



Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award - 2012



Franchise India in association with Bloomberg UTV presented the second National Convention 'Entrepreneur India 2012' organised at *Hotel Claridges, Surajkund, New Delhi* on **18-19 May 2012**. This year's conference brought together eminent industry experts and members of Government of India apex bodies where they exchanged brimming ideas, inscribed guidelines and explicitly talked about growth opportunities for the new age entrepreneurs of India.

An important and a vibrant part of this occasion were the country's most prestigious awards in the Entrepreneur sector – 'Entrepreneur India Awards 2012'. In all, there were 17 award categories spanning across different business sectors. Among

them, the 'Social Entrepreneur of the Year 2012' award was conferred to **Ms. Moon Sharma**, President, TARA Projects for the social and economic contribution to the society. Ms. Moon Sharma is the immediate past Secretary of Fair Trade Forum – India. She had been associated with Tara and Fair Trade for the last four decades, from her student days onwards as a volunteer. She became the CEO of Tara before a decade, and recently elected as a Councilor and in the Executive Committee of Emmaus International.

Earlier in March 2012, she had also been conferred with "Be the Change" award by 'Believe India' recognising her outstanding contributions in the field of education and livelihood generation.

mounting **opposition** to GM foods

As part of the SAGE (Southern Action on Genetic Engineering) campaign, Kudumbam with two other NGO's jointly organized the 'GM opposition day' on 9 April 2012 at Thiruvavarur, Tamilnadu. Mr.Nammalvar and Mr.Murali of VANAGAM organization and Mr.Suresh Kanna from Kudumbam participated in this event. The objective of this GM (Genetically modified crops) Opposition day was to create awareness to consumers and farmers on the need for safe food.



Around 15 press people, mostly from all popular TV channels and newspaper were present. Dr.Nammalvar briefed about the day's proceedings and the role of media to communicate this message. He also briefed the media about the GM technology, how it is made, why and for whose interest this technology is pushed, the case of Bt Cotton and Moratorium to Bt Brinjal, how the government is trying to safeguard the multinational seed companies through the introduction of BRAI etc., and how BRAI is taking away the roles and decision making responsibilities of State Governments and support of media.

Farmers also were given the chance to share their experiences and opinions to the media.



After the meeting, Dr.G.Nammalvar with his team met the District Collector and emphasized the need for revival of traditional rice varieties in the district to mitigate to the recurring floods in the region. The District Collector has agreed to discuss this in the forthcoming farmer's grievance day meeting by the end of April 2012.

Future Earth Asia Network – Planning Workshop at Chennai

KUDUMBAM has been a member of *Future Earth Asia Network* since 2003 along with other 10 members in India (Ladak and Tamil Nadu) and Sri Lanka. From **19 to 21 April 2012**, a Programme Planning workshop was organized at *Chennai* in which all the members of the network participated. During this 4 days workshop, the future goals were discussed and formulated.

WORLD FAIR TRADE DAY MAY 12



Organised by: *Thanapara Swallows, Bangladesh*

The global economic crisis, food crisis and climate change has affected world's most vulnerable population hardest. More than a third of world's population live in poverty. The global food crisis has worsened this dramatic situation even further. The global crisis confirms the need for **fair and sustainable economy** locally and globally, and for trade to deliver sustainable livelihoods and development opportunities to small producers.

World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO), a global network of Fair Trade Organizations around the planet, represents more than 450 Fair Trade Organizations from 73 countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe, North America and Pacific. WFTO's **mission** is to enable producers to improve their livelihoods and communities through Fair Trade.

Thanapara Swallows (TSDS) in Bangladesh, is as an organization differentiated by their Fair Trade commitment to eradicate poverty and improve the livelihood of small artisans through sustainable socio-economic development; pioneering social and



environmental policy and practice and continual reinvestment in marginalized artisans, producer communities in the country side of Bangladesh. On *12th May 2012*, a day long activity was organized by Thanapara to celebrate the World Fair Trade Day 2012. The day began with the rally of artisans and employees of Thanapara to the Local administration office at *Charghat* raising voice of different theme of Fair Trade.

