



LWSIT

# 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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## LWSIT mourns the death of Mrs Hodne

Mrs Brit Hodne, the wife of the founding Director of L W S I passed away on 15 February 2013 at Oslo, Norway. She was 92 years old. Dr and Mrs Hodne have 3 children namely, Kari, Anne and Kjell.



## Visits of the Executive Director

The Executive Director attended the UELCI's Round Table Meeting at Ranchi from 20th to 22nd January 2013

The Executive Director attended the funeral service of Mrs Hodne in Norway. He also visited U.K on his way to Norway.

## ACT India Forum Meeting



Participants of ACT India Forum Meeting

LWSIT hosted ACT Alliance India Forum Meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2013, at LWSIT National Office. All the 5 national members and representatives of 4 international agencies who has presence in India, attended the Forum meeting. In the Forum meeting the following were discussed at length - ACT Alliance Working Groups, ACT Alliance Regional Consultation held in Bangkok, presentation and discussion on 'Advocacy for Justice in the context of exclusion'.

## Women's Day Celebration



Women organised a rally in the village

International Women's Day was observed and celebrated across all the project units of LWSIT. The day was commemorated by organising rallies,



Participants gathered to celebrate Women's Day

women empowerment, women's rights, gender equity, more involvement of women in Govt. functions as well as in their societies were discussed at

projection of gender equality through skits and dramas. The SHG members organised village level meetings wherein issues of



A young woman speaks of gender equality



Young girls perform a dance at the function

length. Various dignitaries from the government line department and representatives of local self government were present to celebrate the day.

## DCA Partners' Meeting

Dr Garai, the Program Manager visited Kathmandu to attend the DCA Partners' meeting from 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013. This partners' meet was attended by participants from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Cambodia and Myanmar. The following thematic issues were broadly discussed at the meet: i) Inclusive Active Citizenship Programme ii) Resilient Livelihood and Sustainable Food Security iii) Migrant Rights Programme iv) Humanitarian Response. These thematic issues were discussed at length in smaller groups to understand the real issues the partner communities face across these countries.

Accountability and transparency issues with regard to HAP principles were discussed and it was emphasised that to maintain certain standards in our service delivery mechanism all the partner NGOs should try to follow HAP principles and practices whether the NGO is HAP member or not. Finally in the Road Map session DCA emphasised on partner to partner collaboration, cross programme collaboration and intensifying the effort of DCA as an agency and of all partners around the priority themes so that a visible and replicable changes are seen.

## Forthcoming events:

1. LWF/DWS Associate Program Consultation to be held in Lima, Peru from 8th -11th April 2013. It will be attended by the Executive Director.
2. CLWR Global Partners' Consultation to be held in Lima, Peru 15th - 19th April, 2013. It will be attended by Executive Director, and two other staff members.

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## Visitors:

1. Ms Emilie Elaine Peters, of Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) undertook a monitoring visit to the CIDA/CLWR supported project in South 24 Parganas district from 7th to 13th January 2013.
2. Mr Ralston Henry Deffenbaugh, Assistant General Secretary for International Affairs and Human Rights, of Lutheran World Federation, visited LWSIT and discussed the proposed Chin refugee project in Mizoram from 17th to 25th January 2013.
3. Mr Phillip Baker from Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (CLWR) visited the National Office on 22nd January 2013.
4. Ms Hanna Hauschildt, a German student visited LWSIT. She was referred by the Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ranchi from 3rd to 6th January 2013.
5. Mr Ville Paalvansaalo from the Faculty of Theology, University of Helsinki visited LWSIT on 2nd February 2013 and held discussions with Executive Director and the program team.
6. Three German visitors (Mr Willibald Arno George Jacob, Mr Wilfred Hahn and Mr Peter Leehr) from the Gossner Mission had discussions at LWSIT, National Office.
7. Mr Audun Nedrelid and his wife Ms Jenny Petra Sofie visited the Normisjon supported bilateral projects in Birbhum and Kokrajhar to make promotional videos on the projects from 13th February to 5th March 2013.
8. Mr Manikumar, Mr Deepak Singh and Ms Aditi Ghosh from DCA India as well as Mr Rajkishore Sharma from the Orissa State Advisor, visited LWSIT for a day long meeting on DRR and Food Security Project on 16th February 2013.
9. Dr Gerlind Schneider from Bread for the World/EED visited LWSIT and held discussions on the new three year funding to LWSIT on 14th March 2013.

## 'Making Retreat 2012 Real'

LWSIT conducted 5 centralised Follow up workshops on "Making Retreat 2012 Real" for all the field staff of the organisation. The workshops were held in South 24 Parganas, Birbhum, Kokrajhar, Bhubaneswar, Kantabhanji (Balangir).

During the workshop, the convergence points of 2010, 2011 and 2012 staff retreat were discussed. This helped all the staff members to recapitulate the learning from the previous retreats and it



Exe. Director addressing Staff Members



Group Work in progress

set the mood for more learning and sharing of experiences amongst the staff members. The staff members were encouraged to introspect and

retrospect to understand their various inherent qualities to realise their full potential. All the staff members were put in



Staff members engrossed in discussions



Participants of the Workshop, Birbhum

smaller groups and they were encouraged to have free, frank, indepth deliberations about the various actions they need to undertake to bring about rooted change not just in the lives of the right holders but also in their respective lives. Many fables and stories were narrated to draw semblance to the future we foresee for the organisation.

