

Amici News

March 2011



AIFO Celebrating Golden Jubilee



The Year 2011 started off well, International Day of Persons with disabilities, Anti-Leprosy Day programmes, and visit to projects by our senior colleagues from our head quarters especially to the North Eastern states by Dr. Sunil Deepak had given a special boost to our activities. While the most important matter to recognize and celebrate would be “The Golden Jubilee” of AIFO – 50 years of service since 1961 with inspiration from
Raoul Follereau

The next following months will be along with routine activities – preparations for the Golden Jubilee celebrations and the Biennial meeting, hopefully to come out with plans to better our activities for providing opportunities to people affected by all leprosies

We are glad to inform that our Assam NLEP activities are improving steadily; Mr. Biswanath Mahato had joined the team as Physiotherapist to work along with Dr. Dhiren Das our Assam ILEP Coordinator.

From our partners we welcome articles that could be true-life stories; experiences, awards/rewards, successes and failures in your programmes, which you think, will be worthwhile to share with others. Marching ahead to visualize AIFO’s mission and vision

Editorial Team

International Day of Persons with Disabilities



International Day of Persons with Disabilities

The annual observance of the **International Day of Persons with Disabilities** on 3 December was established by the International Year for Disabled Persons (1981) celebrated in Brussels. It aims to promote a better understanding of disability issues with a focus on the rights of persons with disabilities and gains to be derived from the integration of persons with disabilities in every aspect of the political, social, economic and cultural life of their communities.

For AIFO, Dr. Enrico Pupulin (Board member Aifo Italy) & Dr. Jayanth Kumar (Aifo India) participated in this conference. Both of them were also part of the various meetings with the Govt. Of Belgium, a debate on issues related to MDG and Keeping the promises of mainstreaming.

Makara Sankranti Celebrations

The Departments of Prisons, Police, Mr. Raju from Y's Men club and AIFO, with coordinating efforts by Dr. Nagendra Prasad, this programme could be successfully organized.

It was an unforgettable experience which encouraged an opportunity to share the sorrow and happiness of the 160 inmates, which was made possible by a group of 30 members belonging to Y's men Club, AIFO-staffs, Prison Guards and friends of Dr. Prasad.

Students from various colleges were gathered by Dr. Prasad to conduct a cultural programme for the inmates with songs/dances and special Makara Sankranti messages.



The performance by folk artists Mr. Shashidhar Kote & Yashvanth Hallibande entertained the gathering with their familiar folklore songs, which was the highlight of the cultural programme. The celebration ended with

Scientific Paper Presentation

The Sri Venkateswara University - Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh organized a National Seminar on INEQUALITIES AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT RETROSPECT AND PROSPECT, 24th and 25th January 2011. Dr. Parthipan, Dr. Jayanth and Mr. M.V. Jose from AIFO participated in a National Seminar.

Papers presented:

- Disability and Law: Dr. R. Parthipan
- Inclusion of Persons with Disability: Dr. Y.B. Jayanth Kumar
- Inclusion of Persons with Disability due to leprosy: Mr. M.V. Jose



ANTI-LEPROSY DAY ACTIVITIES

Workshop on Psycho-social problems



A workshop on Psycho Social aspects of leprosy was organized on 21st January 2011 as a part of anti leprosy day activities, which are planned through out the month by Sumanahalli Society. The programme was inaugurated by

Mr. M.V.Jose who chaired the session and made a theme presentation to about 250 post graduate students of Medical Social Work (MSW), attending the workshop from various collages in Bangalore. This programme was planned and organized by Fr.George Kannanthanam Director of Sumanahalli and his staff at SJT School Frazer Town, Bangalore.

Observing Anti-Leprosy Day- A reunion

AIFO – India along with Sumanahalli and the Persons affected by leprosy joined together on the 28th January 2011 to observe Anti- Leprosy day with some difference and was a wonderful experience indeed

An invitation was given to all those who had been under care at Sumanahalli. Nearly about 70 People participated in the programme, out of which there where 10 school going children, 10 teenagers, 10 youths, 20 employees (Government and Non-government) people, 10 each from elderly men and women.