At 11:30 am, a discussion meeting began in the tailoring unit with handicraft producers, staff team and people from nearby villages, in the presence of Ward Commissioner, Journalists, and civil societies. **Mr. Raihan Ali**, the *Executive Director* welcomed all the members, and explained about the theme of this year "MAKE TRADE WORKS FOR ALL,

SUPPORT FAIR TRADE”. He said: Through Fair Trade, handicraft has become an important livelihood, particularly for marginalized women. The most direct beneficiaries of Fair Trade products are the employees who work for the supplying organizations. Fair Trade standards ensure that employees have safe working conditions, work reasonable hours and are paid a fair amount. Consumers also benefit from Fair Trade products. Consumers can be assured that products are safe for use and do not contain hazardous materials and are of high quality. Fair Trade also ensures that production methods are environmentally sound and do not abuse natural resources.



After his detailed speech explaining to the participants the several reasons why people are supporting fair trade, **Mrs. Mahmuda Begum**, the *Asst. Director* concluded the session, and the celebration came to a conclusion with prize distribution. Artisans who had been working at Thanapara for more than 20 years had been honoured with life-time achievement prize, and best performance award was also distributed to some artisans.

Coalition for Environmental Governance

Organised by: KUDUMBAM, S.India

Date: 24th May 2011

Based on the decision of the *Trichy (India)* Consultation meeting of the People’s Coalition for Green Tamil Nadu held during *June 2011*, all the lead NGOs of the 6 regions of Tamilnadu and Pondicherry did a study on the key environmental issues in their respective regions. To share the study report and synthesize them for future actions, a two day meeting was organized by an NGO named HOPE at *Pondicherry* on *26-27 April 2012*.

Kudumbam did a study on the impact of contract farming with the plantation of Eucalyptus in dry lands and Casurina in wetlands in the central region of Tamil Nadu. On behalf of Kudumbam, Mr. Suresh Kanna participated in the meeting and presented the study report, findings and recommendations. Apart from this presentation, the other members of the coalition also presented their study findings and recommendations on other issues like water, decrease in availability of surface water, depletion of ground water, increasing salinity, increasing level of pollutions, land alienation, effluent disposal into the rivers by the textile and dyeing industries, sand mining, quarrying, landslides, forest land issues etc. After the presentation, a detailed planning was done by the coalition members with important decisions been taken.



World Environment Day

Celebrated by: *FHF, India*



This year sees the *40th anniversary* of the event that led to the establishment of 'World Environment Day'. The first World Environment Day was on *5th June 1973*.

Unfortunately the major problem facing the world is that in spite of the determined efforts in recent years to improve the environment, according to some experts the situation is actually getting worse rather than better. Everyone has a duty to push for a Green Economy. The steady increase in populations in various parts of the world has driven up the demand for food. This in turn has put significant demands on agriculture and placed enormous stress on freshwater ecosystems.

Florance Home Foundation (**FHF**) in *Cuddalore* (Tamilnadu, India) observed this day by installing rain water management systems and tree plantations in schools. FHF decided to focus at first on three schools in the Cuddalore District: *the Government Higher Secondary School at Semakottai, St. Mary's Middle School in Pudupalayam, and the Killai Primary School*.

In the first phase, FHF constructed water tanks and gutters which has enabled rain water management and has provided drinking water facilities for students. Raising students and teachers' awareness is an important aspect of the project. For that matter, FHF organized a meeting with the students and the student body.

In the second phase, FHF has worked towards the reforestation of the school campuses. FHF gave a tree to each student of St. Mary's Middle School. On 6th June 2012, the FHF staff members went to the school to plant the first tree. Local newspapers were present on that day to communicate on the event. *S.Usha Rani, President of FHF, S. Alexander, Secretary of FHF and Father Alphonso* raised children's awareness by giving anecdotes on how important trees are for communities and their well-being.



The event seemed successful as FHF has managed to catch the children's attention. The students were now empowered to be environmentally conscious. It is up to them to keep the project going and spread this awareness. FHF will be guiding them with follow-ups: They have sown the first seed and the children have the responsibility to grow it.

