

## Glimpses of the Quarter

### Training, Workshops, Meetings and other Events

- The Interim Director, Mr K G Mathaikutty, visited the Assam Project from July 2nd to 4th, 2015 to attend the Project's Central Committee Meeting.
- The Interim Director attended the Sphere-sponsored World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) Seminar on July 23rd, 2015 in New Delhi.
- LWSIT did not qualify for the Final round of the India NGO Awards 2015. However, as invited, the Interim Director attended the Award ceremony at New Delhi on July 24th, 2015, which provided valuable information and guidance for the future.
- Normisjion Partners Monthly Meeting was held at LWSIT Unit at Seorakuri on July 21st, 2015. The next meeting was held at LWSIT National Office on September 28th, 2015.
- LWSIT's Board of Trustees met on August 22nd, 2015 at National Office.
- Workshop on "Child Protection Policy" was organized by KNH (Kindernothilfe) and Holistic Child Development India (HCDI) from August 24th to 26th, 2015 at Pune. This was the first in a series of 3 workshops on development and implementation of institutional child safeguarding policies and was attended by Ms Isita Roy Chakraborty and Ms Polly Mondal.
- The Interim Director and the Executive Director attended the International Workshop on Resource Mobilisation Asia 2015, held in New Delhi, from August 24th to 27th, 2015.
- Mr Shaju V Joseph-Executive Director and Mr K G Mathaikutty-Senior Advisor, (from September 1, 2015), attended the launch of the Asia-Pacific Regional Forum of Act Alliance on September 14th, 2015 in New Delhi.
- Mr Shaju V Joseph-Executive Director, attended the Annual Reporting Meeting of ULECI on September 29th and 30th, 2015.
- Out of 174 applicants, Ms Monijinir Byapari was selected by the Programme on Women's Economic Social Cultural Rights (PWESCR) to attend the ToT on Women's Economic Social Cultural Rights at Colombo, Sri Lanka from August 24th to 29th, 2015.
- Ms Ranjulata Mohapatro, Unit Manager of GEP Unit, Cuttack and Ms Lipsa Kinner attended the "Conference on HIV/AIDS among ELCA Companions in the Asia Region and Beyond" in Chiang Mai, Thailand from September 21st to 25th, 2015.
- Orientation visit for the new Executive Director of LWSIT-Mr Shaju V Joseph accompanied by Interim Director to Assam Birbhum and Bankura Units in August and to Western, Central and Coastal Odisha Units in September.

### Visitors

Mr. Vitaly Vorona and Rev. Chandran Paul Martin from ELCA visited the ELCA funded emergency project in Assam accompanied by Mr. B. N. Biswal from September 4th to 7th, 2015. The ELCA delegation also visited the LWSIT National Office.

### Forthcoming Events

- Executive Director will attend the DCA Partner's Platform Meeting at Kathmandu, Nepal – October 5th to 9th, 2015
- Workshop on Gender Security in Bangkok will be attended by Ms Monijinir Byapari – October 6th to 9th, 2015
- Interview for the position of Finance Manager at National Office – October 26th, 2015
- First 3-member Advisory Committee Meeting – November 3rd and 4th, 2015
- ELCA visit to National Office and Emergency Response Programme in Manipur – November 12th to 13th, 2015
- Re-orientation Workshop on ICC and its integration with Gender at National Office – November 19th and 20th, 2015
- Review Meeting with Unit Managers at National Office – November 26th to 28th, 2015
- Board Meeting and Christmas Programme at National Office – December 15th, 2015

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### MY SPACE

A Farewell Programme for Mr K G Mathaikutty was held on September 15, 2015 at the National Office.

All the staff members shared their thoughts and memories of Mr Mathaikutty during the many years he had served in the organization and again as Interim Director from 2014. The Monday morning devotion speakers attended the Programme as well and spoke words of encouragement to him. Mr Mathaikutty was felicitated with flowers and a gift from all the staff members as a token of appreciation for all his contribution to LWSIT in the past year. The Programme was followed by a fellowship lunch for everyone present.



