



LUTHERAN WORLD SERVICE INDIA TRUST

(An Associate Program of The Lutheran World Federation, Department for World Service, Geneva)
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NEWS LETTER

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ACT India Forum Meeting

The ACT Alliance India Forum meeting was held on August 20, 2014 which was hosted by LWSIT, Kolkata. The members present in the meeting were DCA, ICCO, Christian Aid, UELCI, CASA, CARD, HEKS and LWSIT.

Since LWSIT was the coordinating agency of ACT India Forum for more than two years, the meeting was primarily important to select the new coordinating agency for next two years apart from other matters such as review of country context in the current scenario, ACT Strategic Plan – 2015-2018, issue of income based fee imposed by ACT Alliance Secretariat and inclusion of new members like HEKS and ELCA in the ACT India Forum. UELCI was selected to be the coordinating agency for ACT India Forum for next two years.

Each of the representative organization provided an update of their work at the country level as well as regional and global level. During the meeting, it was agreed that, respective forum members may undertake pilot study at their organizational level bearing the cost on their own.

Most of the members expressed their concern on promoting advocacy and lobby with both right holders and duty bearers is posing big challenges in view of the changing political scenario in the country.

Matters related to election of members from country forum to ACT Alliance Governing Board were also discussed in the meeting.

It was decided that the forum members will raise voice in the next general assembly of ACT Alliance which will be held in Dominican Republic. The issues that will be raised in the general assembly are – income based fees, decentralization of ACT Secretariat in order to work closely with forum members and provide coordination during emergency response.

Important days observed in the field



Support given to girl student in Kachugaon



Literacy Day Celebration



Literacy Day Celebration



Literacy Day Celebration

Panasonic Japan lights up lives of slum dwellers and tribals through LWSIT

Dr. Lowell J. Gretebeck, JELA (Japan Evangelical Lutheran Association) visited LWSIT National Office and the Gender Empowerment Project Unit, Kolkata. He interacted with the families who received the donated solar lights under the CSR program by Panasonic, Japan. 232 solar lights were distributed in poor non electrified households in the slums under Gender Empowerment project units of Bhubaneswar, Cuttack, Kolkata and the rural poor communities under the STEER – Rural – Keonjhar unit in Odisha.

Change in LWSIT's leadership

Dr Vijayakumar James, Executive Director of LWSIT resigned from his post on 31st August 2014. Subsequently, Mr K G Matthaikutty was appointed as Interim Executive Director of LWSIT.

Forthcoming events

- Review meeting to be held on 8th and 9th October.
- Ms. Annabel Dulhanty from Caritas Australia will visit LWSIT Projects in South-24 Parganas and Birbhum for her research project in October
- Church of Sweden Partners' Meeting to be held in Chennai from 17th to 19th November 2014
- AZEECON EETV to be held in Puri from 18th to 21st December 2014.
- Mr. Mukunda Sutradhar will visit Dhaka to participate in the AZEECON TOT from 3-6 December, 2014.
- Board Meeting will be held on 19th December, 2014.
- Christmas program and closing ceremony of 40th anniversary will be held on 19th December, 2014.

AZEECON Annual Review and Planning Meeting

The 18th AZEECON Annual Review and Planning meeting was hosted by LWF Nepal in Kathmandu from 24th – 26th September 2014. All the seven members (both country program and associated program of LWF/DWS Geneva) under AZEECON network attended the event.



Representatives from donor partner's such as Church of Sweden, Finn Church Aid, Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission ELCA and Australian Lutheran World Service including LWF/DWS representative also attended the meeting. This was the platform where most of the decisions for next one year (i.e., Year 2015) were decided and agreed upon by the members of the network.

Reflection of past events during 2014 such as EETV or customized training including their follow up actions were also discussed. Each of the members shared their experiences of hosting programs related to EETV or emergency response program. It was suggested that the best practices of program intervention or lessons learnt be documented for circulation and learning.

The AZEECON Strategic Plan 2014 – 19 was further elaborated in the meeting by the mentor of AZEECON - Dr Allen Armstrong. In view of severe climatic change across the globe, particularly in the asian region, emphasis was laid on adaptation and mitigation plans by member countries. In order to effectively combat the situation, it was suggested and agreed upon to develop a pool of resource persons from each country who would be nominated for ToT.

This task was entrusted to IIRR – a Philippines based research institute who have already conducted a ten day training involving 13 members from seven different countries. The follow up training of the same will also be organized by AZEECON and this will be hosted by RDRS Bangladesh in December 2014.

LWSIT presented the emergency related work done during 2014 highlighting the efforts made by CBDMT during cyclone 'Phailin' in 2013. LWSIT also shared the appreciation and acknowledgement it has received from Government of Odisha which was greatly applauded by all AZEECON members. Promotion of renewable energy and use of solar pump for irrigation were also highlighted.

Congratulatory message to Mr Kailash Satyarthi

Dear Mr. Kailash Satyarthi,

Hearty congratulations and greetings from Lutheran World Service India Trust!

This is a memorable, proud occasion for all the Indians and a recognition for all those who struggle specially NGO sector, to bring justice particularly to the young children all over the world. Your Bachpan Bachao Andolan and many other struggles for human rights and justice have changed the lives of many in the country.

As an NGO, Lutheran World Service India Trust has special reason to celebrate in your achievement as it also serves the marginalized, vulnerable families through humanitarian and integrated development initiatives after natural and human made calamities, to uphold the rights and dignity of the under privileged. One of our projects supported by Normisjon for the stone quarry affected communities in Birbhum (West Bengal) and Dumka (Jharkhand) is akin to your initiatives and inspired by similar vision we all drawn from our Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi.