Health talk on Cancer Organised by: TARA, Delhi

A health talk about the topic, "Cholera, its causes and its prevention" was organized by Tara at Badarpur, Tajpur Pahadi on **28th April 2012**. Around 45 MHO beneficiaries from the community participated in the talk. A doctor was also invited to share his views on this dangerous disease and one can save him or herself by taking care of certain possible things.

Mr.Kailash Joshi, Social Worker from Tara after welcoming the members, explained to them the danger of cholera disease, how individuals are affected by cholera, the way it spreads,



the symptoms and prevention methods. While informing them about statistical figures, he said: In epidemic outbreaks in underdeveloped countries where little or no treatment is available, the mortality (death) rate can be as high as 50%-60%. Developed countries have almost no incidents of cholera because they have widespread water-

treatment plants, food-preparation facilities that usually practice sanitary protocols, and most people have access to toilets and hand-washing facilities. Although these countries may have occasional lapses or gaps in these methods, they have prevented many disease outbreaks, including cholera.

Earlier the MHO members had expressed the necessity to organize the talks

on the diseases, especially related to seasonal diseases. Concluding the session, Mr. Kailash thanked the MHO beneficiaries and Dr. Vichitra Gupta for their time and participation in the Health Talk. The members were also requested to spread this information to their other friends and relatives in the community who could not attend as well as those who are not yet the MHO members.

BEIRUT: The second term of 2012 reveals troubles in the Middle East. Uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt since 2011 has led to the overthrow of their heads of state and sparked a wave of protests throughout the Middle East and North Africa, now commonly referred to as the “*Arab awakening*”. The most pressing issue is the new and continuing displacement occurring in several countries in Middle East. The role of governments in the Middle East and North Africa in responding to migration and displacement in the region has been important but limited. Lebanon was also affected and stagnation persisted in all the economic sectors. Despite all the troubles, AEP kept on its activities:



- AEP has been involved in the implementation of *Watershed* program.
- In *Micro credit* program, AEP has distributed 72 loans to small entrepreneurs in different sectors and they were able to develop their small projects.
- The number of *active borrowers* from AEP as on June 2012 were 796. The *collections* for the second term of 2012 occurred an increase of 35% similar to the same quarter of last year.
- AEP extended its *micro credit* program by signing a new sub agreement with IESC representing USAID in a microcredit program by giving microloans in agribusiness, tourism and ICT. The amount to be disbursed is not revealed yet but it should be the same than last year.
- AEP felt that the *training sessions* delivered by the USAID to its team were very useful in performing their skills.
- AEP has expressed its thanks to *Emmaus Montbeliard* for its donation, which has been utilized in implementing touristic kiosks in North Lebanon. Those Kiosks will be managed by disabled persons chosen by AEP, among excluded and marginalized ones.
- A *tailor made coaching* has been initiated specially to AEP in order to deliver an operation manual to the Association.

Traditional Paddy seed festival



Every year, during the month of May, CREATE, an organization from *Thiruvavarur District* in association with Kudumbam and with other NGO's has been organizing State level traditional paddy seed festival with an objective of creating awareness among the farmers and consumers on the importance of reviving popular traditional rice varieties. This year, the traditional paddy seed festival was organized at *Adirangam farm, Kattimedu of Thiruvavarur district* in which more than 500 farmers from all over Tamilnadu participated. Around 150 farmers from Kudumbam working areas also participated in the seed festival.



The well known eco farming proponent *Dr.G.Nammalvar* presided over the function in the presence of the *District Collector and Ex-Agriculture Minister from Kerala*, and stressed the importance of reviving traditional paddy seeds in the context of changing climate variations. As part of the event, exhibition stalls were put up by committed private parties and they showed great interest and come forward to procure the traditional rice varieties from farmers.

Meeting organised by : Yayasan Penghibur, Indonesia



During the end of May 2012, Yayasan Penghibur organised a gathering of old men and women in its premises, in which more than 150 members participated. Facing the current situation of their life and the means of overcoming them had been the main topic of discussion.