After the workshop each and every staff of the organisation had common understanding about the future we envision for the organisation and as well as the community. The staff members felt rejuvenated at the end of the workshop and pledged to make a difference in the lives of the last, the least and the lost.

## Forthcoming events:

3. Executive Director will visit USA to build potential partnership from 18th -25th April, 2013.
4. PDA Lessons Learnt Workshop, to be held in Medan, Indonesia from 17th - 20th April 2013 which will be attended by two staff members.
5. Visitors from JELA to visit LWSIT from 15th to 17th May, 2013.
6. Program Officer from Church of Sweden to visit LWSIT on 28th May 2013.
7. LWF Regional Emergency Hub "Capacity Enhancement Training on Emergency Response Proposal and Report Writing" to be held at Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand from May 18-26 which will be attended by two staff persons.
8. DCA Partners' Platform meeting of regional programme on Resilient Livelihood and Sustainable Food Security (RLSFS) to be held from 3rd - 6th June, 2013 in Kathmandu, Nepal.
9. AZEECON - EETV on Climate Change Adaptation to be held in Bangladesh at RDRS Rangpur Centre from 9th - 13th June 2013.

## Other News

Impact assessment of the CLWR/CIDA bilateral project in South 24 Parganas was conducted by an expert team.

An action research was conducted by Rainbow Academy at the Normisjon supported Assam Riot Victims' Rehabilitation Project in Assam.



## Network seminar

Digni organized a network seminar for its South Asia partners in Kathmandu, Nepal from 10<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> March 2013. The network seminar will be a meeting point where partners from Norway (Digni and its member organisations) in South Asia are able to meet to share experiences and develop competence.

The regional network meeting is an important forum for partner feedback, new thinking, discussions, capacity building and experiential learning.



*Participants in the DIGNI Regional Network Seminar*

Representatives of partner organizations of Digni members came from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Pakistan. From Lutheran World Service India Trust, four staff members and the Executive Director attended the seminar.

At the network seminar, participants met many others who experience similar conditions in other parts of Asia. During the five-day seminar, they shared their experiences, with each other. It strengthened the donor-partners' inter relationships.

## Humanitarian Accountability Partnership (HAP) Workshop

LWSIT organised a workshop on Accountability from 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2013 in which 33 staff members participated. Ms. Ester Dross from Geneva facilitated the workshop. The workshop started with an introduction to humanitarian accountability and an indepth understanding of the 6 benchmarks of HAP. The participants learnt how to set up efficient complaints and response mechanism, the parameters of a complaints mechanism was discussed and many more such critical issues were discussed.



*Participants actively participating in group work*

discussions, role play and screening of videos were an integral part of the workshop.

The staff who attended the workshop shared their learning from the workshop with rest of the staff members in their respective project units. Hence, this ensured that all the staff members of the organisation understand and internalise the HAP standard in their ongoing projects.

Throughout the workshop, discussions were held on the importance of Accountability across the organisation and in the community. The participants were encouraged to link the concept of accountability with their routine works in their respective projects. Group



*Presentation of the learning from group work*

## Joining hands to make a difference

Kutingpadar is a bordering village to a forest in Kensinga block in Kalahandi district. The village is home to 85 tribal and dalit families.

On a lazy afternoon, Ratna Majhi (secretary of Dharanidhar Krushak Club) beams with energy as she steps out of the house to attend SHG meeting. Till 2004, the villagers knew nothing about the importance of collective efforts for the betterment of their lives. It was the women of this village who proactively undertook leadership role to bring about positive change in their lives. There are seven SHGs, one farmers club and one CBO in the village which steers the development initiatives. The groups have been able to initiate many income generating activities through the revolving fund, the farmers club was linked with NABARD kalahandi which helped them in getting many hands-on training. The groups have established a forest protection group which has been effective in checking deforestation and illegal felling of trees in the area.

Ratna Majhi along with other women leaders are hopeful to continue to make more differences in the lives of their fellow villagers.



*SHG meeting in progress*

## Training, Meetings and Workshops attended by the LWSIT Staff during the quarter

### Trainings:

1. An Orientation on "Participatory Rural Appraisal" facilitated by LWSIT on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2013 was attended by five male and three female staff members.
2. A Training of Trainers was organised at Entrepreneurship Development Institute from 7<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013 which was attended by one male staff
3. 2 female staff attended a seminar on "Environmental Degradation" at Seva Kendra, Kolkata
4. 1 male staff attended a Training of Trainers program on Farm Mechanisation from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> March 2013
5. 4 male and 3 female staff attended a training on Disaster Risk Reduction and Environment on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> March 2013

### Workshops:

1. 4 male and 3 female staff attended a workshop on "Sustainable Development" facilitated by LWSIT on 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> January 2013
2. 9 female and 23 male staff attended the Accountability Workshop facilitated by Ms Ester Dross at the LWSIT National Office from 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> February 2013
3. 2 male and 2 female staff attended the Digni/Normisjon Partners' Regional Conference at Nagarkot, Nepal from 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> March
4. 2 male staff attended a workshop on Land allocation in OTELP Plus areas on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2013
5. 4 male and 3 female staff attended a workshop on Accountability at Keonjhar unit office, facilitated by LWSIT National Office staff on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> February 2013
6. 1 male staff attended a workshop on Climate Change Impact and its Adaptation on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2013
7. 7 male and 1 female staff attended a Workshop on Sustainable Livelihood on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2013