

News Bulletin

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FOUNDER PRESIDENT MEMORIAL LECTURE HELD

FVTRS organized a Memorial Lecture in memory of Late Bro. Jose Vetticattil, founder president of FVTRS on 18 September 2009, on his fourth death anniversary. Mr Nikhil Dey working with MKSS (Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan) was the speaker on the occasion. The audience comprised of civil society activists, NGOs in Bangalore, government officials, media, Board members, partners and staff of FVTRS.

Mr Nikhil spoke about how NREGA and RTI came into existence in the country quoting his experiences from the villages of Rajasthan. NREGA has emerged as an Act from the demand for work by poor rural people and the right for a life with dignity. He explained the impact of NREGA and RTI in providing work and right wages to labourers of rural marginalized community. Both the Acts in recent times have succeeded to build on the rural infrastructure, natural resources along with securing wage labour to the needy people in rural areas for the first time in the country. The foundation has been laid, and the need of the hour is to utilize both the Acts to deal with livelihood issues of landless and to mitigate poverty, he said. Civil society bodies, NGOs have to ensure legitimate use of NREGA and RTI through its activities, training and programmes. There are ample opportunities for FVTRS to take advantage of the unskilled labour force engaged under NREGA, said Mr Nikhil Dey.

The meeting was presided over by Rev Dr Antony Kariyil, President of FVTRS and moderated by Mr Jagadananda, State Information Commissioner, RTI, Orissa State.



Mr Jagadananda, Rev. Dr Kariyil and Mr Nikhil Dey

**WISH YOU ALL A
HAPPY DIWALI**



HEARTY WELCOME DR ANTONY



Rev Dr Antony has been elected as President of FVTRS in the last AGBM held on 17 July 2009. Born on March 26, 1950, Rev Dr Antony has been an educationist all through his career. He worked with Christ college, Bangalore as principal from 89 to 97 and Rajagiri college of Social Sciences, Kalamassery from 97 to 2002. Later he was Prior General of CMI congregation for 8 years. Presently he is the provincial superior of CMI congregation of Ernakulum region and based at Rajagiri, Kalamassery.

Adieu to Bishop Mathew Arackal

FVTRS is very grateful to the outgoing President Bishop Mathew Arackal who has been the inspiration when the winds of change blew through FVTRS as it took birth as an independent body. We're very grateful for his valuable and encouraging support rendered to us all through his stint as President. We will miss his all pervasive smile and support all through. We pray and wish him all the best.



AGBM 2009

Annual General Body Meeting was held on 17 July at Bangalore. A full fledged 7-member Governing Board has been constituted. Among other business of importance, election and nominations took place for vacant positions. FVTRS has for the first time attained its Board membership to the prescribed 15 as per its bye-laws.

HEARTY WELCOME TO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

FVTRS extends a hearty welcome to the new Board members of FVTRS Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath from Ernakulam and Ms Gazala Paul from Ahmedabad.



FIELD NEWS

CII-Mumbai assignment: CII delegated the assessment/certification of the vocational training courses/trainees conducted by various vocational training institutions in various places of Maharashtra to FVTRS. Mr C P Nicholas, Programme Monitoring Officer did the job efficiently from 7 to 10 July and report submitted to CII.

HEARTY WELCOME

Ms Arpana Bharti and Mr Eldhos Alias joined FVTRS as Advocacy and Documentation Officer and Finance Officer respectively. We wholeheartedly welcome them to FVTRS family.

A Nick Name for FVTRS: The acronym FVTRS is cumbersome to spell out as experienced by many in the past. It was therefore, felt that someone could propose a shorter nick name for FVTRS that imply 'skill' and 'livelihood'. The contributor of chosen ones will be rewarded suitably. *Waiting to get your propositions. Please start sending your propositions at the earliest to FVTRS.*

NSC- 2009: The next National Skill Conference will be held on 21-22 December at Bangalore. The conference and accommodation is organized at St Johns Medical college premises, Koramangla, Bangalore. Detail information/invitation is being despatched.

