



Amici News

February 1st 2014

2014! Looking Back, Looking forward

2013 was an eventful year at AIFO, India. By almost any measure, the status of leprosy is significantly better in India. While, numbers tell us a positive story the ground realities remind us of how much there remains to be done. In 2013 we were able to consolidate our programs and serve our partners more effectively. We were able to focus on regions where the need is critical and in 2014 we are looking to deepen our relationship with partners in North East India.

Among our organization highlights was the Biennial meeting which was attended by Ms Franchesca Orthali along with Dr. Renato from Liberia to carry out workshops to improve and understand the future operations of AIFO, India's partners. Mr. David Murray participated as an expert highlighting the role of individual social responsibility and initiation of local resources to support the programmes.



Bangalore Marathon

AIFO, India participated at the "Majja Ran", at the Bangalore Marathon. It was an opportunity to celebrate our work and achievements with some of our partners and well-wishers.

AIFO, India is a professional non-profit health and development organization that enables opportunities for persons affected by leprosy, persons with disability, women, children and members of poor and vulnerable backgrounds, through focused healthcare, education and economic empowerment initiatives across India with the aim of providing an enriched quality of life and creating large scale positive change.

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Raoul Follereau Award 2013

The Raoul Follereau award was instituted by AIFO to keep alive the memory of Raoul Follereau. The award is given periodically to persons or organizations that have done commendable work for the uplifting of poorest and most marginalized persons and for safe-guarding their human rights.

We are glad to announce that AIFO, India's Dr. N.Manimozhi was awarded the prestigious Raoul Follereau award for the year 2013 at Rome during the AIFO General Assembly on 16th October, for his services to persons affected by leprosy since the year 1983 till date, following the examples of Fr.Damien and Raoul Follereau.



Dr. Manimozhi has trained thousands of healthcare workers across a range of stakeholders on issues pertaining to leprosy diagnosis, treatment and community development.

18TH INTERNATIONAL LEPROSY CONGRESS SEPTEMBER 2013

The 18th International Leprosy Congress held in September 2013, Brussels follows on from a long tradition of international leprosy conferences stretching back to Berlin in 1897. This unique event is convened every 5 years and is the largest gathering in the world of people interested in leprosy. The event is also a platform for presenting papers on the subject of leprosy and participation is open to all.

the Damien Foundation who is at the forefront of the fight for leprosy eradication. The Leprosy Congress also featured a film on the life and work of Father Damien titled "Molokai", which was an inspiration to all.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<http://www.ilc2013brussels.org/>



The location of Brussels, Belgium for this 18th International Congress is of special significance as it is native country of Father Damien, founder of

Leadership Training and Knowledge Sharing Meeting of DPO's

AIFO and ORBIT jointly facilitated five taluk level ¹DPO's and one district level DPO networking meeting from September 13th to 21st 2013 at Bidar town.

The meeting saw the participation of 25 DPO members in the sessions who shared their views on local leadership capabilities, knowledge



sharing and collaboration. Due to unavailability of representatives from the Basavakalyan Taluk, DPO's unit did not participate in these meetings. The planning and organizing of all the meeting was overseen by Mr. Suresh and the CBR Staff while Dr.Jayanth and Fr.Bapu participated as observers and facilitated the meeting proceedings.

The meetings identified several issues , chief among them were issues related to legal identity, financial status, executive body function, member benefits , their achievements and challenges, collaboration with SHG's and other DPO's as well as gender equality.

In order to identify strategies to address these issues, a two day workshop on 20th and 21st September 2013 was facilitated by AIFO and ORBIT at ORBIT Humnabad Center. Sessions relating to each of the challenges mentioned above were facilitated by Dr.Jayanath, Fr.Bapu, Mr.Suresh, Mr.Tuka Reddy , Mr.Nownath as well as women workers from the CBR projects who were also involved in organizing and facilitating the sessions. This workshop saw the participation of 30 representatives from different DPO's working at different levels.

