

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Our distinguished Chief Guest, Shri. B L Bagra, Director Finance (NALCO),

our guest of Honour, Mr. Sunil Lazraus, Head- Recruitment, Sierra Atlantic,

Dr. Muktikanta Mishra, Chairman, Board of Governors, Centurion School of Rural Enterprise Management,

Prof. D.N.Rao, Managing Trustee, CSREM,

Members of the Board, faculty and staff, Graduates of class of 2008, parents and relatives of the graduating class, present students, distinguished guests, members of the press and the media. Ladies and gentlemen, it's my pleasure to welcome you all to the first convocation of CSREM. I sincerely thank you all for your kind presence here, this evening.

We are privileged to have as our Chief Guest and convocation speaker, Shri B L Bagra. We are grateful to you for accepting our invitation despite your busy schedule. We are all eagerly waiting for your Convocation Address.

I thank our Chairman, Dr. Muktikanta Mishra, Managing Trustee, Prof. D.N.Rao and other members of Board for having given us valuable support and guidance to see that CSREM as an academic institute stands out as a center of excellence with a unique mission of socio-economic value creation through rural enterprise management.

I joined CSREM in February, 2008 as the Director. I express my gratitude to the whole family and well wishers of CSREM for their collective support in our endeavour to scale new heights in days to come. I sincerely thank Dr. L.P.Panda, Dean, Faculty members, staff and students of CSREM for their support and cooperation. Now I am going to report the result of our teamwork with a determination to take the institute and its

mission forward to place CSREM in the global map of academic institutes with credibility.

Centurion School of Rural Enterprise Management, promoted under CSREM trust, is a signature institute of the Centurion Group of Educational Institutions. We are a public – private partnership with support from the Ministry of MSME (Government of India) and Industries Department (Government of Orissa). The institute has been designated as a resource center for entrepreneurship development, research and training.

Our Vision is “To become a quality resource center for enterprise management for catalysing sustainable rural development”

Our institution is a sister institution of the Jagannath Institute for Technology & Management, Paralakhemundi.

Institutions set up by CSREM trust include

CSREM, Paralakhemundi

Centurion ITI

Centurion Public School

Centurion Institute of Technology, which will commence operations in July, 2008 and will offer B. Tech programmes in four streams.

The Proposed Ventures of CSREM trust include:

- 1) Centurion School of Micro-Finance & Actuarial Science (CSMFAS) at Bhubaneswar
- 2) Gramtarang, a grass root level organisation, which will be guided by the philosophy of imaginative marketing ideas, products and services for the rural consumers and markets.
- 3) An academic program exclusively on capital market to produce industry-fit students to cater to the need of increasingly sophisticated financial market

Intellectual capital of CSREM

includes Ph.D from national and international universities of repute, Management graduates from IIM-Kolkata, XIMB, University of Oxfordshire and Indian Universities, M.Tech from IIT, Kharagpur, Chartered Accountant, Ph.D scholar of JNU, Master degree holders in different streams of humanity.

In addition to the in-house permanent faculty members, CSREM attracted many academicians from many other institutes like XLRI, Jamshedpur; Institute of Public Enterprises, Hyderabad; Utkal University, Berhampur University, KIIT School of Management, and senior industry personnel from OCL, Micro-credit Ratings International Ltd., UBS India Service Center, Azim Premji Foundation, Marioc Ltd., etc. as visiting faculty members.

Final and Summer Placements at CSREM

CSREM has made steady progress on the placement front. We have been able to generate approximately 1.26 job offers per student with the maximum salary touching Rs.7 lacs per annum.

On the summer placement front, the institute was able to generate eighty two internships for fifty four students for the batch of 2007 in some of the world's best known organisations such as Max Newyork Life, J Walter Thompson, HPCL and Pratham.

I have the pleasure of reporting that our institution has embarked on several ambitious projects which will play a catalysing role in transforming this institute and the region in the years to come.

The institute has finished diagnostic studies of ten industrial clusters in 8 districts of Orissa for Ministry of MSME (Government of India) and Industries Department (Government of Orissa). This is the first step to designate CSREM as an anchor institute for cluster development in one of the most backward regions of the country.

Mission Shakti (Department of Women & Child Development, Government of Orissa) has appointed CSREM as the state partner for gradation of SHGs in 3 districts and capacity building of SHGs mentors in 5 districts of Orissa.

CSREM has been identified as the technical support institution by the Government of Orissa for preparing the district plan for Gajapati district.

We have also institutional Tie-ups at CSREM.

