



6

April 2011

CREST News Bulletin

(January – April 2011)

Centre for Research and Education for Social Transformation (CREST)

An autonomous institution under Government of Kerala

KIRTADS Campus, Chevayur, Calicut – 673 017 Kerala India

Tel: + 91 495 2355342, 2351496 Fax : +91 495 2355342 www.crest.ac.in

Email: cex@dataone.in crest.calicut@gmail.com

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 Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes 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

IIMK- CREST Lecture Series

The Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode (IIMK) and the CREST, Calicut have launched a series of Public Lectures from 2011 onwards to bring to the wider society the latest trends in social researches on issues concerning Indian and Global social reality. The Inaugural Lecture of the IIMK-CREST series was delivered at IIMK on March 8, 2011 by Dr. Thomas E. Weisskopf, Professor of



Prof. Debashis Chattrejee, Director, IIMK. Inaugurating IIMK-CREST lecture series

Economics (Emeritus), University of Michigan, an internationally acclaimed economist and public intellectual who has written extensively on Indian and global themes. Delivering the lecture entitled 'Rethinking Affirmative Action in Admission to Higher Education', Prof. Weisskopf emphasized the importance of affirmative action like reservation for admission for disadvantaged groups in premier academic institutions of India as it is conducive for attaining decision making positions in job market.

The Lecture series was inaugurated by Prof. Debashis Chattrejee, Director, IIMK. Prof. D.D. Nampoothiri, Executive Director, CREST welcomed the gathering and vote of thanks was proposed by Prof. Shubhasis Dey, Faculty, IIMK.

Special Lecture by Dr. Thomas E. Weisskopf

A special lecture was held on global recession by Dr. Thomas E. Weisskopf, Professor of Economics (Emeritus), University of Michigan on March 7, 2011. Prof. Weisskopf who has extensively written



Dr. Thomas E. Weisskopf addressing the students of PGCCPD

on political economy in an internationally comparative context expounded the impact of global recession on developing countries and mechanisms adopted by countries like India to face the challenges of global meltdown.

Workshop on Sustainable Planning

A one day workshop on Planning of a Sustainable & Inclusive Society was conducted for the students of CREST on March 31, 2011 at Hotel Alakapuri Auditorium by Lalit Kishor Bhati, an Architect-Urban Planner based in Auroville, Pondicherry. The workshop covered sessions on



Lalit Kishor Bhati

Ecological Planning and Development, Green Architecture Alternative building material experimentations, Community Participation and Development, Water & Resource Management in Architecture and Planning & Energy in Sustainable development. The workshop was inaugurated by Prof. D.D. Nampoothiri, Executive Director CREST.

Visit of Oslo University College Students to CREST



Graduate students from Oslo University College, Norway Quyen-di Ngoc Phan, Bjørnar Olsen and Mats Øverland visited CREST and had interaction with students of CREST on March 5. The students of both institutions shared their academic experiences.

Governing Council Meeting

The fourth meeting of the Governing Council was held at 11.00 a.m. on Monday, February 21, 2011 at the Chamber of 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, Chairman Hon'ble Minister for the Welfare of Scheduled & Backward Communities and Electricity, Kerala Dr. K.N. Panikkar, Member Vice Chairman, Kerala State Higher Education Council, Thiruvananthapuram. Prof.(Dr.) Rajan Gurukkal P.M. (Vice Chancellor, MG University, Kottayam) Sri.V.R.Padmanabhan, IAS (Secretary, SC/ST Development Department) Shri. K. Shashidhara, IAS (Director, SC Development Department, Thiruvananthapuram) Shri. Vinodkumar Jayanandan, (EMC Data Storage Systems (India) Pvt. Ltd) Bangalore. Vinod Krishnan, T.Y. (Associate Programme Coordinator, CREST) Prof. D.D. Nampoothiri, (Executive Director, CREST). Representing Finance Department, Government of Kerala Ms. 9. Ms.Annieamma Joseph, (Joint Secretary, Finance Dept) also attended the meeting.

The Governing Council approved the Action Plan of CREST for 2011-15, which among other activities include a higher education institution which can at a later stage develop as a 'specialized university' that offers state-of-the art diploma/degree/PG programmes to a wide variety of students. The focus of the university will be social justice, peace and empowerment of the disadvantaged sections in India. The programs undertaken by CREST University/Community College will have integrated approaches to developing and leveraging individual talents in order to increase substantially the number of SC/ST professionals who will be trained for participation and leadership in various emerging sectors of India.

Visit of NIT-K faculty team to CREST

A faculty team from National Institute of Technology – Karnataka, Surathkal (NIT-K) consisting of Prof.Prasad Krishna, Dean and Dr. Raj Mohan, Faculty –in – charge SC/ST Cell, NITK visited CREST on March 21, 2011 in connection with drafting a MoU that sets forth a framework of cooperation between NIT-K and CREST. The programs to be initiated through this agreement are based on spirit of cooperation, reciprocity and mutual benefit to both CREST and NITK, Surathkal. The primary objectives of this MoU are: Strengthen the activities of existing SC/ST Cell of NIT-K, Training for Self Development, Communication skills and employability enhancement skills for NITK students by CREST, particularly students from Scheduled and other marginalized communities, Joint Conferences, training programmes, Seminars, Workshops, Symposia that are mainly targeted to create a larger resource pool among the Scheduled and other marginalized communities of the country for new generation jobs created by the opening up of Indian economy Internship for CREST alumni at NIT-K that would enable the candidates, particularly those having BTech as well as post

graduate degree in Science and Technology to work as intern for short duration in various research labs in NITK. The MoU will be signed in the first week on May 2011.

