



May 2013

Shastri Newsletter

Message from the President



Dear Friends,

Greetings to you all on behalf of Shastri Institute's members, its staff and affiliates. Since our last newsletter many big events have taken place. I will highlight some of the key developments and events that have taken place at the Institute and at our member institutions.

An Engaging Canada Conference funded by Shastri Institute on **"Higher Education in India and Canada – Opportunities and Challenges"** was held at University of Mumbai on December 19, 2012. The objective of this conference was to strengthen academic and cultural linkages, as well as create and maintain links among the academia, government, business community and civil society organizations of the two countries.

Shastri Institute funded the Osmania University Centre for International Programmes to organise **'Osmania-Shastri Festival'** on January 8, 2013 involving approximately 300 students from the UG, PG and professional streams of colleges in Hyderabad. The event generated widespread interest in Canadian studies among students. As an outcome of this event the Osmania Centre for Canadian Studies plans to start a discussion forum and a young researcher's club on Canadian Studies with immediate effect.

Funded by the Shastri Institute under DFAIT grant, a National Legal Conference on **"Role of Legal Education in the Changing Economic World"** was held at National Law University, Delhi on January 20, 2013. Many Vice-Chancellors and Directors of National and State level Universities and Institutions of Excellence from Law as well as researchers and academicians participated in the conference. The event provided an opportunity for face-to-face interactions and deliberations on different emerging issues of globalization in legal education with emphasis on India and Canada.

A delegation of the **University of Saskatchewan** consisting of Dr. Jim Bassinger, Vice President, Research, Dr. Harley Dickenson, Strategic Advisor Internationalization, Dr. Ajay Dalai, Associate Dean, International Cooperation visited the Institute and National Law University, Delhi during the third week of January 2013. Shastri India office facilitated their meeting at Jaipur and Delhi with Universities and Institutions.

Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute and the Government of Québec have **renewed the agreement to exempt Indian students from paying tuition fees** for select post-graduate programs. The agreement was signed by Mr Benoit-Jean Bernard, Director-Consul, Quebec Office, Mumbai and President, Shastri Institute **on February 1, 2013** in New Delhi at Hotel Taj Palace. Mr Jean François Lisee, Minister of International Relations, Francophonie and External Trade of Quebec; Professor Ved Prakash, Chairperson, University Grant Commission, and Ms. Veena Ish, Joint Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Government of India were present to witness the signing ceremony.

On February 7 and 8, the Institute organized a Symposium titled **"Weaving a Sustainable Web between India and Canada"**. The event engaged the Ministry of Education, British Columbia as well as Shastri alumni.

Shastri held a Roundtable on **"India Canada Collaboration in Higher Education – The Road Ahead"** on February 17 to take forward collaborative initiatives forged during the Education Summit at Carleton in June 2011 and to identify areas of future collaboration and ways of engagement between Indian and Canadian universities/research institutes keeping in view the priorities of both the Indian and Canadian governments.

As part of the Shastri grant, our members, Jadavpur University, Kolkata held their event on **'Painting the Rainbow from Bloor to B'lore: Connecting "Cultures of Difference" in Canada and India** on February 26-27, 2013. The Keynote Lecture was

delivered by Professor Himani Bannerji, Department of Sociology, York University, Canada. In the course of the two-day conference, the diverse ramifications of culture in the context of material aspects of Indo-Canadian identity were duly explored.

On March 1, 2013 HEC Montreal and the Canada-India Business Council organized the '**Business Forum Global India**' Conference sponsored by Shastri Institute. Honorable Deepak Obhrai, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs was the guest of honor. The Deputy Minister for Bilateral Affairs, Department of International Relations, La Francophonie and Trade (MRIFCE), Jean-Stéphane Bernard, attended the opening session on the theme "Developing business ties with India." Canadian Senator Dr. Asha Seth, the President, Vice-President and the Secretary-Treasurer of Shastri Institute were also present at this event. On this occasion, Mr. Bernard reiterated the priority given to India by the Quebec government, both in terms of export development and investment, to an audience interested in bringing students, business representatives and members from the Indo-Québec.

Similarly, on March 1-2, 2013, our member, Mangalore University, organized a National Workshop on "**Engaging Priorities, Enabling Connections: India, Canada and the Way Forward**" at their campus. The Workshop was inaugurated by Prof. V. K. Natraj, formerly Member, Indian Advisory Council, SICI. The Workshop provided an opportunity to discuss and create awareness regarding the possibility of Indo-Canadian partnerships among faculty and students in the Mangalore University area.

The Shastri President along with our bi-national team of Executive Council Members continues to engage in advocacy and outreach. In India, we have recently had meetings with Hon'ble Ministers of Human Resource Development to discuss the renewal of the MoU signed between Government of India and Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute. On the Canada side too, we continue our dialogue with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Provincial governments.