An Indonesian proverb says: “***Habis manis sepah dibuang***” i.e. *When the sweetness is gone, the pulp is thrown out (refers to chewing of sugarcane)*, which means: When something is no use anymore, it is disposed of. Life of old people is just like, when a new flower comes out, many would come and glorify the new bloomed flower in the dawn, but after a day or two when its colours had withered to darkness and it cannot stand firm with its head held high,

the same people would walk unnoticed without even heeding its cry. This applies to old men and women, who, when they have no strength nor power, than they are being neglected.

An individual slogs all through his life for the family and with a view that a day would come when he can just relax in his armchair and read his favorite book and tell tales of his youthful days to the younger generation. He will term those days as “And they lived happily ever after”. Alas! he forgets that the day of his rest is someone else’s busy day and the loved one won’t even owe a second for him. The growing intolerance among youth, coupled with their inability to adjust with the elderly, is just one of the prime reasons for the rise in the number of old age homes.

Mr. Suprpto gave a motivation to the members saying that they should not be shy because of their old age, rather should be thankful and courageous for having gaining experience in life, which they could share to the younger generation. And **Mr. Setyo Gunawan**, a leader of a local church gave a message to the audiencesm after which **Mrs. Anny** a midwife of local health institution explained to them about how to live a health life in the old age.

Inauguration programme by JAPAN

EMBASSY: On 21st June 2012, CARE a sister NGO who is closely associated with KUDUMBAM in Sustainable agriculture programmes constructed a *Multipurpose Rural Training Center* funded by *Japanese embassy*. This training centre was inaugurated by the Japanese Counsul at *Pinnangudipatti, Pudukottai district, Tamilnadu*. She dedicated this training centre to enhance the skills of widows, single women, school dropouts and small farmers.



Mobilisation tour - 2012



EMMAUS SALON - The 13th big annual sale of Emmaus, in favor of international solidarity, was held on Sunday, the **24th June 2012**, at *Paris-Expo Porte de Versailles*. Emmaus groups from all over France and Europe took part in this event. This year, **the proceeds from the Paris Salon will be funded for the projects run by Emmaus groups in Africa.**

A week before this event, an International Solidarity and Political actions tour has been organized by Emmaus International from *13-15 June* to visit Emmaus groups in France and tell them about the activities carried out by Emmaus groups in the four regions, and to mobilise them and make them get involved in the international solidarity activities. One delegate from each region participated in this tour, and each were given a specific topic to be presented during this tour. On behalf of Asia region, from KUDUMBAM, **Mr.Oswald Quintal** participated and shared about the programme related with Eco tourism and Water.

On *12th of June*, an orientation meeting was organized at EI headquarters to coordinate each participant's presentations, rehearse the presentations and address technical issues. Delegates have been informed that during the tour from *13-15th June*, their presentations should contribute in increasing the participation of Emmaus groups in Solidarity, should deepen the core values of the Movement on what solidarity is? and as a movement, how sharing our wealth could contribute in fighting injustice.

Mr.Oswald shared his experiences and feedback regarding his participation in this tour. He said: The systems adopted in the Emmaus communities, professionalism in recycling clothes, furnitures, electronics, books, toys etc was extremely amazing. Emmaus communities are a model to the Society, showing the importance of Community living and sharing. They have established that sustainability can be achieved

"A drop of water is worth more than a sack of gold to a thirsty man"

from recycling wastes. And their solidarity actions reconfirms that we must not be involved in making life better for ourselves, but should focus on addressing and solving the problems of the poorest of the poor. The participation of the press, their interactions, the articles published will deepen the understanding of Civil Society on contribution of 317 Emmaus Communities in 36 countries.

Further from the experience of Mr.Oswald during this tour, his say to the Asia region is: In an effort to strengthen the movement, in the next decade, we need to



identify the Emmaus communities that are interested in visiting Asia, studying the issues of the poorest of the poor, experience emerging alternatives to these issues, jointly evolve twinning and partnership that would contribute in strengthening the movement. It is also important that Youth camps must be organized that would contribute in deepening the understanding of the companions on the issues related with Education, Health, Water & Food security that exists in the region. This would contribute in building a human resource base for the movement, which would also contribute in building a better world.