National Labour Consultation: Took part in the one-day national consultation of National Centre for Labour on 24 July at Bangalore on 'Social Security for workers in the Unorganized Sector and issues of migrant Labour in India'. A presentation on FVTRS activities for the unorganized sector was made by Mr Albert Joseph and Mr Felix D'Souza.



National Labour Consultation

PROSPECTS OF SKILLS TRAINING IN THE UNORGANIZED SECTOR IN NORTHERN KARNATAKA

A workshop on the above theme was organized on 28 July to sensitize mainly the NGO community spread out across northern Karnataka on the relevance and significance of skill training in an effort to identify, bond and to have tie-up with effective NGOs in the region to include skill training as a priority agenda in their action plan. Deliberations were planned with presentations on the employment and economic scenario at the national and State level narrowing down to presentations on achievements at the micro-level in the region by partners of FVTRS. SEVA Raichur coordinated the programme. The workshop was attended by 88 representatives from 67 NGOs.



Raichur Workshop

ANNUAL RETREAT HELD

A two-day annual retreat was held on 18-19 September in an effort to take stock of FVTRS activities in perspective and to reposition it in the emerging new scenario as an independent body. All Board, Advisory and staff members of FVTRS along with 10 partners attended.

Board and Advisory Committee members made presentations on various relevant topics related to FVTRS field of action. They included Challenges in VET as faced by the country today, RTI Act and its implications for FVTRS partners, Advocacy and Lobbying, Resource Mobilization, Monitoring and Evaluation of projects, and regional marginalization and inclusion issues.

The occasion was used to revise and charter out a new plan of action based on the inputs from the deliberations mainly on four areas as follows:

Linkages: Ownership and sustainability questions were discussed at micro and macro level with recommendations.

RTI: To make the implications of the Act in greater detail to the stakeholders of FVTRS to preempt unwelcome developments.

Monitoring & Evaluation: Participatory reflection to be encouraged as a learning Organization.

Strengthening FVTRS: Standardize and Digitize, and Feedback were the buzz words.



Fr. Varghese Mattamana at Annual Retreat



Annual Retreat

STAFF RECIPROCAL AND MUTUAL ACTION (SRAMA)

Staff capacity building: In an effort that could be termed as reciprocal a learning, FVTRS has started from September an in-house staff capacity building programme by the staff themselves, where each staffer makes an attempt through a presentation on a relevant topic of his/her choice on every Friday in the afternoon for one hour. The same is named as Srama. The topics covered so far are Swine-flu and Terrorism. Topics awaited are climate change, energy, taxation bill etc.

NEW PROPOSALS

Thirty new project proposals were received during the quarter.

MONITORING VISIT

17 running projects were visited for monitoring in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Jharkhand by Mr Felix D'Souza and Mr C P Nicholas.

FUNDS RELEASED

Rs.83 Lakh has been released for 42 projects in the quarter.

PSC MEETING

Project Selection Committee meeting was held on 19 September at Bangalore. 18 projects were approved, subject to certain conditions at a cost of Rs.90 lakh.

ORIENTATION

35 students from St. George College, Bangalore visited FVTRS office on 10 August for an orientation workshop.

ANNUAL REPORT

The annual report for 2008- 09 is published and being circulated. An informative new brochure has also been published.

PARTNER AWARDS

Final scrutiny of credentials of 3 awardees is being done. The awards will be conferred on the occasion of National Skill Conference at Bangalore on 21 December 2009.

In Memorium Founder President



Bro. Jose Vetticattil
26.03.1956 - 18.09.2005

ORISSA REGIONAL FORUM

Participated in the two-day Regional Perspective Plan workshop organized by Regional Forum of Orissa on 25-26 August at Bhubaneswar. All Bishops of Orissa along with their development structure personnel present, facilitated by CRS and Caritas India.

KANDHAMAL PARTNERS' MEET

The same was held at Bhubaneswar on 27 August to take stock of the project activities initiated at Kandhamal. All seven partner Organizations attended. It was followed by a visit to project areas in Kandhamal.

DOCUMENTARY FILM RELEASED

The 16-minute documentary film on youth in India with the title 'Not Born to Burn' has been released in July. It depicts the living conditions of youth in India in the unorganized sector and what FVTRS does for them through various skill training initiatives.