Our Institute has adjudicated many programmes recently like Millennium Development Fund Grant (MDF) and Quebec Tuition Fee Exemptions. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the awardees and invite all to visit our website to see the programmes open for application.

The Centre for Canadian Studies Development Programme, Himachal Pradesh University is organising a National Seminar, sponsored by Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, on "**Hydro-Power Development in Relation to the Overall Development of Mountain Regions**" on Tuesday, 26 March 2013.

The Shastri Institute has also launched its Youth Internship Program called: "**Bringing Youth into Development**". This program funded by the Government of Canada through CIDA consists of sending 20 interns to India for a period of 6 months under the supervision of four reputed Indian host organizations.

Do keep in touch and do not hesitate to contact the Shastri office for information, programming /grants questions, or other member benefits.



Prof. Ranbir Singh
President



SICI News

Shastri Activities

Engaging Canada: Higher Education in India and Canada: Opportunities and Challenges

On Wednesday, December 19th 2012, the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, in collaboration with the University of Mumbai, organised a seminar titled **Engaging Canada: Higher Education in India & Canada – Opportunities and Challenges**. The seminar aimed at furthering and strengthening academic and cultural linkages, as well as creating and maintaining links among the academia, government, business community and civil society organizations between the two countries.



The event was honoured by the presence of Mr. Nicolas Lepage, Consul and Senior Trade Commissioner, Consulate General of Canada (Mumbai); Dr. Ranbir Singh, Shastri President; Dr. Naresh Chandra, Vice Chancellor, University of Mumbai; Dr. G. D. Yadav, Vice Chancellor, Institute of Chemical Technology (Mumbai); Dr. Sheila Embleton, Distinguished Research Professor of Linguistics, York University (Toronto); and Dr. Jameela Begum, retired Professor and Head, Dept. of English, University of Kerala.

Three session discussions were held all of which focused on the various activities and opportunities of exchanges of student and faculties between both countries. Dr. Ranbir Singh, Shastri President, talked about the heft, in terms of numbers, of the Indian student community in Canada and seemed hopeful about a steady exponential increase of the same in the future.

In his welcome address, Mr. Lepage reaffirmed Canada's relationship with India in education. He stressed on the Canadian government's interest in fellowships and bursaries for international students. He went on to broadly identify three sectors of interest in the India-Canada equation: Food Security and Agriculture, Energy, and Information and Communication Technology.

Dr. G. D. Yadav stressed that the way forward was through collaboration. He also shared his observations on the Canadian educational scene and praised it for its uniformity of standard, across universities. Dr. Jameela Begum spoke about her experiences of setting up the Centre of Canadian Studies at the University of Kerala and of the Centre's activities. Dr. Begum suggested that Canadian universities consider setting up branch campuses in India. Dr. Coomi Vevaina and Dr. Nilufer Bharucha also presented a report on how they were "engaging" Canada at the Dept. of English and Indo-Canadian Studies Centre.

This event also witnessed the participation of Dr. Sheila Embleton who made a presentation on the relationship between her university (York) and India and called York an early collaborator with India. She cited ties, across the York faculties, with various Indian institutes like the IIMs, IITs, TIFR, Jamia Millia Islamia and JNU.

Dr. Ajay Rao, a professor of South Asian religions at the University of Toronto, also spoke about the opportunities at his University and the possible challenges Indian students might face abroad, in a new system. As a Shastri Fellow under the India Studies Program, Mr. David Huxtable, a Ph.D. student at the University of Victoria and presently doing a stint at TISS, also spoke about the synergy of opportunities and challenges for Indian students.

Role of Legal Education in the Changing Economic World



The Shastri Institute organized a National Conference on "Role of Legal education in the Changing Economic world" on January 20, 2013. This Event brought together over 25 participants from different parts of country including Vice- Chancellors, Deans and Faculty members. 25 Vice-Chancellors and Directors of National and State level Universities and Institutions of Excellence from Law and 10 researchers and academics. The event provided an opportunity for face-to-face interactions and deliberations on different emerging issues of globalization in legal education with emphasis on India and Canada. Issues addressed included Impact of globalization on Law, Legal Institutions and Legal Education, Internationalization of Legal education: perception and Prospects, Legal research and Publication Issues & Development, Legal Education & ICT:

Implications and Importance, Issues of standardization of legal education curriculum in the light of globalization at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and need of a uniform standard of evaluation or grading system.

Prof. Ranbir Singh, Shastri President, gave the welcome address and briefed the audience about the conference theme. Also present at this event were Prof. Shanthi Johnson, Prof. Biju Abraham, Prof. Ravishankar Rao and members of the Shastri Institute's Executive Council.