Workshop to consolidate the experiences of farmers involved in cultivation of Traditional Rice Varieties

With an objective of consolidating the experiences of farmers involved in cultivation of Traditional Rice Varieties, a two day workshop has been organized on 19 - 20 May 2012 at Kolunji Ecological Farm of Kudumbam. Around 30 farmers from three nearby villages of Kudumbam participated in the workshop. To mitigate the challenges posed by Climate Change, Kudumbam has been associated with the farmers of the above 3 regions for the last two years and introduced few traditional rice varieties which have potential and capacity to withstand drought, saline and flood conditions.

During this workshop, farmers shared their experiences on how these traditional varieties have responded to the changing climate variations, the constraints they faced in cultivation, production and marketing, the lessons learnt and the future plans in expanding the area and convincing other neighbouring farmers. Mr.Oswald Quintal, Dr.Rajakannu and Mr.Suresh Kanna jointly facilitated the group discussions and interactions during the workshop. This two day workshop had been extremely useful to consolidate the experiences of farmers and contributed in evolving the future plan of action.

Visit to South Indian Groups in April 2012



RHADA, an organisation in South India, a former member group of Emmaus International (EI), which has received a grant of **28.813 •** through Emmaus Solidarity support during the year 2002 for purchasing the land to establish an organic farm, it has been found during the visit made by Ms. Brigitte and Mr. Raihan during Nov 2008 that the funds had not been utilized effectively for the purpose granted. *This visit also brought to light some serious irregularities in the group's financial management and some false claims made at the time of their membership application leading to the non-respect of the principle of non-discrimination laid down by the Universal Manifesto, and therefore*

the membership of RHADA with EI had been terminated during the Board meeting held at Beirut in April 2009. Moreover it has been decided that Emmaus International could accept only those expenses which are supported by true bills and vouchers, and which are in correspondence with the budget heads of the estimate and with what can be seen on the site, and the balance amount which are not truly spent should be reimbursed to EI.

In the above context, after several meetings held between 2009-12 to settle this problem with RHADA, a final meeting took place at Pondicherry on **17th April 2012** presided by Mr. Simon Grainge and Ms. Sheel Prabha (Moon Sharma), the first and second Vice Presidents of EI, during which members of RHADA agreed to repay EMMAUS INTERNATIONAL a total of **17.270 •**. According to their agreement, they repaid this amount on **12th May 2012**.



Meeting with RHADA members

After this meeting, *Mr.Simon and Ms.Moon* made a field visit to Emmaus groups in South India (VCDS, FHF & KUDUMBAM) from **18 - 20th April** and visited the following activities during this three days:- *Livelihood programs for sustainable development, Environmental issue activities, Education and training programs, Children homes, Sustainable agriculture programs, Micro credit programmes, Organic farm and training centres, income generation activities, women and youth development programs etc. and had discussion with the team and staff members of this three organizations.*

In the middle of this visit, on 19th April, *Mr.Simon* had a meeting with *French Consul General Mr. Pierre Fournie in Pondicherry*, and shared with him the major focus of the Emmaus International work areas in serving the poorest of the poor, and various developmental programmes implemented by Emmaus Asia in water, micro credit, income generation programmes, education, student placement programmes, and emergency relief activities during natural disasters.

On behalf of Asia region, *Mr.Simon* expressed the interest of Indian groups in looking at the perspectives of working with French Consulate related to social activities. *Mr.Pierre* informed that already the Consulate works through several NGO's in Micro credit programme and other developmental activities. Also he added that Emmaus Asia, if interested, could contact *Mrs.Véronique Glas, Assistant of Social Services* for having further details. As a followup, a meeting has been planned with *Mrs. Véronique* on 26th July 2012 to discuss and study the possibilities of collaboration.



During visit to VCDS



During visit to FHF



During visit to KUDUMBAM



Meeting with Consul General

Internship programme

In the beginning of **June 2012**, Florence Home Foundation (FHF) received three French students from the *International Business School - Camille* from *Lyon* (South East of France) and **Alexandre** and **Etienne** from *La Rochelle* (South West of France). During their stay, they will learn more about India, the problems faced by the rural population and emerging alternatives to these issues, and share this information to their colleagues. Also they were involved in the daily activities of FHF – in translations, in proposal drafting and in reporting.



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