Fr. Bapu facilitated a session on leadership skills using a film on disabled rights and the importance of DPO's with a song on leadership. Dr. Jayanath highlighted ways and means of improving collaboration systems and knowledge sharing between SHG's and DPO's at the Taluk and district level and state level. Mr. Suresh also coordinated the planning exercise and how to improve the activities of the DPO's. Further, Mr. Cheluvvaraju president Karnatak State DPO conveyed his message via conference call requesting the support and collaboration of all DPO units at the state level and extended support to the Bidar district. In addition, Mr. Pravin president Bidar Taluk DPO and Mrs. Gowamma executive member Bidar district level DPO also shared her message to all via conference call.

The Outcomes of the workshop included:

- ✓ DPO's will make provisions for leprosy related activities.
- ✓ State level representative will share regular updates with all DPO'S.

- ✓ Taluk level representatives will participate in district level DPO activities.
- ✓ District level representatives will participate in state level meetings.
- ✓ Proper Management of DPO records.
- ✓ Effective implementation of article 371 of the constitution amendment for the Hyderabad and Karnataka regions.



- ✓ Structured planning of activities by each DPO.
- ✓ DPO's will renew their legal status.
- ✓ Restructuring of their executive bodies.
- ✓ Implementation of PWD's act in villages.
- ✓ Marriage support activities for DPO's.
- ✓ Organize protests on implementation of schemes and programmes.
- ✓ Collate basic issues from SHG's.
- ✓ Effective use of Technology, specifically e-mail and Skype.

Life story



This is an inspiring story about Priya Naidu (name changed) a 24 year old woman hailing from Kollapur, Andhra Pradesh.

AIFO, India has been actively supporting Priya and her family from the time she was an infant and we are proud that today she has challenged her personal perceptions as well as those of her community about disability.

Priya comes from a very challenging background characterized by severe poverty and discrimination. She is the oldest of three children, and lost her father when she was just a toddler. Her mother supported the family by working as a construction laborer earning a meagre income.

Unfortunately, calamity struck the family when Priya contracted a severe viral fever at the tender age of two . Owing to financial constraints and issues of access,

her family was only able to provide her basic medical treatment. Unfortunately, the mobility of her legs was permanently compromised and she could no longer walk steadily. Despite being confronted with disability, her family sent her to school and tried their best to offer her a normal life.

When she was in grade three, AIFO, India intervened and helped get her access to the necessary reconstructive surgery required to help her regain mobility. This was followed with months of physiotherapy and support treatment. On the advice of her doctor she began using a caliper. This helped her regain some of her mobility and slowly begin living a normal life.

With a lot of determination she was able to pass her board examinations and went on to pursue college. Inspired by her peer she decided to study nursing. Today Priya is enrolled in the General Nursing programme at St. Theresa's hospital , Hyderabad. She is economically independent and is able to support her family. She is a shining example of what is possible with a little support and determination.

“The biggest disease today is not leprosy, but rather the feeling of being unwanted”
- *Mother Theresa.*

SLO National Conference Bangalore 2014

This meeting is of special significance because it is the first meeting of all State Leprosy Officers (SLO's), DGHS, Health Secretary GOI and Joint Secretary sharing one forum. AIFO, India's Dr. Manimozhi was the operational protocol officer nominated by the DDG, Health, and Government of India. He was instrumental in conducting the program and helping this platform.

SLO's from Goa, Jabalpur, Chandigarh, Shillong shared information on their progress, concerns and experiences etc. Additionally, technical and financial issues pertaining to leprosy based on the 12th five year plan were discussed. A primary health care center in Doddabalapur, Rajanakute was the venue for a learning and information exchange session between SLO's.



IEC Guidelines developed by AIFO India's Dr. Manimozhi

Dr. Manimozhi who was handed the responsibility of developing the IEC (Information, Education and Communication) guidelines by the Central Leprosy Division in August has successfully completed the project.

Deshpande Foundation's Development Dialogue 2014, Hubli

AIFO, India also participated at Development Dialogue hosted by the Deshpande Foundation in Hubli. Representing AIFO was Head Programs Dr. Jayanth and Head Fundraising and Communications Sanjana Govindan Jayadev.

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