Three sessions were conducted at this conference highlighting evolving principles and processes of facilitating student and faculty mobility among the law schools in India as well as between India and Canada. Possibilities of establishing a body or an institution for networking with Canadian universities to promote exchange of ideas, joint research, publication, exchange of materials, teaching methods and the like, exclusively in the field of legal education in its inter- and multi-disciplinary dimensions was also an area of discussion.

Some concerns were also raised over legal education and research such as measures to encourage the younger generation students to enhance competence for research and teaching; the need to share expertise in field of legal education; encouraging student and faculty performance for institutional growth. For more details about this event, please visit this link:

<http://www.sici.org.in/uploads/Legal%20Conference%20Proceedings.pdf>

Weaving a Sustainable Web between Canada and India



The Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute in collaboration with Simon Fraser University (SFU) organized a symposium on February 7 and 8 titled **Weaving a Sustainable Web between Canada and India**. The event provided a unique opportunity for the Institute and its members in BC to showcase excellence in academic and institutional partnerships, collaborative research and youth engagement between Canada and India.

Further to the words of welcome by **Dr. Bilkis Vissandjee** and **Dr. Craig Janes**, co-chairs, **Ms. Janice Larson**, Executive Director for the BC Ministry of Advanced Education, Innovation and Technology; **Dr. Randall Martin**, Executive Director of BC Council for Advanced Education and **Mr. Ravi Aisola**,

From left : **Dr. Shanthi Johnson**, Shastri Vice President, **Dr. Randall Martin**, Executive Director of BC Council for Advanced Education, **Dr. Craig Janes**, Associate Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, SFU, **Ms. Janice Larson**, Executive Director for the BC Ministry of Advanced Education, Innovation and Technology, **Dr. John O'Neil**, Dean of Faculty of Health Sciences, SFU, **Dr. Bilkis Vissandjee**, Shastri Executive Council Member at Large and **Mr. Ravi Aisola**, The Consulate General for India in Vancouver

The Consulate General for India in Vancouver proceeded to highlight the effective relationships established over the years between members' universities in BC and the Shastri Institute.

The keynote speaker at the opening evening reception was **Dr. John O'Neil**, an awardee of the 2012 **Shastri Kanta Marwah Lecture Series**. Dr. O'Neil illustrated in his presentation select challenges faced by government and NGOs in India to sustainably prevent and treat HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Shanthi Johnson, Vice President and President-Elect of the Shastri Institute gave an overview of the Institute's achievements in promoting academic collaboration between Canada and India as well as the Institute's strategies in reaching out to key stakeholders in Canada and India. Dr. Johnson noted that part of the strategies to move forward is engaging MPs, Ministers, Diplomats and the diaspora in continuous discussion.

Student mobility was the forefront topic addressed throughout the Symposium, illustrating successful partnership stories. Three sessions were held at this one day and a half event building on the Institute's strengths over the years: Canada-India Student and Faculty Mobility; Canada-India Information Exchange and Networking and Canada-India Building Sustainable Partnerships. Selected recommendations included:

- Strengthening both the Canadian Studies and India Studies Library Programmes to move towards electronic access materials for scholars in both countries;
- Creating an online India-Canada expert directory as well as access to references (online publications and course)
- Holding a Shastri-BC-India Round Table where Shastri Alumni involved in research in India meet on a yearly or bi-yearly basis to discuss specific themes. Participants were enthusiastic that Shastri members Institutions should and could take the lead in organizing such initiatives and inviting local organizations focusing on India – Canada relationships
- Hosting an India Studies conference in Canada and bringing together academics of the province
- Strengthening relationships with funding agencies such as CIHR, SSHR, IDRC, NSERC
- Engaging the BC government in examining further exchanges with India in areas of trade and innovation.

To read a comprehensive summary, please visit this link: <http://www.sici.org/news/article/weaving-a-sustainable-web-between-canada-and-india-feb-7-and-8-2013/>

Roundtable Discussions: India-Canada Collaboration in Higher Education - The Road Ahead

On February 17, 2013, the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute organized a Round Table at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi to take forward the collaborative initiatives forged during the Education Summit at Carleton in June 2011. The objective was to identify areas of future collaboration and the modes of engagement between Indian and Canadian universities/ research institutes keeping in view the priorities of both the Indian and Canadian governments. The round-table brought together Vice Chancellors of various universities in India that have research, faculty and student exchange links with Canadian institutions and Directors of the Canadian Studies Centers in India.



Welcoming the Vice-Chancellors and Directors of the Canadian Studies Centers in India to the Round Table, Professor Ranbir Singh, President of the Shastri Institute noted the event was important for the Institute since it was part of a process to identify national priorities in both India and Canada and align the Institute's programmes .