Winning the most prestigious Nobel Award jointly with Ms. Malala Yousafzai from our estranged neighbor Pakistan has a special significance, at a time of border skirmishes resulting in loss of innocent lives and property in both countries. This raises hope among a large number of people either side that a joint campaign by both Nobel laureates can create an atmosphere of permanent peace in the subcontinent, which can ensure coexistence and tranquility, which are badly needed for growth and development for the people of our countries.

May the Almighty further strengthen such initiatives.

Best Regards,
K. G. Mathaikutty
Interim Director

Flood response program in Kendrapara

The flood situation in LWSIT operational area was grim in Kendrapara & Jajpur district. The amount of water released from Hirakud dam was estimated to be more than 11 lakh cusec which passed through rivers of Kendrapara flooding the region.



Assessment of flood in LWSIT operational community based on information-07.08.14

- No of community affected severely (Water induced in houses)- 08 LWSIT operational communities- 359 households
- No of community affected (surrounded by flood water) – 08 LWSIT operational communities -504 Households
- Number of Casualty – Nil
- Agriculture land of 16 communities marooned.

Steps taken by DMTs on 07.08.14

- Free kitchen arranged by two DMTs for 655 people
- Dry food(biscuit) by one DMT for 225 people
- Match box & candle distributed by one DMT in 40 households
- Rescue & Evacuation done by 16 DMTs
- Free kitchen to be started in four communities

Subsequently, funding was received from DCA to respond to the flood situation in Kendrapara.

Independence day celebration across LWSIT units



Outcome and Impact Orientation

The Outcome and Impact Orientation Workshop was held on 17th to 19th August 2014, facilitated by Anke Schuermann. The objective of the workshop was to strengthen outcome orientation of our PME systems in accordance with the framework and procedures of BfdW. The workshop was primarily for LWSIT staff dealing with project management and are involved in activities of planning, monitoring and evaluation. By the end of the workshop, the participants had an increased understanding on how to formulate outcome oriented, realistic and verifiable objectives and indicators achievable by end of the project period. The staff also had a fair amount of understanding how to present effect-oriented narrative reports informing on the achievement of the objectives according to the indicators. The next follow-up workshop will be held in February 2015 for the same set of participants.

LWSIT staff in global forum



Mr. Bibekananda Biswal, Emergency and Personnel Manager, was selected to represent ACT Alliance in the GFSC (Global Food Security Cluster) Strategic Plan Drafting Committee.

A mother's dream and a daughter's aspiration brings in sunshine in their gloomy life

The wheel of fortune has completed its full circle in the lives of mother-daughter duo.

Anasua's life fell apart like a pack of cards when her husband decided to re-marry for more dowry and because Anasua gave birth to a baby girl (Anjali). Anasua moved to her maternal house and started working as agricultural laborer to support her infant, who was all of three months old.

In spite of the unspoken hardships Anasua endured, she always dreamt of a bright future for her daughter Anjali. Hence, as Anjali grew old enough to attend school, she was sent to school. Anasua's parents and brother became her support system in all these trying years. As Anjali progressed in her education, she bagged a bicycle from the government, this helped her to commute to her school everyday. In 2013, Anjali finished her standard 10 and was keen to continue further education. But, alas! Her mother was unable to admit her in high school due to insufficient money. Heartbroken Anjali had no option but to join her mother as an agricultural laborer.

When all hope was lost, there appeared a silver lining amidst the cloud in the village of Tentulikhunti. In 2013, Lutheran World Service India Trust adopted the village to initiate sustainable development work. In 2013, a CBO was formed and the members decided to support Anjali's aspiration for higher education in 2014. In the meantime, Anjali got deeply involved in various



Anjali with her mother Anasua

community development programs and also helped the CBO with their documentation.

In February 2014, Anjali was selected to take part in the 'Nutritional Status

assessment program' conducted by LWSIT in Rayagada district. She got a remuneration of Rs 750. Her joy knew no bounds when she got the money with which she bought some dresses and



Anjali on the way to college with her friends (2nd from left)



Anjali at the education centre taking a lesson

books for herself. She was also selected to be the instructor in the education centre with a remuneration of Rs 700 per month. Along with this the CBO supported Anjali with Rs 1000 to pursue further studies. These endeavors enabled Anjali to get admission in women's college in Junagarh to complete her high school education. Every morning she rides her bicycle to college which is around 12kms from her village.

As the mother-daughter duo dared to aspire for better future, life offered another opportunity to Anjali. She was selected by the CBO to undergo a diploma training in computer application at Junagarh with necessary support from LWSIT. She has applied for the post of computer assistant in the gram panchayat office, where the interview and selection is yet to take place.

Anjali attends college from 8am to 1pm, after which she teaches in the education centre at her village in the evenings and also helps her mother in household chores. Beside this, she is actively involved in the sustainable development initiatives of LWSIT. Anjali now aspires to be a teacher and help impart quality education to the children in her village.

Training, Meetings and Workshops attended in the quarter

- Mr. Binoy Kumar Manna, visited Bangladesh from 24th to 28th August, 2014 to attend a training on Cash Transfer sponsored by DanChurchAid
- Mr. B. N. Biswal attended the DCA SARO PT3 'Resilient Livelihood and Sustainable Food Security (RLSFS) Programme' Partner Platform Meeting held from 4th to 8th August, 2014.
- Interim Executive Director attended UELCI Annual Reporting Meeting in Chennai in the month of September.
- The staff of LWSIT attended training on: gender baseline indicator survey, safe and healthy environment for children in cities, preparation of village development livelihood plan, accounts and data management, SHG and management, and sustainable agriculture development.