

# Centre for Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship

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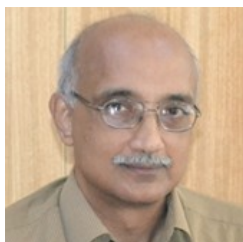
## Message from the Dean

### International and Alumni Affairs

CSIE continues to evolve into a multi-faceted organization with measurable impact on the campus and on society. "Idea Spark" is a contest that gets college students involved. The first Faculty Development Program (in creative pedagogy) was organized in late November. A winter camp for school students is planned in Jan 2015. These activities demonstrate the scope and variety in CSIE outreach beyond the campus.

Closer to home, the Minor Stream on "Innovation & Social Entrepreneurship" continues to benefit from association with CSIE, with the lab and field courses receiving significant support from CSIE staffers. The many Workshops and Conferences attended and organized by CSIE are an indicator of its growing visibility among the social enterprise community. CSIE continues to build its collaboration with incubators on campus and elsewhere, such as RuTAG, RTBI and the IITM Incubation Cell.

Faculty are now being assisted by CSIE when it comes to writing and presenting proposals for funding of projects in the social entrepreneurship sector. We have had a few big wins lately, and look forward to more as CSR spending by companies becomes mandatory. CSIE is an alumni-funded initiative that has taken on a life of its own. While CFI has quickly caught the imagination of the campus community, the impact of CSIE has been more subtle, but starting to scale. As student start-up's continue to rise in number, CSIE will have its work cut out to ensure that these students do consider social enterprises as a legitimate career option. With the strong and committed staff we have in place, I'm sure that will be accomplished.



**Prof. R. Nagarajan**

Dean, International and Alumni Relations

## New Team Member



**Ms. Vidhiya Saravanan**

Project Associate

Documentation of the Incubated companies in IIT-M

## Faculty Development Program on Creative Pedagogy

CSIE and Tagore Engineering College jointly organised a 1-day faculty development program on ***“Creative Pedagogy: Fostering Student Creativity and Innovation”*** at IIT Madras on 28th, November 2014. 55 faculty from 19 different colleges participated. The program was inaugurated by Prof. R. Nagarajan, Dean I&AR, IIT Madras.

The morning session was covered by Prof. L.S Ganesh and Prof. Mahesh Panchagnula, from IIT-Madras, who gave talks on "Understanding technological innovation and creativity" and "My experiences with student innovations" respectively. In the afternoon, "Workshop on Nurturing Creativity" was conducted by Shri. Sivasubramanian, Founder, Paperclip. This was followed by a visit to Center for Innovation (CFI) Lab at IIT-Madras.

The valedictory session was presided by Dr. P. Kasinatha Pandian, Principal, Tagore Engineering College. Finally, certificates were issued to the participants



*Speakers and Participants of FDP on Creative Pedagogy*

## Workshop on Corporate Social Responsibility



*Inauguration by Shri. R.S. Balasubramanyam*

CSIE and Karnataka Law Society's Institute of Management Education & Research (KLSIMER) in association with TiE, Hubli conducted a 1-day workshop on **'Corporate Social Responsibility'** for entrepreneurs, teachers and students on 27<sup>th</sup>, September 2014 at KLSIMER, Belgaum. Around 100 entrepreneurs from North Karnataka participated.

The workshop aimed at helping the companies to perceive CSR and align it to their core business objectives. Shri R.S. Balasubramanyam, Head CSR, Aditya Birla Nuvo Limited, inaugurated the workshop. Dr. M.P. Ganesh, Professor, IIT Madras spoke on 'CSR as Stakeholder Management'. Shri Joseph Thomas, CSIE gave a presentation on 'Role of Academic Institutions' in supporting CSR initiatives.