Special Lectures / Workshops

Seven special lectures/ workshops were held during January – April 2011. The resource persons included Balachandran Gopinath, International Trainer JCI , Prof. M.P.Sebastian (Faculty IIMK) Prof. Sukumaran Bhaskaran, (Faculty IIMK) Dr.Arun Abraham Elias , (University of Wellington , New Zealand) , Dr. Elizabeth George, Mr. Anil Menon , Prof.T.N.Krishnan (Faculty IIMK) . The special lectures covered a broad range of topics like employability, IT, strategic management, communication, interview skills, and career planning.

Valediction of 15th Batch of PGCCPD

The valedictory function for the 15th batch of PGCCPD was held on April 24 at Hotel Alakapuri Auditorium , Calicut. On successful completion of the course 39 students were awarded their course certificates. Dr. S. Subhiah, IAS , Principal Secretary, SC/ST Development Department, Government



Dr. S. Subhiah, IAS , Mr. Abraham Kurian IPS (Rtd.) & Dr. Abhilash S. Nair at the valedictory function

of Kerala was the chief guest for the function. Speaking at the occasion, Dr. Subhiah highlighted the importance of entrepreneurship development by the CREST alumni. Dr. Abhilash S. Nair, Faculty,



Dr. S. Subhiah, IAS interacting with the students on the valediction day

Indian Institute of Management, Kozhikode and Mr. Abraham Kurian IPS (Rtd.) Director. START. Kozhikode were the Guests 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 Prof.Radha S. Nair . Mr.A.R.Vinod , Mr.Jake Oorloff and Ms.Ruhanie Perera and Alumnus of CREST Mr.K. Ujjwal. Ms. Shilpa.S and Mr. Saloop T.S. representing the outgoing batch delivered the thanksgiving speech. The valedictory function ended with the candle light ceremony.

Theatre Workshop

A theatre workshop was held for the students from April 17 to 23 2010 at the Government Youth Hostel, Kozhikode. As part of communication skill / Self Enrichment module of PGCCPD programme, it 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 April 24, the participants performed an English play before an invited audience at Hotel



Students of CREST performing the play at Hotel Alakapuri Auditorium

Alakapuri Auditorium, Calicut. 'Fighting Consumerism' was the theme of the play which depicted the real life experience of the students.

CREST in media

Print as well as the visual media of Kerala have given coverage to various programmes of CREST



held during January - April 2011. Leading news papers like the Mathrubhumi, the New Indian Express and visual media like the Malayala Manorama TV and the Indiavision gave coverage on various programmes conducted by CREST

Faculty Activities

Prof.D.D.Nampoothiri, Executive Director, CREST attended the South Asia Regional Steering Group meeting of the Global Partnership for Prevention of Armed Conflicts organized by Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS) which was held in Colombo , Sri Lanka on March 15 and 16, 2011, Prof.D.D.Nampoothiri , also Dean , Faculty of Social Sciences, Kannur University, Kerala attended the academic council meeting held in Kannur University on March 16, 2011

Forthcoming Events

Admission XVI Batch of PGCCPD

The interview for admission to the XVI Batch of PGCCPD programme will be held on 16, 17 & 18 May 2011. 40 candidates will be selected for the course based on the marks they obtained at the post graduate/graduate degree and the performance in the interview. Classes for the course will begin on June 2, 2011.

Workshop on Assertive Communication

A two-day workshop on Assertive Communication will be held for students of XVI Batch of PGCCPD programme on 4 & 5 June 2011 at Sultan Bathery Wayanad. The workshop will be conducted by Mr. Anil Menon , HR specialist based in Cochin. It will be held at Prateeksha Training 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 during July- August 2011. One hundred candidates from Scheduled communities who obtain admission for BTech Degree courses in Kerala through Common Entrance Examination 2011 will be given intensive in-house training in Mathematics, English, Mechanics, Engineering Graphics and Personality Development.

Ten Days Self-Enrichment Programme for First Year BTech students at IIT Delhi

Indian Institute of Technology – Delhi has invited CREST to conduct a ten days training programme for first year BTech students from Scheduled communities. The objective of the programme is to improve the performance level of SC/ST Students who join for BTech Degree courses at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi . The programme will be held from July 9-18, 2011 at IIT Delhi. The ten days programme is intended to equip them to develop study strategies in order to improve their performance as well as aspiration level.

Finishing School at National Institute of Technology – Karnataka, Surathkal (NIT-K Surathkal)

CREST with the support of SC/ST Cell, NIT –K Surathkal will be conducting a three week finishing school programme for SC/ST students undergoing BTech Degree course at NIT-K from, June 26 , 2011 to 18 July 2011. Fifty final year BTech students will be taking part in the programme which will be held at NITK.

CREST Alumni meet

CREST alumni meet will be held in August 2011.

