 2009. Ms. Diviana Nayagi, Secretary - Programmes, Mr. Eldhose Alias, Finance Officer and Ms. Noyala Sheela, Secretary - Accounts attended the programme.



Mr. Vittal Rao, Statutory Auditor at work

STAFF RECIPROCAL AND MUTUAL ACTION ‘SRAMA’ UPDATE

Two presentations and open discussion were done as a part of the continuous-in-house-staff-grooming process in the quarter. ‘Basic knowledge of IT and various day-to-day terminologies’ by Mr. Prashanth, Documentation Officer and ‘Consumer Protection Act and prevailing rules in our country’ by Mr. Nicholas, Monitoring Officer were organized.

Regular Projects

PROJECT COORDINATORS’ MEETINGS

Two-day project coordinators’ meeting was organized by FVTRS at Nagpur for western and southern regions on 7-8 October. A similar meeting was organized for partners of eastern and northern regions on 21-22 October at Kolkata. The Objective was to share and discuss about intervention status, challenges faced in particular, and plan on remedial measures. Discussion on project progress on issues on feasibility of selected trades, trainees’ needs, training methodology and content, involvement of EDP, certification and the role of trainers by project coordinators were held. The meet provided opportunity to all the participants to share and learn.



Coordinators’ Meet at Nagpur



Coordinators’ Meet at Kolkata

REGIONAL PROMOTIONAL CONSULTATIONS DIMAPUR

A promotional consultation was organized in association with Prodigals’ Home, and Youth Centre at Dimapur in Nagaland on 25 November, 2009 on ‘Prospects and Challenges of Skill Training in the Unorganized Sector’. Dr. P. Basak, Board Member, FVTRS effectively facilitated the programme. 20 NGOs from Nagaland and Manipur along with other stakeholders attended which was highlighted in local newspapers.



Dimapur Consultation

DARJEELING

Mr. Roshan Rai, Board Member of FVTRS organized a promotional consultation on skill training at Darjeeling on 27 November, 2009 on the theme “Vocational Training possibilities in the Darjeeling and Sikkim Himalayas region”. Mr Felix D’Souza, Programme Manager, FVTRS facilitated the programme. 27 NGO representatives attended.



Darjeeling Consultation

TRAINING-OF-TRAINERS (TOT) ON ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT

A Six-day ToT programme on Entrepreneurial Development was organized for Co-ordinators of partner organizations from December 14-19 at Bangalore. 22 participants from southern States, Maharashtra and Jharkhand attended. Mr. N. Ramesh, Associate Senior Faculty of EDII, Bangalore was the resource person. Printed study materials were provided and participation certificates issued on completion of the training to trainees.



ToT at Bangalore - Concluding day

SPIN NETWORK MEETING

Skill Promotion India Network (SPiN) organized a workshop on “Disaster Preparedness, Response, Mitigation and Skill” on 28 October at Madurai. It was facilitated by Dr. P. Basak and convened by Mr. Isac Singh, convener of SPiN. 26 network members attended.

MISEREOR MEET ON YOUTH

Misereor organized workshop from 8-10 Oct at New Delhi as a stock taking exercise on youth interventions in India, and for receiving feedback on Misereor activities on its Indian interventions. Mr. Albert Joseph, Executive Director represented FVTRS on the occasion.

INWENT TRAINING ON LEADERSHIP

A Two-day programme was organized by InWEnt, New Delhi on “Leadership Management” by Mr. Mohan Dhamothran from Germany on 2 and 3 November, 2009. Mr. Albert Joseph, Executive Director, FVTRS participated in the training.

NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE BY CBCI

CBCI had organized a National Youth Conference on “Youth in Emerging India” at Mangalore on 6 November, 2009. Mr. Albert Joseph, Executive Director, FVTRS made a presentation on “Youth in India and FVTRS activities”.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND POLYTECHNIC

A conference on “Community Development and Polytechnic” was organized for Principals and Directors of Engineering Colleges and polytechnics from nine States by National Institute of Technical Teachers’ Training and Research (NITTTR), Chandigarh on 25 November, 2009. Mr. Albert Joseph, Executive Director, FVTRS presented a paper on skill development and Polytechnic.