Mr. Simon Cridland, Head, Advocacy Division of the High Commission of Canada in India talked about the importance that Canada attached to educational cooperation with India. He referred to the MoU signed by the two governments for educational collaboration. He also mentioned a number of initiatives that had been taken by Canadian universities and national organizations to develop links with India and said that this interest needs to be translated into collaborative programmes between institutions in both countries. Professor Shanthi Johnson, Shastri Vice President/President Elect discussed the dimensions of the Institute's work and its importance to India-Canada educational cooperation and Shastri Institute's niche in knowledge mobilization, youth engagement/development, institutional partnerships, government relations in higher education as well as in promoting India Studies in Canada and Canada Studies in India as avenues for forging ahead. She stressed the fact

that the Institute has been responsive to national needs and priorities in both India and Canada and this is reflected in the nature of work done by Shastri Fellows and in the work done through its collaborative research projects. Three sessions were conducted and the following recommendations were derived:

India-Canada Education Cooperation: Identifying Priorities for Collaboration

- Steps for brand building and dissemination of the work done by SICI
- Greater focus on reciprocal (two-way) mobility of students and faculty members
- Developing new internship programmes taking into consideration the fact that experience in India is now important for Canadian students from a career perspective
- Enhanced website to host a dynamic database to include expressions of interest for research collaboration, lists of courses and programs taught/available, identify areas of research expertise
- Joint development of innovative courses and training programmes that are relevant to national needs.

Regulatory Issues in International Educational Collaboration

1. Alignment of admission procedures and tests
2. Joint placement programs
3. Comparability of pedagogy – need for pedagogical innovation
4. Joint curricula development – diversification of board of studies
5. Standardized credit transfer
6. Development of mechanisms for twinning programs with Canadian member institutions
7. Joint programs with institutions/universities in third countries
8. Additional certification for faculty participating in SICI programmes
9. Recognition of programs and courses within Indian member institutions

Developing New Collaborative Programmes for Research and Teaching

- Focus on mid-level and young teachers in terms of research and faculty development programs
- Greater focus on disseminating collaborative research
- Funding of programmes similar to the Shastri Applied Research Programmes (SHARP) funded by CIDA
- Development of the book program since it is critical for comparative research
- Research on teaching methods
- A National ‘Engaging Canada’ conference in India on the lines of the ‘Engaging India’ conferences in Canada.

The concluding session was chaired by Professor Shanthi Johnson and Professor Biju Paul Abraham of IIM Calcutta, members of the Shastri Executive Council. They briefed members regarding the future course of action that SICI would follow to ensure that suggestions made during the round table were taken note of by the two governments and to incorporate them in future programmes of SICI. To read a detailed summary, please visit this link: <http://www.sici.org/news/article/roundtable-discussions-india-canada-collaboration-in-higher-education-the-r/>

Doing Business in India



Students from across Canada had an opportunity to engage in an open discussion with academics, entrepreneurs, and parliamentarians invested in enhancing relations between Canada and India as the École des Hautes Études commerciales de Montréal, Canada’s oldest management school, teamed up with the Canada-India Business Council and the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute to host the first “Doing Business in India Global Business Forum” on March 1, 2013.

Federal and provincial stakeholders were present, including representatives from the Parliament of Canada and Québec’s Ministry of Bilateral Affairs, International Relations, La Francophonie

From left : **Dr. Rajesh K. Tyagi**, Assistant Professor, HEC Montreal and Secretary-Treasurer of the Shastri Institute, **Dr. Shanthi Johnson**, Vice-President of the Shastri Institute, **Dr. Ranbir Singh**, President of the Shastri Institute, **Dr. Asha Seth**, Senator, Parliament of Canada, and **Jean-Stéphane Bernard**, Assistant Deputy Minister, Bilateral Affairs, MRIFCE.

While showcasing a vast range of opportunities for collaboration, the forum gathered notable scholars and business leaders to tackle the challenges facing women in Indian business, Québec and India partnerships and development issues related to NGOs and non-profits in India. The global business forum highlighted the Government of Canada's commitment to strengthening Canada-India bilateral relations.

"A global economy and a global education, that's what this conference is all about. The conservative government has put a priority on increasing cultural and trade relations with India; and Canadians agree that this move will benefit our economy and our people," said Senator Seth during her opening speech.

"This conference serves as a valuable platform for prominent academics, business leaders and key stakeholders to engage in discussions to advance the development of this strategic partnership" said The Right Honorable Prime Minister Stephen Harper in a greeting presented by keynote speaker, Senator Asha Seth.

The conference was followed by a round table organized in partnership with HEC Montreal and ICCC on "Unlocking the Potential: Strategies for Developing Canada-India". Dr. Federico Pasin, Secretary General of HEC Montreal, Mr. Obharai Deepak, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Ranbir Singh, President of the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, Dr. Shanthi Johnson, Vice President of the Shastri Institute, and the Deputy High Commissioner, Ms. Narinder Chauhan attended this evening event.

