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CREST News Bulletin

(September – December 2010)

Centre for Research and Education for Social Transformation (CREST)

An autonomous institution under Government of Kerala

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About CREST



Centre for Research & Education for Social Transformation (CREST) is an autonomous institution under Government of Kerala. CREST has been conceived as a national institute of humanities, science and professional studies, addressing the needs of the Dalits, Adivasis and other marginalized communities of India while integrating with the informational society. The Centre was incubated by Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode. The governing council headed by the Minister for Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Communities as Chairman monitors the activities of the Centre. Dignitaries like the Governor of Kerala, Chief Minister of Kerala and the Speaker of the Kerala Legislative Assembly are the patrons of this autonomous institution. The Governing Council has representation from institutions like Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment, Thiruvananthapuram and Sree Chitra Thirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology, Thiruvananthapuram as well as Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, New Delhi.

Activities

International Peace Day Observance

A special lecture was organized by CREST on September 30 as a part of observing the International Day of Peace. The function was organized in the backdrop of apprehensions of violence following the Ayodhya title suit verdict on September 30, 2010. The lecture was delivered by Father Vincent



Father Vincent Arackal, Monsignor, Calicut Diocese

Arackal, Monsignor, Calicut Diocese. Speaking on the occasion Fr. Vincent Arackal explained the nature of present day conflicts and tragedies of war and the suffering they inflicted upon individuals, particularly innocent people. After the lecture the students of CREST formed a human chain in defense of peace and harmony.

Faculty Visit to Dharmashala

On invitation from WISCOMP , New Delhi The faculty members of CREST Prof. Ashley Paul , Vinod Krishnan and Nirmal Joy visited Tibetan institutions in Dharmashala during September 21- 24 to design a leadership programme for Tibetan youth. The team held discussions with Tibetan Women's Association, Tibetan Center for Conflict Resolution, and Tibetan Children's Village School , Dharmasala.

Visit of CREST faculty to NIT-K Suratkal

Following the invitation from the SC/ST Cell of National Institute of Technology – Karnataka a three member faculty team of CREST the Institute in Suratkal and held discussions with faculty members and students to design an appropriate programme that would help in improving the performance level of SC/ST students who undergo bachelors/masters programme in Engineering . The faculty team comprising of Ms.Anita Ramesh , Mr.Muralidharan Paleri and Mr.Vinod Krishnan held discussions with Director and faculty members of NIT-K during October 8-10, 2010.

Theatre Workshop

A theatre workshop was held for the students from October 12 to 18 2010 at the Government Youth



Hostel, Kozhikode. It was conducted as a part of communication skill / Self Enrichment module of PGCCPD programme and was conducted by Mr. Jake Oorloff and Ms.Ruhanie Perera, Visiting faculty



from Colombo Sri Lanka. All the students undergoing the PGCCPD programme attended the workshop. On October 18, the participants performed an English play before an invited audience at Hotel Hyson Heritage, Calicut.

Special Lectures

Three special lectures were held during August- December 2010. On December 7 , Akshay Pottethil faculty , University of Santiago, USA conducted a special lecture on 'Persuasive Technology, on

December 14 Christian Herrmann , ICESQL, Sweden on Entrepreneurship Development and on December 23, Ms.Junu Abraham , KABANI , Wayanad on Displacement .

Valediction of 14th Batch of PGCCPD

The valedictory function for the 14th batch of PGCCPD was held on October 20,, 2010 at Hotel Hyson Heritage, Calicut. On successful completion of the course 39 students were awarded their



Dr. Sanal Kumar Velayudhan, Prof.DD Nampoothiri & Dr. K Suresh Kumar at the valedictory function

course certificates. Dr. K Suresh Kumar Director, Institute of Palliative Medicine Medical College, Calicut was the chief guest for the function. Dr. Sanal Kumar Velayudhan , Professor, Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode was the Guest of Honour. Prof. Ashley Paul, Associate Programme Coordinator, CREST welcomed the dignitaries, guests and the students. The presidential address was delivered by Prof.D.D.Nampoothiri, Executive Director of CREST. The students were felicitated by faculty members Ms. Sucharita Hota . Ms.Jyothi and Mr.Nirmal Joy and Alumni of CREST Mr. Bipin. Ms. Anupama V and Mr.Ujjwal K representing the students delivered the thanksgiving speech. The valedictory function ended with the candle light ceremony

Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development

The XV Batch of the Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development commenced on November 23, 2010. Of the 40 candidates who joined for the course, 20 are professional degree



holders, 17 are Post Graduate Degree holders and 3 are graduates. On November 22, parents of the candidates were invited and were briefed about the objectives of the programme, opportunities etc. The ice breaking session was conducted by Sucharita Hota, Nirmal Joy and Vinod AR on November 22, at CIGI, Chevayur, Calicut.

KR Narayanan Memorial Lecture

The third Annual National Lecture in memory of Sri.K.R.Narayanan, former President of India was delivered by Prof. Uma Chakravarti, Delhi University on December 8, 2010 Wednesday



Prof. Uma Chakravarti



at Alakapuri Auditorium Calicut. The talk entitled 'Caste and Gender Through a Feminist Lens' explained the crucial linkages between caste and gender in India.

Self Enrichment Workshop

A three-day workshop on self development was held at Prateeksha Training Centre, Sultan Bathery, Wayanad from November 23 - 25 2010 for the candidate who joined for the PGCCPD programme (XV Batch). The workshop covered the themes; Team Building, Corporate communication, and



presentations. The workshop was conducted by Mr.Anil Menon, The workshop included sessions on sensitization on tribal and environmental issues. These sessions included village visits, interaction with local community and forest walk. V.Kesavan and Saseendran, Panchayat Members took sensitization sessions on tribal issues in Wayanad.

Workshop on Data Gathering

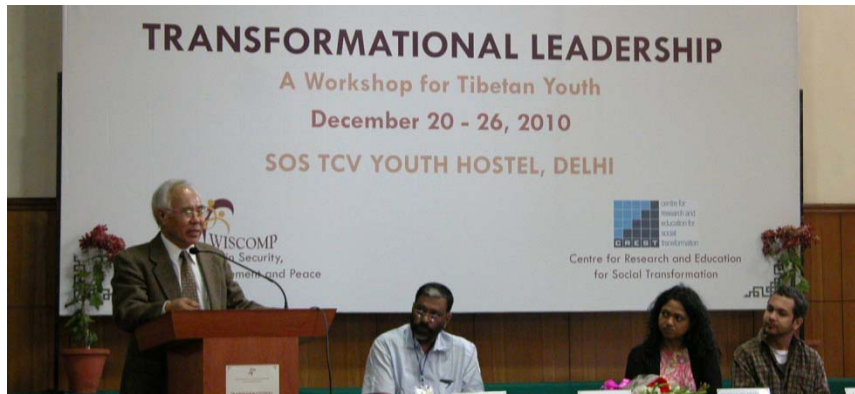


John Mathias

A one-day workshop on data gathering was conducted for students of PGCCPD by John Mathias, Researcher from University of Michigan, USA. The workshop covered techniques for gathering information for the 'oral history project' undertaken by PGCCPD students as a part of their coursework. The skills covered include recording biography, interviewing, observation, note taking, and surveying. The sessions also included practical workshops in doing oral history interviews. Participants interviewed each other and reflected on these experiences during the workshop. This session also explored the 'narrative turn' in history, and oral history interpretation.

