

Seminar on

'Engaging Canada: Developing Sustainable Bi-national Partnership'

November 12, 2014, Federation House, Tansen Marg, New Delhi



On the Dias from right to left -Prof. Biju P. Abraham, President, SICI, Prof. Sheila Embleton, Distinguished Research Professor of Linguistics, York University and Former President, SICI, Mr. Ron Byrne, Vice President/President Elect, SICI, Prof. Suchorita Chattopadhyay, Executive-Council Member, SICI, Mr. Alain Olivier, Director, Quebec Government Office, Mumbai and Ms. Victoria Sheldon, PhD Student and Teaching Assistant at Department of Anthropology-University of Toronto and recipient of SICI- India Studies Fellowship for the year 2014-15

The Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute organized a Seminar **Engaging Canada: Developing Sustainable Bi-national Partnerships and India event on November 12, 2014 at Federation House, Tansen Marg, New Delhi** in collaboration with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry's (FICCI) Higher Education Summit on Nov 13 & 14, 2014 in Delhi. The seminar was one of the programmes supported by the the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade & Development (DFATD), Government of Canada through the Shastri Institute this year. The Seminar featured Canadian and Indian speakers who highlighted current opportunities for developing academic links between Indian and Canadian higher educational institutions. The panelists shared the successes of their research/academic networks, collaborations and articulated some of the challenges of developing sustainable international partnerships in higher education.

Mr. Ron Byrne, Vice President (International Affairs); Mount Allison University and Vice President/President Elect, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute spoke on ‘Canada’s Internationalization Strategy in Higher Education and Opportunities for Collaboration’. He discussed the current priorities of DFATD in higher-education and the emerging opportunities for collaboration between Indian and Canadian higher educational institutions. He emphasized the importance of fusing existing infrastructure to support India-Canada educational collaboration rather than inventing new organizations for the purpose. In the second presentation Dr. Sheila Embleton, Distinguished Research Professor of Linguistics, York University and Former President, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, highlighted the real challenges encountered in developing sustainable partnerships. Dr. Embleton shared her own experiences and spoke of different ways in which the challenges encountered in terms of academic and research collaborations could be overcome.

Mr. Alain Olivier, Director, Quebec Government Office, Mumbai in his presentation on opportunities for developing sustainable partnerships with Quebec universities and research institutes informed the audience on various opportunities available for Indian students, professors and researchers for collaborative research and exchange with Québec’s excellent English- and French-language universities. He also emphasized the fruitful partnership Québec has enjoyed with the Shastri Institute and its effective role in promoting opportunities for higher education in Québec Since 2010. Dr. Biju Paul Abraham, Professor of Public Policy, Indian Institute of Management Calcutta, and President, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute in his presentation spoke of the role of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute in promoting and sustaining Indo-Canada partnerships and highlighted its programmes and activities. The last presentation of the session was by Ms. Victoria Sheldon, PhD Student and Teaching Assistant at Department of Anthropology-University of Toronto, and recipient of Shastri India Studies Fellowship for the year 2014-15. Ms. Sheldon discussed how the Shastri Institute fellowship has given her the valuable opportunity to engage in simultaneous language study and fieldwork for her doctoral research in alternative medicine for chronic lifestyle diseases in Kerala. Drawing on her experiences, she highlighted what Canadian scholars look for when studying in India, and how culturally immersive academic study can allow for the inter cultural dialogue and understanding necessary for providing practical benefits for the increasingly globalizing world.

The session was moderated by Dr. Suchorita Chattopadhyay, Professor of Comparative Literature, Jadavpur University & Executive-Council Member, Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute.

Program concluded with the High Tea hosted at the programme venue, the Federation House.