The objective of this roundtable aimed at discussing possible partnership opportunities between Quebec and India in various sectors such as agriculture and food processing, education, energy, science and technology, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) as well as the role of Indo-Canadians in the development of business relationships. A comprehensive report is now available at this link:

http://www.sici.org/images/uploads/applicant_files/2013_SICI-ICCC_Montreal_Round_Table_ReportJune2013FINAL.pdf

Engaging Priorities, Enabling Connections: India, Canada, and the Way Forward



Canadian Studies at Mangalore University got off to a flying start with the National Workshop on Canada and India organised by the Department of English, Mangalore University, on March 1-2, 2013. The Workshop was sponsored by the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute (SICI) with funding from DFAIT. The title of the Workshop reflected its central theme: "Engaging Priorities, Enabling Connections: India, Canada, and the Way Forward."

The primary aim of the Workshop was to create awareness regarding the possibility of Indo-Canadian partnerships among faculty and students in the Mangalore University area, which had absolutely no exposure to Canadian studies in the past.

Towards this goal, the Workshop brought together members of the India Members Council of SICI from south India and experts from Kolkata, New Delhi, Hyderabad, Chennai, Bangalore, Mysore, Kannur, and Trivandrum, apart from Mangalore. A total of 107 delegates participated in the Conference. The Workshop inaugural brought together scholars with experience of international collaborations, including at Shastri Institute. It was inaugurated by Professor V. K. Natraj, formerly Member, Indian Advisory Council, Shastri Institute, and also Director, Madras Institute of Development Studies. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Mangalore University, Dr T. C. Shivashankara Murthy, himself a Canadianist with a doctoral degree from the University of Ottawa, presided over the inaugural function. Dr C. P. Ravichandra, Northrop Frye Fellow and twice Shastri awardee, delivered the valedictory address. Prof. T. Nageswara Rao from English and Foreign Languages University, Hyderabad, and Dr Biju Paul Abraham from Indian Institute of Management, Kolkata and member, Shastri Executive, spoke on the occasion.

The Workshop highlighted the Government of Canada's commitment to strengthening Canada-India bilateral partnerships. It also encouraged the faculty and students to participate in this mission by availing themselves of the opportunities available in the area of India-Canada relationships facilitated by Shastri. The Workshop featured a number of case studies of active collaborations and partnerships between India and Canada. Dr R. Indira, Director, International Relations, University of Mysore, and former Shastri Fellow, presented her experiences with Shastri Projects, titled: "Building Bridges: From Western

Ghats to Hay River.” Dr Prachi Kaul, Programme Officer, Shastri Institute, New Delhi, ably administered a session on Shastri programmes and elaborated upon the benefits of collaborative research.

In his inaugural address, Professor V. K. Natraj exhorted the faculty and students to tap the potential of collaborations between the two countries. He stated, “India and Canada must build upon the strong links that exist between the two countries to strengthen research partnerships in the priority areas.” Dr N. Vinaya Hegde, Chancellor of Nitte University, in his Chief Guest’s address, referred to the collaboration between Canadian and Indian institutions which had brought an international quality to local institutions, and said that such collaborations need to be revived today. He said, “Indian students can turn towards Canada instead of the United States for higher studies and research since Canada provides the best research environment and a lot of similarities exist between Indian and Canadian systems of education.”

Outreach Program

As part of the Outreach Initiative, The Shastri Executive Council in Canada continue to engage Shastri’s partners in bi-lateral discussions.

Dr. Shanthi Jonson, Shastri Vice President, was invited by Senator Asha Seth as a guest speaker to a reception to explore and develop the academic research and exchange opportunities. This event took place on March 26 at the Parliament Hill and was attended by many MPs, Senators, and Ministers as well as organizations such as the local Indo Canada Chamber of Commerce.

During this event, the Shastri Institute was acknowledged at the Senate Chamber as Senator Seth read a statement on the role Shastri has continued to play in promoting education linkages between the two countries.



From left: Senator Asha Seth, Dr. Shanthi Johnson and Senator Elizabeth Marshall

“As I said today in chamber, our government is eager to expand relations with India, both commercially and culturally. Education is a key area where we must focus if this goal is to be achieved, that is why I am proud to be working the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute to promote research, dialogue and exchange between Canada and India,” said Senator Asha Seth. To read the full message, please visit this link: http://www.sici.org/images/uploads/applicant_files/0326Shastri.doc_.pdf

The Institute also participated in ‘Joint Working Group’ Meeting on April 4, 2013. The meeting was conducted by Department of Higher Education, Ministry of HRD, GoI at Hotel Ashoka. Dr. Biju Abraham, Shastri Executive Council member attended the Joint Working Group between the two governments. The meeting primarily discussed the MoU between India and Canada on cooperation in higher education and progress made in this direction. Dr. Ved Prakash, Chairman, University Grants Commission, India and Mr. Grant Manuge, Associate Assistant Deputy Minister, International Business Development, DFAIT, Canada co- Chaired the meeting.