Mr K G Mathaikutty with the LWSIT Executive Director and staff



The children from Open Shelter Home at Kolkata Unit bidding farewell to Mr Mathaikutty



NEWSLETTER

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JULY – SEPTEMBER 2015

VOLUME-VI, ISSUE-III

## "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"

Following a decade of conferences and summits, world leaders came together in September 2000 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York and adopted the **UN Millennium Declaration**. This Declaration set out 8 time-bound targets to address issues that included slashing poverty, hunger, disease, gender inequality, and access to water and sanitation by 2015 and have come to be known as the **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)**. Since the year 2000, enormous progress has been made on the MDGs, which gave the world hope for the coming years.

Following in the footsteps of the MDGs, the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development** was adopted at the **United Nations Sustainable Development Summit** on 25th September 2015 in New York, which includes **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** to address and eliminate poverty, injustice and climate change by 2030. The SDGs build on the progress of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), showing the value of a unifying agenda underpinned by goals and targets. The scope of the Sustainability Agenda and the new SDGs are much broader than the MDGs, seeking to eliminate entirely rather than reduce poverty and address the urgent and universal need for development that is beneficial to all. It is hoped that

"the SDGs will now finish the job of the MDGs, and ensure that no one is left behind."

### The 17 SDGs are:

**Goal 1:** End poverty in all its forms everywhere

**Goal 2:** End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote agriculture

**Goal 3:** Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages

**Goal 4:** Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

**Goal 5:** Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

**Goal 6:** Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

**Goal 7:** Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

**Goal 8:** Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all

**Goal 9:** Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, and foster innovation

**Goal 10:** Reduce inequality within and among countries

**Goal 11:** Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

**Goal 12:** Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

**Goal 13:** Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (taking note of agreements made by the UNFCCC forum)

**Goal 14:** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

**Goal 15:** Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss

**Goal 16:** Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

**Goal 17:** Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development





## Case Studies on Development Goals

### “Equal wages for equal work: Gender Equality” – Birbhum



Women working just as hard as the men

Women work as daily labourers in the stone quarries of Birbhum. Apart from the fact that they face discrimination in the form of unequal wages as compared to men, they are also subjected to exploitation, abuse and deplorable working conditions.

It has been seen through history that men always receive higher wages than women for the same volume of work and this inequality has been perpetrated year after year in every profession. And so, in the month of May this year 5 SHGs from 3 communities of the Shikaripara Block, Jharkhand organized a joint-meeting under the leadership of Natalia Hembram, Dhan Tudu, Albina Murmu and Reshmi Besra to address the issue of unequal wages of men and women working in the stone quarries.

In order to correct this injustice 54 women came together at this meeting and decided to initiate a movement to ensure equal wages for both women and men stone quarry workers. To achieve this they approached the local managers of various crushers repeatedly. Finally, in July the tireless efforts of these 54 women resulted in equal wages for the women workers thereby initiating a trend of promoting and practicing gender equality as per Goal 5 of the SDGs. At present the women are earning INR 200-250 per day, which is at par with the men. This movement was supported by their male counterparts and at present they all are working and earning with dignity.



The women stone quarry workers are now receiving equal wages as men after their long struggle

### “Well-being and decent work for all through sustainable management of forests” – Kalahandi



Garjan Forest Committee members

This year's drought completely destroyed the *Kharif* crop especially in the western part of Odisha. As a consequence farmer suicides have been on the rise. The families of these farmers have no option of sustaining themselves as all their savings have been invested in agriculture.

At such a time, the Garjan Forest Committee of Pitaguda village, Kalahandi district, with Mr Krupasindhu Majhi as its President has intervened to bring about hope in the lives of the 103 predominantly ST and SC families in the village. In collaboration with the Forest Department, the Committee has been successful in generating employment through 100 days of work under MGNREGS with daily wages of INR 150 from August to November of this year. Some of the work includes fencing, making of Loose Boulder Check Dams (LBCD), planting of seedlings in the forest and undertaking measures to prevent forest fires. These activities have been managed and mobilized entirely by the Garjan Forest Committee. Apart from these opportunities minor forest products also help sustain around 20 families by providing them a monthly income of INR 1,500 through the sale of these products. The Forest Committee members are hopeful that such tragic incidences resulting in loss of lives will not be encountered again and that the forest's abundant resources will continue to help in overcoming this tragedy.