Interested persons may contact FVTRS for a copy.

STNA MEET

A 3-day 'Skills Training Needs Analysis cum Proposal Drafting' workshop was organized from 3-5 September at New Delhi for prospective partners of FVTRS. 49 persons representing various Organizations from UP, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Jammu & Kashmir, Rajasthan attended. Mr Albert Joseph and Mr Felix D'Souza facilitated the programme. During the workshop they were given inputs on present scenario of youth in the country, need of vocational training for the school drop-out youth, market demand and supply of skilled labour, techniques to study the market, market analysis, need and importance of study of similar doers, developing need based curricula, importance of incorporating EDP in vocational training, certification and institutional support available in the country for certification, government schemes to train youth in vocational training.



TNA at New Delhi

REGIONAL INTERFACE MEETINGS

Mumbai

FVTRS organized a one-day interface meeting on 23 July at Mumbai as a compliance of the EU supported project on 'Relevance of Entrepreneurship Development in skill training'. 55 participants consisting of associating partners and local NGOs attended. Mr Prakash Solanki from EDII, Ahmedabad facilitated the interface as resource person.



Mumbai Interface

Jamshedpur

A one-day regional interface meeting was organized by FVTRS in collaboration with Keonjhar Integrated Rural Development and Training Institute (Eastern RPPC), Keonjhar. The meeting was held at Samekit Jan Vikas Kendra, Jamshedpur on 7 September, 2009. The theme of the meeting was *Need for skill promotion*. 51 participants attended. The Chief Guest Honorable Sudhir Mahato, Ex-Deputy Chief Minister of Jharkhand State inaugurated the meeting and inspired the participants with his thought-provoking speech. He appreciated the work done by FVTRS and its partners all over the country. Input sessions were conducted on the theme.



Mr S. Mahato former deputy Chief Minister - Jharkhand

On 8 September, 2009 the eastern RPPC organized a one day interface meeting at the same venue on the theme *Relevance of Entrepreneurship Development in skill training*. Mr James David, Head-HRD, TINPLATE company, Jamshedpur was the Chief Guest. In his inaugural address, he stressed the importance of EDP in skill training quoting examples from his company. Mr Harpreet Singh of XISS and Mr Chandra Mohan Murmu of NABARD attended.

The European Union



EU-SUPPORTED PROJECT



Jamshedpur Interface

Workshop on Communication

The western RPPC organized a two-day workshop on *Communication Skills and Self Awareness* for the Associating partners of western region on 24-25 July at Sarvodaya Centre, St. Pius College Campus, Mumbai. The objective of the workshop was to enhance awareness on self and skills on communication at different fields. Ms Ratna Gosavi and Ms Ravibala of Insight Forum, Pune were the resource persons. 25 participants attended.



Mumbai Workshop on Communication

The objective of the interface meetings was to create awareness among different stakeholders (Government, Private and NGOs) about the importance of skill training and the need for its promotion against the current skill mismatch in the country for sustainable development of the unorganized sector as well as sensitizing the stakeholders on the need for maximizing allocation of resources for skill training. It triggers a ripple effect in the region to enlist more practitioners for the skill training in the unorganized sector.

Market Fair

A one day Market Fair was organized by the eastern RPPC at St. Joseph's Welfare centre, Jamshedpur on 9 September, 2009. The eastern region partners from Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Orissa participated in the Market Fair and exhibited their products. It was inaugurated by Mr Savio Rebello, Senior Administration Officer, TINPLATE Company, Jamshedpur. The stalls were visited by school/college students, teachers, NGO representatives and general public. The objective of the Market fair was to showcase the skills of the trainees, appreciate their products and create marketing opportunities for them.



Jamshedpur Market Fair

Sharing and Review Meeting

A two-day meeting was organized by the eastern RPPC on Review of accounts and Curricula development for its associating partners on 24-25 July at XISS, Ranchi. The objective of the meeting was to discuss and solve problems related to accounting and reporting, increase partners' knowledge on EDP and develop curricula format for all trades implemented by the partners. The RPPC staff facilitated the discussions on accounting, reporting and curricula development. FVTRS partner Mr Omkar Ram took sessions on the need for EDP in skill training.