In May, Dr. Shanthi Johnson and Dr. Ranbir Singh met with Hon. Mr. Shashi Tharoor, Minister of State, Ministry of Human Resource Development. Dr. Johnson also met with Mr. Jim Nickel, Dy. High Commissioner as well as Simon Cridland, Ivy Lerner Frank, from the Canadian High Commission in New Delhi, Ms. Shobha Ghosh and Dr. Arbind Prasad at FICCI, Mr. Amit Khare, Joint Secretary, MHRD, Ms. Anita Nayar, Deputy Director General at the ICCR, as well as Ms. K. Nandini Singla and Mr. Vikram Doraiswami at Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India.

Renewal of the Agreement between the Shastri Institute and the Government of Quebec

The Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute renewed its **agreement with the Government of Quebec on “Tuition Fee Exemption Programme for Indian Students”** on Feb. 1, 2013. The Director-Consul, Quebec Office in Mumbai, **Mr. Benoit-Jean Bernard**, for and on behalf of the Government of Quebec, and the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, represented by **Prof. Ranbir Singh**, President of the Shastri Institute, signed this agreement at the Taj Palace Hotel, New Delhi in the presence of Minister of International Relations, Francophonie and External Trade of Quebec, **Mr. Jean Francois Lisee**; Chairperson, University Grants Commission, **Prof. Ved Prakash** and Joint Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Government of India, **Ms. Veena Ish** to carry out the management of Quebec supplemental tuition fee exemptions for Indian Students.



Signing of the MoU by Dr. Ranbir Singh, Shastri President and Mr. Benoit-Jean Bernard, The Director-Consul, Quebec

The programme enables Indian students to study in Quebec universities on Quebec domestic fees. In order to avail this tuition fee exemption, an Indian student must pursue full time study at Master’s or Doctoral level in a Quebec university.

The number of students who can avail supplemental tuition fee exemptions is fifteen (15) at the Master’s level and fourteen (14) at the Doctoral level in the period of the MoU.

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding, the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute is responsible for administering the programme and selecting the candidates from India.

Shastri Youth Internship Program – Bringing Youth Into Development (BYID)

The Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute is very pleased to launch its youth internship program titled: **BRINGING YOUTH INTO DEVELOPMENT (BYID)**. This program is funded by the Government of Canada through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for 2013-2014.

Under the BYID program, 20 Canadian post-secondary graduates, undergraduates and graduates will have an opportunity to gain professional experience on international development by working abroad with one of the following four reputable Indian development organizations for a 6-month internship. The host Indian organizations are:

- Centre for Research in Rural and Industrial Development (CRRID), Chandigarh - <http://www.crrid.res.in/>
- Institute of Social and Economic Change (ISEC), Bangalore - <http://www.isec.ac.in/>
- M.S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF), Chennai - <http://www.mssrf.org/>
- Udayan Care, New Delhi - <http://www.udayancare.org/>

The BYID program aims at:

- Developing the professional and humanistic capacities of young Canadian men and women to increase their participation in the Canadian and international labour market;
- Engaging Canadian youth in the international development field by developing their professional and leadership qualities, cross cultural understanding and adaptability;
- Contributing to the national development of India by employing the knowledge and skills of Canadian youth in capacity building of the partner organizations in India; and
- Promoting a better understanding of International development issues among the youth and the Canadian public at large.

“Bringing Youth into Development” will focus on CIDA’s three thematic priorities, covering several Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of the United Nations. The priority areas for 2013-14 internships are: (1) Increasing food security; (2) Stimulating sustainable economic growth; and (3) Securing the future of children and youth.

Throughout the project, the interns will have comprehensive opportunities to develop their skills, knowledge, confidence and adaptability, which will help them make more informed and expansive career choices.

Please visit our website: <http://www.sici.org/home/> for more information about the BYID program.