The families of Pitaguda village are now working towards mobilizing resources from the Forest Department to construct a water shelter, a tank and a sitting platform inside the forest, and this proposition has been accepted by the Forest Department. The Garjan Forest Committee is now taking the lead among the Junagarh Block Forest Protection Committees. The members are committed to strengthening the unity and understanding of a large committee such as this so as to avoid misunderstandings and other crises that may arise.



Planting of seedlings under the MGNREGS Schemes in Pitaguda village

### “Water and Sanitation for all” – Cuttack

In keeping with the objective of the “Swachh Bharat Abhiyan” of the Government of India to reduce open defecation as well as Goal 6 of the SDGs to ensure sanitation for all, 65 families out of 106 in Krushak Bazar community of Cuttack are presently being supported with INR 2,000 each for initiating the construction of family latrines. This will promote good health and hygiene among the community members and at the same time reduce the incidence of various infections and diseases caused by open defecation.

Also, the 4 women's SHGs and one men's SHG in the community have undertaken initiatives to install drinking water facilities. This has been achieved through the support of the Water and Sanitation Scheme of the government-sponsored NRHM (National Rural Health Mission) in this community. Through the Sankalp Mahila Bikash Samity, 4 Mahila Arogaya Samity (MAS) have been formed with members of all 4 SHGs to ensure community health standards. Each group is receiving INR 5,000 to maintain high levels of community cleanliness and for wall paintings on the prevention of Dengue.



Fully constructed latrins in Krushak Bazar community promotes sanitation

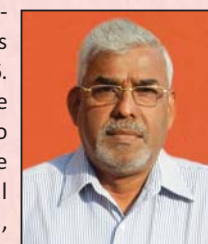


Safe drinking water source installed under the Water and Sanitation Scheme

### Bio-sketch of Interim and Executive Directors

#### Mr K G Mathaikutty

Mr K G Mathaikutty has a long-standing history with LWSIT as he has been a part of this organization since 1976. He began his career as an Administrative Officer and over the years contributed to the organization as a Programme Coordinator and later as a Zonal Representative for Disaster Response, Water Development and Community Based Disaster Preparedness Projects. From 2001 till 2008, Mr Mathaikutty served as the Programme Coordinator/Director heading the Disaster Response Unit of LWSI. Some of his international experiences include serving as Country Coordinator of LWF Myanmar from December 2008 to December 2009, as Emergency Adviser to the Japan Lutheran Emergency Relief (JLER) after the triple disaster of earthquake-triggered tsunami and Fukushima nuclear plant leakage in 2011, and as Emergency Project Manager/Emergency Adviser to LWF, Haiti in the aftermath of the earthquake in 2010.



Mr Mathaikutty returned to LWSIT as Interim Director from September 2014 to September 2015 in order to rebuild the organization after the crisis period and establish improved transparency and accountability practices. He also initiated the Complaints Response Mechanism and the multi-tiered Internal Complaints Committees. With the leadership of Mr Mathaikutty and the support of the LWSIT staff, the organization has been restored to its former glory and continues to function as a reputed NGO.

#### Mr Shaju V Joseph

Mr Shaju V Joseph, the current Executive Director of LWSIT, began office on August 1, 2015. From September 1, 2015, he was given full charge as the Head of this organization.



Mr Joseph's area of expertise is Programme Management with experience in academic research and proposal writing. Another area of his expertise is resource mobilization from various national and international corporate bodies.

He began his career as a Project Coordinator for Christian Agency for Rural Development in 1982. Over the years Mr Joseph has served in varying capacities as Project Officer for Apex Voluntary Agency for Rural Development, as Programme Manager/Team Leader of the Catholic Health Association of India, as the Head of New Initiatives, Monitoring and Evaluation at LEPR India and as Senior Programme Manager at Hindustan Latex Family Planning Promotion Trust. His primary responsibility for the past 15 years has been strengthening field project management by working directly with the staff and NGOs as implementing partners.

Mr Joseph has also worked with corporate bodies like CAIRN India, HLL, and ESSAR in developing proposals and guiding project implementation. It is hoped that with the experience and leadership of Mr Shaju Joseph LWSIT will reach new heights of programmatic excellence and gain the much-deserved visibility among the top Indian NGOs.