Miscellaneous

E-NEWSLETTER

Three issues of E-Newsletter have been circulated to all stakeholders since September month. The same is posted at FVTRS website as well.

IEC AND PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

IEC materials viz. Calendar-2010, Pocket calendar, EU Souvenir, New brochure of FVTRS in Hindi and English, Documentary film titled ‘Not Born to Burn’, Annual Report 2008-09 and promotional materials such as T-shirts, cap, bag were distributed to all the stakeholders during the National Skill Conference.



Regional Interface Meetings

AHMEDABAD

A one-day interface was organized by western RPPC on “Relevance of Entrepreneurship development in skill training” at Ahmedabad on 1 October, 2009. Mr. R. M. Patel, Principal Secretary, Labour and Employment, Government of Gujarat was the Chief Guest. Mr. M. M. Makad from Jan Shikshan Sansthan, Mr. Bharat Patel, Institute of Engineering and Ms. Misha Vyas who is an entrepreneur herself from Gandhi Labour Institute graced the occasion. Mr. S. L. Sharma, NABARD; Ms. Veena Parik, Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Mr. Abdul Upadhyay, Small and Cottage Industries, Government of Gujarat were the panelist during the interface. A separate session was conducted wherein the processes and procedures of partnership with FVTRS for skill training were explained to the local NGOs. Partners from Gujarat and Maharashtra along with 22 local NGOs attended.



Ahmedabad Interface

HARIDWAR

FVTRS organized a one-day regional interface on “Need for skill promotion and the relevance of EDP” at Haridwar on 14 October, 2009. The main objective was to sensitize various NGOs and other stakeholders on skill promotion. The Chief Guest was Mr. Kamal Jaura, Chairman of Haridwar. Mr. S. A. Das, DGM, NABARD and Mr. Mahendra Singh Kunwar, Director, Himalayan Action Research Centre took sessions on the need for skill promotion and the relevance EDP. Three ex-trainees shared their experiences on skill training they underwent and their achievements. One successful woman entrepreneur shared her experience on developing an enterprise. 64 participants attended the meeting.



Haridwar Interface

MUZAFFARNAGAR

A one-day interface on “The need for skill promotion and the relevance of EDP” was organized for northern regional partners and other stakeholders at Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh on 20 November, 2009. The objective was sensitization of various stakeholders. The Chief Guest Mr. Kapil Dev Agrawal, Chairman, Muzaffarnagar, Mr. Ashok Kansal, MLA, Muzaffarnagar and representatives of the participants lit the lamp to mark the inauguration. Mr. Nyaz Ahmad Khan, Secretary of Sahayata Vikas Sansthan, Muzaffarnagar shared his experiences on the importance of EDP in skill training. Mr. K. P. S. Tyagi, General Manager, District Industries Centre spoke on the need for promoting skill training. Mr. R. K. Mogha, District Development Manager, NABARD explained to the participants about various schemes that are available in NABARD on rural development and skill promotion related activities. Mr. S. R. Agrawal, Chief Manager of Punjab National Bank spoke briefly about the funds available for vocational training and other rural development programmes. The input session was followed by a sharing session by four village Presidents and three ex-trainees. The village Presidents unanimously said that skill training is the need of the hour especially in the rural areas and it prevents the underprivileged youth from criminal activities. They expressed their deep appreciation for the skill training organized by FVTRS through its partners. The trainees shared their experiences on skill training and entrepreneurship. Due to skill training they have become respectable persons in their villages, they said.



Muzaffarnagar Interface

MARKET FAIR

A two-day Market Fair was organized by FVTRS in collaboration with northern region partners on 14-15 October at Haridwar. Mr. Kamal Jaura, Chairman of Haridwar inaugurated the market fair where 11 stalls of vermin compost, aluminum wire baskets, readymade dresses, cereals, medicinal plants, embroidered dresses, soft toys were kept. Mr. H. C. Lohumi, Assistant Labour Commissioner, Haridwar visited the Market Fair on the second day and appreciated the products.