## CSIE and NASE - Impact Metrics

CSIE in partnership with the National Association of Social Enterprises (NASE) conducted a workshop to understand how companies capture and track the change that is occurring or has occurred as a result of their work. As a first step, social entrepreneurs were invited to answer a short questionnaire. The findings were shared at a round table featuring academics, investors and social enterprises on the 1<sup>st</sup>, December 2014 at Ashoka Office, Bangalore. Shri. Joseph Thomas was a facilitator for the session "Impact Metrics: View from the ground" with a focus on the challenges faces and future course of action. Ms. K. Vijayalakshmi and Ms. Vidhiya Saravanan from CSIE attended the conference.



## ebay Inc. Opportunity Hack



*Shri. Joseph Thomas interacting with one of the teams*

Shri Joseph Thomas was invited as a Social coach for the 'eBay Inc. Opportunity Hack' event conducted by Paypal in Chennai on 11th, October 2014.

This is a 36-hour hackathon where participants will work to come up with solutions to challenges given by non-profit organizations. The Chennai Data Portal, which focused on building attendance system for schools and Team Everest, which worked on e-Receipt Management System secured the first two places. Ms. Vijayalakshmi, CSIE also attended the event.

## RuTAG Advisory Committee Meeting

Shri Joseph Thomas attended the Rural Technology Action Group (RuTAG) Advisory Committee Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup>, November 2014 as External consultant at IIT-M. The meeting started with the discussion about the role of advisory committee and looked at the future direction of RuTAG programme.

Recently completed and ongoing projects and discussion of new projects to be taken up were also reviewed. Ms. Vijayalakshmi and Ms. Vidhiya Saravanan also attended the meeting.



## Idea Spark 2014

CSIE launched the second edition of Idea Spark 2014. This is a contest for students to recognize and nurture the technological ideas that will solve the problems of society. The objective is to create awareness among students, bring out their ideas, and help them to develop it into a business plan. This year the event was launched in 7 engineering colleges in Tamil Nadu including IIT-M. The best 3 ideas from each college have been selected and finals will be held on 10th, January 2015 at IIT-M.



## Rural Visits for Minor course students of IIT-M



*Students at Vishranthi*

CSIE organised visits for Innovation and Social Entrepreneurship minor course students to the villages of Annathur, Nathanallur, Kattavakkam, Vandavasi, Vadanemmeli (Irula community) and to Social enterprises Banyan and Vishranthi.

Students looked at the social issues faced by the different communities and suggested feasible solutions as part of their coursework.

## Talk on Building Ecosystems

Ms. Nickala Torkington from UnLtd, UK gave a talk on '**Building ecosystems of support for Social Entrepreneurs**' at Loyola Institute of Business Administration (LIBA) on 23<sup>rd</sup>, September 2014.

The talk focused on UnLtd UK's approach in identifying the Social Entrepreneurs and supporting them with funding and mentorship. Shri Joseph Thomas, Ms. Vijayalakshmi, Ms. Vidhiya Saravanan from CSIE and Mr. Nikhlesh Ranjan, Mr. Anuraag Saini students of IIT Madras attended the talk.



*Ms. Nickala Torkington, UnLtd, UK at LIBA*

## Visitors to RTBI, IIT-M



*Ms. Nickala Torkington, UnLtd, UK*

CSIE coordinated a visit for Ms. Nickala Torkington, UnLtd, UK and Shri Jayasingh Solomon, British Council to Rural Technology Business Incubator (RTBI) at IITM Research park on 24<sup>th</sup>, September 2014.

Smt. Suma Prashant, Director of RTBI welcomed the visitors and highlighted the initiatives of RTBI for rural development over the years. She explained RTBI's mission, activities and its achievements. Incubated companies like Desicrew, Skillveri, Edsix Brain Lab, Guvi presented the work being done by their organisations.

## Conferences

### UK - India Policy Dialogue on Social Enterprises



Shri Joseph Thomas from CSIE was invited as a Panelist and Speaker in the session on 'Learning Approaches: in and outside classroom leading to innovation and stronger social economy' in UK- India University Dialogue on Social Enterprise on 25 and 26<sup>th</sup>, September 2014 at New Delhi. The session focused on innovations in social enterprise - academic qualifications, together with experiential learning and opportunities for students' right across the campus.