Shastri Grant Recipients

The Shastri Institute would like to thank all applicants to our grant programs and we would like to congratulate all the successful recipients. Shastri Institute is proud to have awarded the following grants:

Lal Bahadur Shastri Student Prize (LBS)

Name	University	Title of Essay
Amar Nijhawan	McGill University	Namaste Canada: The Impact of Cultural Nationalism on Indian Women in the Diaspora
Cora Ballou	Concordia University	Dying Wisely: Sallekhana in Ancient and Modern Jain Practice
Rishma Johal	Simon Fraser University	Moving Beyond the Citizen's Shadow: South Asian Canadian Women's Agency
Harshada Suhas Deshpande	University of British Columbia	“Dard ka rishta” – Child marriage in India
Isabelle Bourgeois	University of Montreal	La femme musulmane en Inde: à l'intersection des nationalismes
Louis-Philippe Morneau	University of Montreal	Fragment de nation : Le nationalisme hindou, érosion de l'Inde ou affirmation majoritaire?

Quebec Tuition Fee Exemption for Indian Students

Name	Affiliation in Canada	Program
Abishek Narayan Keerthi	HEC Montreal	Master's of Business Administration (MBA)
Abhishek Gupta	HEC Montreal	Master's of Business Administration (MBA)
Rohit Krishna	Graduate School of Business Montreal	Master's of Business Administration (MBA)
Manit Shah	Graduate School of Business Montreal	M.Sc. in Global Supply Chain Management (Thesis)
Durga Prasad Atmuri Nagaventaka	University of Montreal	M.Sc. in Chemistry
Kiran Shinde N.	Laval University	Ph. D in Chemical Engineering
Mr. Wazir Harvinder	HEC Montreal	Master's of Business Administration (MBA)
Abishek Narayan Keerthi	HEC Montreal	Master's of Business Administration (MBA)
Abhishek Gupta	HEC Montreal	Master's of Business Administration (MBA)
Rohit Krishna	Graduate School of Business Montreal	Master's of Business Administration (MBA)
Manit Shah	Graduate School of Business Montreal	M.Sc. in Global Supply Chain Management (Thesis)

Laval University

Laval University recently received a half-million dollars from General Motors of Canada (GM) and the Council of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) for the development of robotic intelligence. Over the next three years, Professor Clement Gosselin, who holds the Canada Research Chair in Robotics and Mechatronics at the University Laval, will develop robots capable of assisting in an intuitive and secure manner the assembly line workers.

"The use of robotic assistants has so far been limited to relatively simple and repetitive tasks in which there was little interaction with humans," says Professor Gosselin. "The technological advances made in our laboratory in recent years now allow us to consider the creation of robots that interact with humans to assist in difficult tasks requiring both strength and agility, which often lead to ergonomic stress among workers," says the researcher at the Faculty of Science and Engineering.

Technologies resulting from this collaboration will have many practical applications, including assembly lines and automotive plants in the biomedical industry. This research will also benefit many students. Three PhD students and three undergraduates working in the team of Professor Gosselin will have the opportunity to compare the theoretical concepts learned in class to practical problems in a real work environment, and benefit from professional contacts and exchanges with researchers from the company GM Canada.

Jawaharlal Nehru University



Jawaharlal Nehru University organized its first **G. Parthasarathi Memorial Lecture** titled 'Prudence and the Moral Imperative' on March 25th at Convention Centre of the University.

This lecture, held in memory of Dr. Gopaldaswami Parthasarathi, the first Vice Chancellor of this Institution was presented by Shri M. Hamid Ansari, Hon'ble Vice President of India.

The lecture is considered a tribute to the multi-faceted personality and diverse pursuits of G. Parthasarathy.

Highlighting Parthasarathi's contribution as a diplomat internationally, Hon. Ansari emphasised the need of 'negotiations' to deal with external aggression and internal threats. He said negotiations are cheaper than armed conflicts. "Much has changed since his time but State actors continue to be on the global scene with age old dilemmas. The value of a diplomat lies in his ability to communicate, negotiate and persuade. It requires patience and an ability to penetrate the thought process of the interlocutor. Negotiations must be conducted without illusions," said the Vice-President. Hon. Ansari covered a wide range of subjects related to Indian diplomacy, geo-politics, morality and the emerging threats to the country while delivering a lecture at the Jawaharlal Nehru University on Monday.

The Vice-Chancellor of the JNU, SK Sopory expressed his deep gratitude to have the Vice-President present at the JNU. "He is not just a wonderful politician but has been associated with the country's prestigious institutions like the Aligarh Muslim University and the Punjab University," Sopory added.

To read the detailed lecture, please visit this link: <http://www.jnu.ac.in/Events/VicePresidentLecture.pdf>

Himachal Pradesh University



Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla organized a National Seminar on "Hydro-Power Development in Relation to the Overall Development of Mountain Regions" on 26 March 2013.

The National Seminar brought together the stakeholders to engage in an informed debate about the pros and cons of hydro-electric power projects in mountain regions, particularly Himachal Pradesh. The focus of the Seminar was on economic development brought about by the harnessing of hydro-power in the state and assessing at the same time its impact on ecology and the socio-cultural life of the inhabitants.