Transformational Leadership Programme for Tibetan Youth

CREST was invited by the Foundation for Universal Responsibility of HH Dalai Lama to conduct a



Mr. Tempa Tsering,, Vinod Krishnan , Ruhanie Perera & Jake Oorloff at the inaugural function



transformational leadership programme for Tibetan youth in teamwork with Women in Security, Conflict Management and Peace (WISCOMP), New Delhi. The seven day programme was held at SOS Tibetan Youth Hostel, New Delhi from 20 – 26 December 2010. The programme was inaugurated by Mr. Tempa Tsering, Representative of HH the Dalai Lama in New Delhi. Vinod Krishnan, Associate Programme Coordinator CREST and Ms.Seema Kakran, Senior Program Officer, WISCOMP addressed the participants who were drawn from 11th and 12th grades of Tibetan Children's Village CBSE School, Dharmasala and

Tibetan Homes Foundation, Mussoorie. The workshop sought to create an opportunity for the Tibetan youth to develop skills that would positively impact their career paths. As a part of the programme, a self enrichment workshop was held by CREST for 40 students, using theatre as a tool. The sessions were held by Jake Oorloff and Ruhanie Perera, faculty of CREST.

Faculty Retreat

A faculty retreat was held on December 9 , 2010 at Hotel Hyson Heritage, Calicut. All faculty members attended the retreat during which academic issues concerning CREST action plan were discussed. Dr.A.R.Vasavi , Professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies and Governing Council member, CREST also attended the retreat.

Reunion of Students

A reunion of BTech Degree students who have undergone orientation programme at CREST was held on December 31, 2010 at Government Youth Hostel, Calicut.

Faculty Activities

On September 28-29 Prof.D.D.Nampoothiri, Executive Director CREST attended a seminar-cum-consultation on Adivasi education held at the National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) , Bangalore. On October 29, he participated in a panel discussion on 'Calicut City Tomorrow' organized by Malayala Manorama at Hotel Hyson , Calicut. He visited Ahmadabad Management Association (AMA) on November 1, 2010 and held discussions with Sri.K.K.Nair, Director on collaborative academic programmes. On November 3 he presented a paper, '*Confronting Social Exclusion Adequately : A Critical Review of CREST Experience vis-à-vis Reservation Scenario in*

Kerala's Higher Education, in a national workshop held in India International Centre , New Delhi organized by International Institute of Education New Delhi and Ford Foundation . On December 10, he delivered the keynote address in the 'Peoples Session' at the International Conference on Higher Education held at MG University, Kottayam, Kerala.

Nirmal Joy, Course Coordinator presented a paper '*Perceived effectiveness of free internet resources used in CREST language laboratory*' at a UGC National Seminar on language teaching and technology held at Malabar Christian College on October 5, 2010

Interns at CREST



Ms. Magali Daems at a mentoring session

Ms. Magali Daems from Gothenburg University, Sweden joined CREST as an International Intern in November 2010. She is working on communication skills particularly on one-on-one basis. She also did special sessions on anthropology, tourism, environment, and international affairs. She will be attached to CREST until the end of January 2011.

Forthcoming Events

Workshops

Mr. Balachandran Gopinath, JCI International trainer will conduct a two day workshop – facing the future - for PGCCPD students on January 4 & 5 , 2011.

A one week theatre workshop will be held for the students undergoing PGCCPD programme in mid February 2011. It will be conducted by Mr. Jake Oorloff and Ms.Ruhanie Perera, visiting faculty of CREST, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Special Lectures

Dr. Thomas Weisskopf , Professor of Economics (Emeritus) at the University of Michigan , USA will speak on affirmative action in India and US on March 8, 2011. This lecture jointly organized by CREST and Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode will be held at IIMK.

Dr.Sukumaran Bhaskaran, Visiting Professor, Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode will deliver a special lecture on contemporary issues of strategic management on January 31, 2011.

Mr.Lalit Kishore Bhati , an architect based in Auroville , Pondicherry will deliver a special lecture on Sustainable Development on March 15 , 2011

Dr. Usha Zachariaias , Professor , Department of Communications , Westfield State College USA will deliver a special lecture in March 2011 (date not specified)

Dr.T.N.Krishnan , Associate Professor , Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode will conduct a special lecture on career planning on April 4, 2011

Admission for XVI Batch of PGCCPD

Application will be invited from candidates seeking admission to XVI Batch of PGCCPD programme in February 2011

Governing Council Meeting of CREST Governing Council of CREST will be held in Mid- February 2011 at Trivandrum.