### Indian National Association - of the Club of Rome

Shri Joseph Thomas attended the Global conference on "Securing food for all – Critical need for coherence in policies and action" at New Delhi organised by the Club of Rome, India on 30-31<sup>st</sup>, October 2014. CSIE was one of the knowledge partners. The purpose of the conference was to consider and identify specific policies and actions that can be proposed to government, business, civil society, academic institutions and the media for taking forward and implementing in their respective domains.

### 2014 SEA Conference on IID

Shri Joseph Thomas attended the 2014 Southeast Asia Conference on "Innovation for Inclusive Development (IID)" at Jakarta, Indonesia on 5 - 6<sup>th</sup>, November 2014. This conference was a gathering of the Network's current and potential partners across Southeast Asia. It was a sharing of key project outputs and findings, program implementation experiences and critical learning's of UNIID individual fellows and institutional partners, and the formal launching of the "Inclusive Innovation Hub", an online, open-access knowledge and networking platform that houses resource contributions from UNIID-SEA's partners. Shri Joseph Thomas chaired two sessions on 'Open Education and Open Access as Pathways to Inclusive Development' and on 'IID Teaching and Learning Packages: Water, Sanitation, and Health'. He was also a panelist in the session "What next: UNIID- SEA Project Advisory Committee perspectives". <http://uniid-sea.net/program/>

### Universities and Councils Network on Innovation for Inclusive Development in South East Asia (UNIID-SEA) Project Advisory Committee Meeting

UNIID-SEA organised its Project Advisory committee (PAC) meeting on 7<sup>th</sup>, November 2014 at Jakarta, Indonesia. The Project Advisory Committee is an international group of academics and policy makers acting as principal ambassadors for the IID project. As a PAC member, Shri Joseph Thomas attended the meeting.



*Dr. Ashok Khosla, President, Development Alternatives and President Emeritus, Club of Rome (right) with Joseph Thomas at Global Conference*





### 6th ICAT Conference at Nairobi

Shri Joseph Thomas participated in the the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Appropriate Technology (6<sup>th</sup> ICAT) at Kenyatta University, Nairobi, Kenya, from 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> November 2014. The theme of the conference was "Appropriate Technology for the 21st Century: Technological Innovation to Empower Africa". He presented the paper titled "Taking Appropriate Technology to the Market: Stories of Social Enterprises", in the Green Economy and Innovation paper category, which was selected as the best paper.

## Proposals

Prof. Sujatha Srinivasan (in collaboration with Shri. Joseph Thomas of CSIE) submitted a proposal on 'Affordable Standing Wheelchair' under 'Affordable Healthcare', a Wellcome Trust scheme to support R&D in India. They traveled with Shri. Vivek Sarada (Project Associate) to New Delhi for the final grant meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> November 2014. The project was approved for a grant of Rs. 3.08 crore over a 3 year period.

## Recruitment of JRF / SRF at Anna University

Shri. Joseph Thomas was invited as a member of interview panel for recruiting Junior and Senior Research Fellows (JRF/SRF) for the project titled "Development of Healthy Villages using Eco-WASH Initiatives" which was sanctioned by the Department of Science and Technology - NCSTC. It was held on 9th, December 2014 at Department of Production Technology, MIT Campus, Anna University.

## Upcoming Events

1. **Idea Spark 2014 - Grand Finals on 10th, January 2015**
2. **Winter camp on 'Social Innovation through Technology' for School students on January 2015**
3. **Seminar on Social Entrepreneurship in Shaastra event at IIT-M on January 2015**
4. **Memorandum of Understanding between CSIE and KLSIMER, Belgaum**



## CENTRE FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

301 A, Second floor, Department of Management Studies, IIT-Madras, Chennai - 600 036

Phone: 044 - 22578377, E-mail: [csie@iitm.ac.in](mailto:csie@iitm.ac.in)

[www.csie.iitm.ac.in](http://www.csie.iitm.ac.in)