Workshop on Database Management

FVTRS organized a two-day workshop on 'Data Base Management System' (DBMS), at Bangalore on 24-25 August for the RPPC staff from western and eastern regions under the EU supported project. The objective of the workshop was to finalize on the necessary DBMS in the final run up to the conclusion of the EU project. Eight participants attended the the workshop. Mr Shashi Kiran, Project Manager, Briskon, Bangalore facilitated the workshop.



DBMS Workshop



EU PARTNERS' MEET

A one-day sharing workshop was held on 14 September at Delhi for the partners of Haryana, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh to take stock of training programmes, curricula, EDP and placement. Seven partner Organizations attended. The programme was facilitated by Project Manager Mr M L Satyan.

EU DELEGATION OFFICE VISIT

Held discussions with Ms Ellen Pedersen, at EU Delegation office at New Delhi along with Ms Anasuya Gupta on 15 September to brief about the forthcoming National Skill Conference (NSC). A concept note on the NSC has been prepared and forwarded in an effort to facilitate the Ambassador of the European Union as the Chief Guest for the Conference.

'PROVISIONALLY SELECTED'

The position paper submitted for new cooperation with EU for 2010-2012 has been provisionally selected according to a recent communication from them. The interventions will enable FVTRS to reach out its skill training arm by opening regional offices at North-East, Rajasthan and in South India to work in the most backward districts in these regions.

ON LINE WEB BASED COMMUNICATION

FVTRS is shortly going hit-tech on-line, facilitating connectivity and access to the enormous amount of data that have been collected and compiled by all associating partners of the EU supported project from various regions of the country. This will help the existing website of FVTRS as well to be interactive for stakeholders to access and also to submit reports to respective sections eliminating perhaps e-mail and other soft forms of communication.

Monitoring Visit

Mr M L Satyan, EU Project Manager visited eastern RPPC at Keonjhar for finance and programme review on 28-29 August. An orientation was given to the RPPC staff on EU budget format, financial reports, audit statements, unit calculations etc. They were also given guidance to understand the PIP-2009, the urgency of completing the pending activities and the need for regular reporting.

The western RPPC staff and the eastern RPPC staff have made regular monitoring visits to the associating partners and guided them for effective implementation of skill training.

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS

IGNOU has in the recent past adjudged 100 institutions to cooperate with them on issuance of certificates. Kottayam Social Service Society (KSSS: Chaitanya) has been awarded Community College status by IGNOU for certification of its courses. *Congrats Fr Michael Vettickat and Team.*

E-NEWSLETTER

FVTRS has started a monthly e-newsletter service from September that is being sent to stakeholders. The same appears in its website as well at fvtrs.org

HAM RADIO SERVICE

HAM is popularly known as amateur radio service. It has been useful during disaster times to communicate on whereabouts of victims when all communication channel went haywire, towers washed away, electricity lines severed and people got marooned. Many human lives could be saved due to its portability and accessibility. FVTRS is planning to make the service more popular among its partners. Interested persons can directly contact in the following address for further information.

Mr Nataraj

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FORTHCOMING

1. RPPC Interface at Ahmedabad on 1 October
2. Project Coordinators' meet at Nagpur on 7-8 October
3. Meeting of Misereor at New Delhi from 8-10 October
4. Northern Regional Interface and Market Fair on 14-15 October at Haridwar
5. North and East Project coordinators' meet at Calcutta on 21-22 October
6. EU project visit to Ahmednagar on 22 October
7. SPiN network meeting at Madurai on 28 October
8. Stakeholders meet at Hyderabad on 30 October
9. Promotional consultations at Dimapur on 25 November and at Darjeeling in November
10. Northern Regional Interface at Muzaffarnagar in November

THEY BECOME BREAD WINNERS

Kumar Deshvanth, an 8th class dropout due to poverty is the eldest in the family amongst his five siblings born to daily wage labour parents from Indi Taluk in Bijapur district, Karnataka. He came to know about Loyola institution for technical trades and underwent training to become a skilled carpenter. Being highly motivated and hard working, he made use of all the available time for mastering the skills in carpentry. He found a decent job in a saw mill close to his house and is now earning Rs. 70-80 per day with over time benefits.



