



Building trust across the world's divides

Initiatives of Change

AP Newsletter - Feb 2016



Asia Plateau Newsletter

Editorial

Dr Buchman's New Year message to the people of India during an All-Asian Assemble, held in January 1953:

"Men are hungry for bread, for peace, and the hope of a new world order. Before a God-led unity every last problem would be solved. Hands will be filled with work, stomachs with food and empty hearts with an ideology that really satisfies. That is what Moral Re-Armament is out for. It gives faith to the faithless but also helps men of faith to live so compellingly that cities and nations change. Nations where everyone cares enough and everyone shares enough, so that everyone has enough will pattern a new social and economic order for this and all future generations".

The month of February saw a variety of programs that inspire this very spirit of hope and faith for the world. Amongst these programs, the major highlights were –

The Dialogue on Just Governance 2016 assembled over 150 participants from 25 countries including special delegations from Sri Lanka and Nagaland invited by the 'Initiatives of Change for Life' team.

A program for the civil servants who are responsible for delivery of good governance to millions of citizens.

And the going rural development work in nearby village by our Grampari team.



Governments across the globe are facing challenging issues of runaway climate change, the largest number of refugees since the WWII, widespread landlessness and economic inequalities, the growth of extreme violence, amongst many others. In such a scenario, a self-motivated mix of participants came together to explore how each one can play their part in creating a just society based on ethical values so as to meet these challenges.

Over the 5 day Dialogue on Just Governance, religious teachers from Sri Lanka, political leaders from South Sudan, Mali Ambassador to India, Media professionals and other prominent participants discussed innovative avenues of peace and reconciliation. To read more [click here](#)

The Asia Plateau family along with a team of facilitators welcomed 61 participants from seven companies for an ELL program, with Emmanuel Braggs as the Course Director. *'Make a difference by acting on the still small voice within'* was the call given at the inauguration.



49 government employees from the Dept. of Stamps and Registrations took on the journey of self-examination. *"Dare to be led by the voice of conscience, and the result will be a miracle"*, was the call given by Course Director - Mayur Shah.

31 educators from the Dept. of GCERT (Gujrat) participated in a 4-day program called *'Teachers are the Nation builders. Are we playing our roles in building the nation?'* A thought provoking question was asked by Course Director, Vijayam Kartha to all the participants.

The 17th program on Ethics for Public Governance organized at Asia Plateau brought together 11 IAS Officers and 7 officers from other all India civil services. The end of the 5 day program saw some vey hope giving decisions coming from these officers like *"whenever in dilemma I will listen to my inner voice as there cannot be a greater teacher"* or *"by listening to my inner voice as an ongoing process I will try to set myself as an example for others to follow"*.



Grampari

Our Youth programme took a new leap forward with the establishment of the Grampari Gramvikas Yuva manch (Grampari village development youth forum). The boys of Vivar youth told us that they had first done hard work in the village cleaning gutters etc. and then started this forum. They have no office bearers and every member is equally responsible. As part of their work they have decided to keep the village clean. To look after the gutters and help implement the waste disposal scheme. To keep themselves motivated they have decided to have a quiet time every week and every month have a two hour quiet day.

The boys worked hard to stop a forest fire and some got a little burnt in the process. They have also decided to talk to the nearby villages from where these forest fires start and offered their help to make pathways for them without any charge as this is one of the reasons why forest fires start.

These boys have created a skit about their personal change and the work they have done in the villages. They now join the Grampari team in doing programmes in the schools and colleges where youth from various villages study. In the last two months 700 students have been addressed.



A new way of trapping some of the harmful insects was introduced with the use of old plastic bottles.



Our team of 5 lived in the village of Vivar and Danavli for 4 days.



New Spring box work in progress in a village called Syghar. Clean drinking water for 600 people.



To bring the ladies together a new fund was started with the women contributing a small amount each month which can be available to them when needed.

IfL Invites Srilankan Delegation for Just Governance



The highlight of the month for the IfLers was the arrival of 18 Sri Lankans for the Just Governance Dialogue. Having met them in Sri Lanka, it was good to see them interacting with the other international participants of the dialogue and reflecting on how lofC could play a part in the reconciliation and rebuilding of Sri Lanka.

At the request of the National Peace Council, a one-day workshop on the practice of lofC was conducted on the 17th of February; this included an

introduction of the Toolkit on Dialogue by Christoph Spreng.

The last Sri Lankans to leave Asia Plateau were Shashi and Wima along with Wima's mother and their friend Sulari. They have already fixed a meeting on the 5th of March with the other Sri Lankan participants of Just Governance to continue their work in Sri Lanka.

Keeping in mind its future use in Sri Lanka, a Creators of Peace circle followed by a facilitators training was conducted by Cheryl Wood, Leena Khatri and Asma Shah

Anup led a team of three to conduct an introductory session on lofC with administrative staff of the department of the Inspector General of Registrar in Pune.

The North East dialogue planned for 10th to 14th June is taking shape and invitations have been sent out. For more information you can visit the webpage [here](#)



‘Problems are like washing machines. They twist, they spin and knock us around. But in the end we come out cleaner, brighter and better than before!’

‘We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses’

‘Correction does much, but encouragement does more’

A Clean, Caring, Prosperous India for a Sustainable Future



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