Haridwar Market Fair



Visitors at Haridwar Market Fair

PROJECT REVIEW VISITS

- To Centre for Development, Ahmedabad, Gujarat on October 02, 2009
- To Ashankur Women's Centre (Western RPPC), Ahmednagar on 24 October, 2009
- To KIRDTI (Eastern RPPC) on 10-11 November, 2009

FINAL EVALUATION

The final evaluation of the EU supported project (2007-2009) will take place during February-March, 2010. Mr. Ralf Lange will be the external Evaluator and Ms. Anita Sharma will be the local Evaluator.

ONLINE DATABASE SYSTEM

EU section of FVTRS in collaboration with VRM InfoTech has developed and introduced online database system for the RPPCs. The data collected from three regions has been uploaded to the system. FVTRS website is also being redesigned.

EU NEW PROJECT

The European Commission has approved a new project for a period of three years (2010 to 2012). It will be implemented through three regions at Dimapur, Jodhpur and Hyderabad. Preparations and recruitments to new positions are going on.

NEW POSITIONS IN EU PROJECT

An advertisement was posted at devnetjobsindia and FVTRS websites for nine positions of Project Manager, Assistant Project Manager and Documentation Officer located at Bangalore and Regional Manager and Regional Documentation Officer each for three Regional centres- Jodhpur, Dimapur and Hyderabad. 215 applications were received from all over the country. 38 candidates have been short-listed and called for an interview to be held on 22-23 January 2010.

SERVICES EXTENDED

The services of Mr. M. L. Satyan and Mr. R. B. Prashanth working with the EU project have been extended up to 28 February 2010 in lieu of the pending documentations, reports and accounts to be complied with EU and Misereor..

Forthcoming:

1. Training-of-Trainers programme on Entrepreneurial Development at Bhubaneswar on 4-10 January
2. Various projects visit from 5 to 10 January in Orissa by Mr. Felix D'Souza
3. TNA meet with Board member Mr. Jagadananda on 8 January
4. Meeting with NIOS, IGNOU, MoHA, Caritas India, Trident Global on 18-19 January.
5. Promotional Consultation at Kolhapur on 20 January
6. Interview for new EU project on 22 - 23 January.
7. Staff Educational Tour to Goa on 27 - 29 January
8. CII Meet at Cochin on 30 January.
9. Final Evaluation of EU supported project (2007-2009) in February-March
10. Promotional Consultation at Dharwad on 2 February
11. Promotional Consultation at Vijayawada on 17 February
12. Partners exposure meet on 9-10 March at Nagpur.
13. Partners exposure meet on 12-13 March at Ranchi and Lachragarh, Jharkhand
14. Staff Capacity Building & Management Programme last week of March
15. Survey and Market Mapping on identification of potential trades at Bhubaneswar in February
16. Two-day youth convention Meet-Focused group discussion in March
17. EDP for project partners at Siliguri on 22 - 27 February

From ED's Desk

**SOME NEW YEAR MUSINGS:
Flying, Auditing and BP**

Let me be permitted to deviate this time in a lighter vein from the usual skill related topics to an interesting subject which I am sure you will enjoy reading. Recently I had a discussion with the CEO of an agency and he told me one of the problems he is facing from his friends in the travel mode is 'BP'. I told him to consult a god physician and lo, he corrected me saying what he meant was 'Boarding Pass' and not Blood Pressure! Both of us thereon, got engaged into a passionate discussion on the complementary role, one has on the other and also with some vernacular 'full forms' on BP!

Flying is almost common place today among people who travel regularly with the entry of low cost and no-frill air travels. One nevertheless, has to toil a lot to get that quintessential piece of hard paper called 'Boarding Pass' (BP) without which the auditor will not give a 'pass mark' either to the accountants. Recently our auditor has asked us why on earth people do not respond to this requirement as a Boarding Pass unlike in the past, is not anymore considered as a Souvenir to possess and commemorate an air journey! I had no answer but responded with a glee, and he too responded with a similar gesture!

Albert Joseph

Speakers During NSC 2009



Dr. S.S. Jena, Chairman, NIOS, New Delhi



Prof. G.C. Naidu, Director, School of Vocational Training, IGNOU, New Delhi



Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, IAS, ILO, Bangalore



Mr. S.J. Amalan, Regional Director, RDAI, MoLE, Govt. of India



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