Carpenter Deshvanth at Work

Channabasappa is from village Itga in Bidar district in Karnataka whose parents are daily wage labourers. He has a sister and a brother, and a sick mother on whom most of their earning goes for medication. He came to know about the training programme in automobile of Loyola institution at Bijapur. He joined the institute and worked hard to learn the skills. He started working now at Bijjaragi automobiles at Bijapur where he was placed for field experience. He has a dream of having his own service station, to build a house for himself and to take care of his younger brother and parents.



Channabasappa at his Garage

Skilled caterer **Rajveer**, a 29 year old youth was struggling amidst severe poverty until he took up skill training in catering service. He specialized in Tandoori roti preparation. There was increased demand in the local market for skilled cooks to make Tandoori roti. Seeing a good scope in this particular trade, Rajveer started practising at home to work with Tandoor oven.

He had constructed a small Tandoor oven with clay in his house for regular practice during the training period. After completing the training he started working as Tandoor operator in a hotel during night shift and worked as a caterer during the day. He earned Rs. 75/- per night at the hotel during the initial days and Rs.150-200 later. Gradually his earning reached Rs. 4000 to 6000/- per month. Conquering the initial hurdles, his enterprising skill helped him to excel further in catering business. He emerged as one of the best and skilled Tandoor operators in the region. He started undertaking catering service during family/ social functions. For this he appointed two employees to assist him in this work. Now, he is earning a handsome amount of Rs. 10,000 to 15,000/- per month and takes care of his family. Indeed he has become a role model for his hard work and dedication.



Tandoori Roti Ready!

Herbal Medicine Producer

Rajlaxmi is a simple housewife. She joined the herbal medicine training. Despite her domestic work she regularly came to attend classes and field training. With great interest and enthusiasm she learnt what was taught in the class room as well as in the field on herbal medicinal plants. She also took an active part in the EDP training. She is now recognized as a good farmer of medicinal plants production in the region. She has started growing a few varieties of medicinal plants in her garden and is planning for other species also.

Story of Greater Dignity and Freedom

Recently 'Himul' a well known milk cooperative society in Siliguri, West Bengal approached our Vocational School for electrical technicians for their water bottling plant. Bachhan Chhetri and Kankan Kirtonia and Rana Debnath were offered job for Rs. 4000/- as monthly salary with other benefits. All the three of them declined the offer! The reason they gave was that they have a part-time job with fairly good income that is quite secure. The technical skills that they have acquired are useful for small wiring jobs and repair works on a daily basis in the neighborhood thus they are earning more.

- Felix Pinto from Siliguri, West Bengal

From ED's Desk

RIGHT TO INFORMATION ACT

LET'S NOT WAIT FOR WAKE UP CALLS

Right to know is an essential forerunner in a democracy that needs informed citizens. Right To Information (RTI) Act is unique in its content and practice which is existing in the country for the last more than 4 years. The requested information should be provided to the seeker within 30 days time including holidays and Sundays that fall in between. If one fails to provide the information within this stipulated time frame, penalty will be applied from the 31st day onwards with **personal liability** on the errant officer. This is the only Act in the country with personal liability and **not official liability** for deficient services.

This spirit of the Act in equal measure speaks strict compliance from every citizen and thus seeks good behaviour from all of us irrespective of where we work either in government or in private. *The interesting aspect of the Act is that the seeker of information can use RTI to prevail upon government machineries to follow-up the case if the information sought pertains to private sector or NGOs.* Therefore, it is time for all us to be vigilant and responsive to civil compliances than waiting to receive unwelcome wake up calls.

Albert Joseph

80G and 12 A

According to a recent amendment effected in 2009 in income tax rules, Organizations whose 80 G expires after 1 October 2009 do not need to re-apply. The same will be considered as perpetual, like 12A.

Please remember, Proviso 11 under income tax rules for exemptions will be applicable only once the Organization possesses 12 A certification.



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