CSREM has tied up with Drishtee through Drishtee's subsidiary organisation Quiver Infoservices Limited. This organisation is engaged in the business of conceptualizing, designing, developing, testing and marketing of services like education, health, micro-finance, E-Commerce for rural and semi-urban masses.

And, we are looking forward to more of such tie-ups in the future.

Under Faculty Development, I report that

education being our justification of existence, the development of faculty is a matter of prime concern and our efforts reflect that.

Prof. Anita Patra and Prof. S. Kanungo attended a faculty development programme on "Research Methodology and Application of Contemporary Statistical Techniques for Management Research" organised by Indian Institute of Management, Indore

Prof. Anita Patra attended a faculty development programme on "Entrepreneurship Development" organised by Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmedabad

Prof. L.P.Panda attended a two day workshop on "Research Methods for Economics & Management" at GITAM Institute of International Business, Visakhapatnam, 22nd & 23rd February, 2008

Prof. A Ramakrishna Raju attended a three day workshop on “Strategic Planning” organised by Oxfam Australia at Chennai. He also attended a three day workshop on “Project Evaluation and Monitoring” organised by German Agro Action at Chennai and a three days workshop on “Microfinance Plus” organised by Dhan Foundation at Visakhapatnam.

Prof. E.M.Reji attended an FDP titled “Introduction Training Program in Management for young Teachers” at IIM, Khozicode

Seminars/conferences attended by our faculty members include:

Prof. Jeevan J Arakal presenting a Paper titled “Organising Local Markets in Vajrapukotturu” in the Conference on “Marketing to Rural Consumers – Understanding and tapping the rural market potential” organised by Indian Institute of Management, Khozicode during April, 2008. This paper has also been published in the conference proceedings.

Dr. L.P.Panda presented a paper in 44th Annual Conference of The Indian Econometric Society, Hyderabad on "Forest loss and people's vulnerability in Ganjam District of Orissa" jointly with Dr. N.C Sahu.

Talks and Seminars in CSREM by eminent visitors include:

A talk by Dr. Julian Tiecher, Director, Graduate School of Business, University of Monash – Australia, on “Higher Education Opportunities in Australia”

A talk by Prof. Bernadine Van Gramberg, Head of School, School of Management Faculty of Business & Law, Victoria University, on “ Leadership and Its Challenges”

A talk by Dr. Arthur B Tattnell, Professor, Victoria University, on MIS and software development

And Dr. Anona Armstrong, Professor of Governance and Director of the Center for International Corporate Governance Research at Victoria University, who visited CSREM and also participated in Gajajyoti, the annual festival of JITM.

To boast of tangible results in Research and Publications, I can bring to your notice that

Professor Muktikant Mishra was given the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Research by Victoria University in Australia. Dr. Mishra was given the award for his outstanding research in governance and fiscal reforms.

Prof Mishra has completed a textbook for MBA courses on Business Ethics and Governance: An Indian perspective, which is to be published by McGraw Hill Publishing House this year.

He has also published a paper "A framework for Developing Effective Technology Enabled Distance Education Programmes in Management: A Study of a Video Conference Based Programme in an Indian Perspective" co-authored by Dr. Jaydeep Mukerjee of MDI Gurgaon, in the Journal of Business Systems, Governance and Ethics".

Prof. Anita Patra is registered for her doctoral research in the business administration department of Bherampur University. Her topic of research is "Role of SHGs in the empowerment of Women".

Prof. Umakanta Nayak is currently pursuing his doctoral research in the School of International Relations at JNU University, New Delhi. His research is on "Local Governance in USA and India: A comparative study".

As far as our indulgence in other academic activities is concerned, I report that

Prof. D N Rao, Managing Trustee CSREM, was the sole invitee from India under "The International Visitor's Leadership Programme in Higher Education" organised by the US State Department.

Prof. Jeevan J Arakal developed a course module on rural marketing for Indira Gandhi Open University, New Delhi in collaboration with Prof. D N Rao.

Prof. Manaswee K Samal acted as a resource person for UGC sponsored refresher course for college teachers of Utkal University

We have made a beginning on consulting assignments also.

Prof. D N Rao has been appointed by NABARD to be a part of the taskforce for "Suggesting reforms in India's Co-operative System". The task-force will suggest improvements in the governance of co-operatives, ways to standardize accounting and audit systems in co-operatives, mechanisms to integrate the functioning of co-operatives and Panchayati Raj institutions.

Prof. Manaswee K Samal rendered consultancy to POSCO-India for its port project in the proposed SEZ.

From its inception, barely two years ago in 2006, CSREM has experienced a rewarding stint in terms of fruitful relation with Government, Institutions, Academicians, Corporates and many organisations. We will continue to carry forward this with an urge for excellence. Thank you for all your support.
