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CREST News Bulletin

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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, India. 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 has been formed in the backdrop of the new global economy and the debates on affirmative action in the private sector that are taking place in the country.

CREST is the successor organization of the Centre of Excellence (CEX) which was incubated by the Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode since 2002 with the support of Government of Kerala. The Centre became an autonomous institution in April, 2008 and it receives continuous support from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Development Department , Government of Kerala.

Since its inception in 2002 the Centre has been involved with (a) the flagship programme, i.e., the five months Post Graduate Certificate Course for Professional Development (b) Research Projects (c) Management Development Programs and (d) National Seminars & workshops .

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.

The activities of CREST are facilitated by the Executive Director. The faculty consists of experts in Sociology and Social Anthropology, Social Work, Social Psychology and Behavioral Science, Applied Economics, Communication, Management and Entrepreneurship Development, Accounting and Finance, Analytical and Quantitative sciences and Information Technology



Research Committee Meeting

A full day-session in connection with designing research programmes of the Centre was held on January 9, 2010 at CREST. Experts who attended and provided input for the workshop included Dr.A.R.Vasavi , Professor , National Institute of Advanced Studies , Bangalore , Dr. Santosh (Mangalore University) , Dr. P.Sivanandan (Centre for Development Studies, Trivandrum), Sri.V.K.Mohan Kumar (former Director KIRTADS) and Mr.Surendran KK (Lecturer , DIET , Wayanad) The workshop suggested that CREST should take up intervention programmes at school level. The possibility of conducting a programme for tribal students undergoing high school education at Model Residential Schools was discussed at the workshop. The dignitaries who attended the workshop suggested that CREST , in future should take the responsibility of setting up a school of national repute for Dalit/Adivasi children.

Staff Retreat

A staff retreat was held on January 10 , 2010 at Hotel Hyson Heritage, Calicut. All faculty members attended the retreat during which academic issues were discussed. Input was provided by Dr.Bhaskaran Nair , Faculty Lincoln University , UK and Dr.A.R.Vasavi , Professor, National Institute of Advanced Studies and Governing Council member, CREST.

Special Lectures

On January 11, Dr. Tania and Dr. Victor Li, Associate Professors, Toronto University Canada gave a talk on Canadian university education. Dr.Sudhip Kumar, Professor, TA Pai Institute Management Studies, Manipal did a special session on Management Education in India on January 25, 2010. On February 5, 2010, Mr. Jaffrey Blanks, HR consultant, gave a lecture on current trends and emerging opportunities in global job market. On February 10, 2010 Dr.Teddie Primack, Academic Documents Associates USA did a presentation on 'Threshold of Religion'.



Victor Li and Tania



Sudhip Kumar



Teddie Primack



Jaffrey Blanks

Visit of Swedish South Asian Studies Network (SASNET) Director

On February 10 , 2010 SASNET's Director, Dr. Anna Lindberg visited CREST and delivered a talk on



Prof. Anna Lindberg , Director , SASNET , addressing the students of CREST

“Women and ‘Modernization’ in Kerala”. On February 11, she held a discussion with the Executive Director and the faculty members of CREST on collaboration between CREST and Swedish Universities.

Consultation on Programmes for Reserved Category Students of IITs

Prof.D.D.Nampoothiri (Executive Director), Vinod Krishnan.T.Y. (Associate Programme Coordinator) Nirmal Joy (Course Coordinator) and Anita Ramesh (Faculty) attended the consultation organized by National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) Bangalore on January 30, 2010 for designing programmes for Dalit/Adivasi students undergoing BTech Degree courses at Indian Institutes of Technology. The CREST team did presentations on the experience of CREST at the consultation, which was attended by Indian Institutes of Technology, National Institutes of Technology and reputed engineering colleges of the country. Following the consultation CREST was requested to design appropriate programmes for Dalit/Adivasi students at IITs for improving their performance level.

Training programme at IITB

CREST was invited by the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay to conduct a two-day training programme for the student mentors of the institute. The programme was conducted in connection with equipping the senior students of the campus for becoming effective mentors for junior



Sucharita Hota & Anita Ramesh conducting a theatre session for the student mentors at IITB

students from Scheduled categories undergoing BTech Degree course at IIT Bombay. The sessions were held by Prof.D.D.Nampoothiri, Executive Director, CREST and Anita Ramesh & Sucharita Hota, faculty members.

Oslo University College Students Visit to CREST

Graduate students from Oslo University College, Norway Ina, Martine, Ingrid and Annette, as a part



Students of Oslo University College at CREST

Berit Helene Vandsemb

of their study programme spent three weeks from 9 February 2010 in CREST with the students of PGCCPD program. The students of both institutions shared their academic experiences. Discussions were also held on social exclusion in India and outside. On February 16, Dr. Berit Helene Vandsemb,

Professor, Development Studies Department of the Oslo University College delivered a talk on being a researcher in a foreign country, citing her experience as a researcher on agriculture development in Sri Lanka.

Valedictory Function

The valedictory function for the 13th batch of PGCCPD was held on March 29, 2010 at Hotel De Grand Calicut. On successful completion of the course 38 students were awarded their course certificates. Prof. K. V. Jayakumar, Executive Director, Centre for Water Resources Development and Management (CWRDM) was the chief guest for the function.



Students of XIII Batch of PGCCPD at the valedictory function

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 Mr.T.Sivadas, Ms.Jyothi and Ms. Sucharita Hota and Intern Ms. Amy Russell. Kannan R and Remya Krishnan representing the students delivered the thanksgiving speeches.