Canada being a leading country in the world in the area of hydro-power technology was a reference point for the discussions and for possible partnerships and policy recommendations and exchange of institutional cooperation to build and renew the thinking process in hydropower development in the times to come.

Themes covered during the Seminar were: Economic development of the mountain regions, Employment opportunities and livelihood viability, Environment and ecological issues, Improving the health and life of rivers after exploitation of the rivers' potential, Development sustainability, Relief and rehabilitation concerns, Disaster management implications, Evaluation mechanisms of the project affected area/zone after the commissioning of projects, Research analysis and application thereof in the evolving planning and development process, and Socio-cultural impacts and responses.

University of British Columbia



Funded by the Shastri Scholar Travel Subsidy Grant, Dr. Julie Cruikshank was one of 3 Canadians invited to the conference "De-Territorialising Diversities: cultures, literatures and languages of the Indigenous" held on at Maharaja Agrasen College, University of Delhi on Feb. 6 and 7. Dr. Cruikshank met with many students and faculty members, mostly from universities across India, but also from Taiwan, Nigeria and the United States. All were interested in comparing their own work in indigenous literatures with research on oral tradition and oral history being carried out in Canada.

Many participants expressed their surprise and interest in the amount of work being carried out in Canada on this topic and were eager to exchange papers. Dr. Cruikshank reported learning a lot about the concept of 'indigenous' used and discussed in scholarly work in India. Most participants were students of literature and anthropology. There were very productive discussions about how these two disciplines each contribute to the study of such literatures and languages. Dr. Cruikshank is a professor emeritus but remains with UBC students working on the subject of life histories in both India and Canada, so these discussions contributed to more understanding of work being done in India.

Ontario College of Art and Design University

Dr. Meera Margaret Singh faculty member in the Photography Program of the Faculty of Art at OCAD University had the privilege of facilitating a workshop for the National Institute of Design's International Open Electives in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, India from January 21-February 1st. The theme of the Electives this year was 'Active Ageing: Bachpan After Pachpan (Thrive After Fifty-Five)'.

The objective of the workshop was to use the camera as a tool for social engagement, centering on photographic projects with seniors in the local community. Focusing mainly on portraiture, the students used their cameras to create narratives about seniors who defy socially contrived limitations of age. The workshop revolved around discussions about portraiture, ageing, photographic representation, identity and how photography can be a social tool as well as an aesthetic one.



This workshop allowed Dr. Singh to share her wealth of experience with students at NID. This is the second year that OCAD University has sent faculty to participate in NID's Open Elective and the fourth opportunity for collaboration between the two Photography programs

Upcoming Events

Ninth Annual International Conference of Academy of Psychologists INCAOP: June 29-30, 2013

The conference scheduled on 29-30 June at Sri Venkateswara University and will cover a wide range of issues related to mental health. It involves teachers, scholars, students and practitioners of psychology and other related health and mental health professionals.

Sub themes include the socio-cultural, biological, genetic, health and medical perspectives, and recent advances in mental health. In addition to the invited talks, there will be oral presentations, interactive poster sessions and symposia.

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Ghadar Centennial Conference 1913

The Center for Indo-Canadian Studies, University of Fraser Valley, is organizing "Ghadar Centennial Conference 1913 - Interpreting Ghadar: Echoes of Voices Past" on October 17, 2013.

Papers are invited from University faculty, post-doctoral researchers, doctoral students and community researchers. Papers must be original works that have not been published elsewhere and papers will be published in a Special Topics Journal of the UFV Research Review. Please send your proposals to Prof. Bains at satwinder.bains@ufv.ca or for more information call 604-854-4547. For more details, please visit this link: <http://www.ufv.ca/cics/ghadar/>

BMM Indo-US Educators Summit 2013

BMM Indo-US Educators Summit will be held from 5-9 July, 2013 at Rhode Island Convention Centre, Providence-RI and Northeastern University, Boston-MA. World renowned speakers and distinguished educators from the US and India will participate in this very important summit of the year.

To learn more, please visit the following links:

<http://bmm2013.org/conventionactivities/educators.html>

http://www.sici.org/images/uploads/applicant_files/Edu_Expo_Flyer.pdf

http://www.sici.org/images/uploads/applicant_files/Edu_Summit_Sponsorship_Options.pdf

The Shastri Institute would like to thank all its members for the support and collaboration with both offices in the adjudications and affiliations of scholarly exchanges between Canada and India. The Institute is grateful to the members for their commitment and contribution.

SICI NEWS

A Newsletter from the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute.

For Enquiries, Comments / Suggestions please contact:

Sarah Sidane

Program and Communications Officer

Tel: 403 220 5553 | Fax: 403 289 0100

sicicoms@ucalgary.ca | www.sici.org | www.sici.org.in