Prof.K.V.Jayakumar, inaugurating the valedictory function



Ms.C.Jyothi, giving felicitation



Kannan R, delivering thanksgiving speech

On the occasion, the student journal , *"insight"* was released by Prof. K. V. Jayakumar, the Chief guest. The valedictory function ended with the candle light ceremony.

Workshop on Interviews and Group Discussion

A workshop on personal interviews and group discussion was held at Kochi from March 24 to 26, 2010 as a part of the course module of the programme of the 13th batch. Sessions on attitude, corporate etiquettes, interview etiquettes and group discussions were held. The final examination for the PD module was also conducted during the workshop. Mr.



Mr. Biju Cherian, Ms. Lalitha Menon., Col. Hari Panicker, Mr. Anil Menon and Ms. C. Jyothi conducted the sessions

Executive Committee & Governing Council Meeting

The ninth Executive Committee meeting of CREST was held on Thursday, March 04, 2010 at the YMCA hall, Trivandrum. The meeting was attended by Dr. K.V. Kunhikrishnan, Chairman Executive Committee, Sri. V.R. Padmanabhan, IAS, Secretary, Scheduled Castes & Scheduled Tribes Development Department, Sri. K. Sasidhara, IAS, Director, SC Development Department, Prof. D.D. Nampoothiri, Executive Director, CREST and Vinod Krishnan. T.Y., Associate Programme Coordinator CREST

The third meeting of the Governing Council of CREST was held on Thursday March 11, 2010 at the Chamber of the Chairman, Governing Council CREST (Hon'ble Minister for the Welfare of Scheduled and Backward Communities and Electricity), in the Kerala Legislative Assembly building, Thiruvananthapuram. The meeting was attended by Shri. A. K. Balan, Hon'ble Minister for the Welfare of Scheduled & Backward Communities and Electricity, Kerala, Dr. K.N. Panikkar Vice Chairman, Kerala State Higher Education Council, Prof. N. R. Madhava Menon, Member, Commission on Centre-State Relations, New Delhi, Shri. K. Shashidhara, IAS Director, SC Development Department, Thiruvananthapuram, Dr. K.V. Kunhikrishnan, Director, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan (SSA), Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, Dr. A.R. Vasavi, Professor, School of Social Sciences, NIAS, Bangalore. Dr. K. Radhakrishnan, Director, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences & Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, Shri. Vinodkumar Jayanandan, EMC Data Storage Systems (India) Pvt. Ltd., Bangalore. Shri. Vinod Krishnan, T.Y. Associate Programme Coordinator, CREST. Prof. D.D. Nampoothiri, Executive Director, CREST and Shri. Sugunan, Joint Secretary, Finance Dept

The Executive Committee and the Governing Council discussed the ongoing activities and expansion plans of CREST. Following the meeting a working group was formed to prepare an Action Plan for CREST for the next five years.

Faculty Activities

Prof. D.D. Nampoothiri, Executive Director attended the South Asia Regional Steering Group meeting of the Global Partnership for Prevention of Armed Conflict, organized by Regional Centre For Strategic Studies (RCSS) which was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka held on March 25 - 26, 2010.

All India Radio Programme by CREST students

Students of XIII Batch did a twenty - minute programme in English for “*Calling the Youth*” segment



Students preparing for 'Calling the Youth' programme of All India Radio, Kozhikode

of All India Radio Kozhikode on March 8, 2010. The programme included talk show, skits and debates. The programmes were conceived by the students and facilitated by faculty members Nirmal Joy, Prof. Ashley Paul, and Amy Russell

Rotary Award for CREST

CREST has been awarded “Excellence Award” by the Rotary Club of Calicut Knights – Rotary International. It is for the first time that a governmental institution in Calicut is receiving such recognition.

Forthcoming Events

Admission for XIV Batch

Interviews for admission to XIV Batch of PGCCPD programme will be held on April 21, 22, 23 & 24 April 2010. Classes for XIV Batch will begin on May 19, 2010. On May 18, a session has been planned for the parents of the candidates. The parents will be interacting with faculty and alumni of CREST. The ice-breaking sessions will be held on 19 & 20 May 2010

Workshop on Assertive Communication

A two-day workshop on Assertive Communication will be held for students of XIV Batch of PGCCPD programme on 21 & 22 May 2010 at Sultan Bathery Wayanad. The workshop will be conducted by Ms. Lekha Menon, HR specialist based in Chennai. It will be held at Shreyas - social service centre Sultan Bathery

Orientation Programme for engineering students

An orientation programme, designed to improve the performance level of students from Scheduled communities enrolling for BTech Degree courses will be held in June- July, 2010. One hundred and twenty candidates from Scheduled communities who obtain admission for BTech Degree courses in Kerala through Common Entrance Examination 2010 will be given intensive in-house training in Mathematics, English, Mechanics, Engineering Graphics and Personality Development.

Theatre Workshop

A one week theatre workshop will be held for the students in July 2010 at for students undergoing PGCCPD programme. It will be conducted by Mr. Jake Oorloff and Ms. Ruhanie Perera, Floating Space, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Orientation programme for students from Scheduled communities joining for BTech degree at IIT Delhi

Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi has invited CREST to conduct a ten days orientation programme for students from Scheduled communities who obtain admission for BTech degree course at the Institute. This will be held in June 2010.