The main idea behind the programme was to have a happy reunion of all partners sharing experience (some negative experience earlier in life were seen in the background of their achievements, later which definitely outweighed their sad past).



Cultural programme was organized by Students from various Nursing colleges in Bangalore along with other participants followed by lunch and dispersed with memories to remain.

Visits and Visitors.

During this 1st quarter of 2011 project visits to Gudivada, Cochin, Raichur and Bidar to monitor and supervise was carried out by Mr. M.V. Jose AIFO Representative

In the month of February 2011 Mr. Jose and Dr. Jayanth visited Assam CBR project for an Internal Review. During which Community visits, meeting with the staff, discussions with the project manager, desk review and convention of the SHG leaders are some of the major activities carried out during the weeklong review programme.

Thank You Dr. Mrs. Galya, CBR Coordinator AIFO Magnolia for visiting us (AIFO India Office on 4th March 2011)



The State Leprosy Officer could organize the first ever District Leprosy Officer's review meeting with AIFO Initiatives. The Meeting took place on 29th November 2010 at the Health Complex-conference hall. Dr. Sunil attended the meeting along with AIFO Medical Coordinator



First DLO's Review meeting – Meghalaya: 29 November 2010



*Boku – Assam Rehabilitation centre:
Dr. Sunil with Dr. Taid, Surveillance
Medical Officer, Dr. Dass, Assam ILEP
Coordinator with staff of the Centre.*

Rajaji Nagar ESI Multi Specialty Hospital and Postgraduate Research Centre – Sumanahalli joint venture.

As a part of Anti Leprosy Day activities – Leprosy Orientation Programme for the ESI – Bangalore doctors was engaged which evoked good response and paved way for further participation of the organization in National Leprosy Eradication activities.

Dr. Keerthi Mannan Dermatologist-ESI Hospital, Dr. Girish, Mr. Athiseyanathan /Sumanahalli Staff, Dr. Parimala Dy Director – Leprosy Karnataka State, played key role in arranging this event.



The programme was organized on 31-01-2011, and about 52 doctors participated. Dr. Parimala, Dy Director (Leprosy) Government of Karnataka was the chief guest; Dr. Karur Medical Superintendent ESI Hospital presided over the function and Fr. George Director Sumanahalli introduced & inaugurated the programme.

Dr. Keerthi Mannan, made a presentation giving a glimpse of historical aspects of leprosy, Dr. Hansen and about National Leprosy Eradication Programme including the involvement of ESI hospital along with the partnership of Sumanahalli.



Dr. N. Manimozhi, Medical Co-ordinator AIFO India was the Speaker /resource person focusing his presentation on diagnosis and identification of Nerve Function Impairments at the earliest.

Hansen awards for the year 2010

Sumanahalli honors Sr.Leela (MoB- Project Mandya) and Dr.V.K.Pannikar WHO – Team Leader, Global Leprosy Programme (Retired) for their exemplary continued efforts for the cause of leprosy. The function took place in Bangalore – Kannada Bhavan.



State Leprosy Officers Annual Review Meeting – Bhubaneswar, Odissa



Dr. C.M. Agrawal the new DDG(L) conducting the meeting after taking over charge from Dr. GPS Dhillon.



Dr. M.A. Arif NLR Representative- India, took over charges as ILEP Coordinator for India (NLR Country Coordinators) during the SLO meeting at Bhubaneswar

Main issues and challenges highlighted and discussed during the meeting:

1. Assessment of Training load – National level
2. Reaction cases Management
3. Self care Kits for ulcer care
4. IEC – focused approaches
5. Creation of Functional District Nucleus
6. Referral System developments
7. DPMR activities

The Central Leprosy Division had identified 228 priority districts with endemic blocks. And the following activities were recommended to be undertaken

- Carry out house to house survey's – in identified areas
- Implement IEC to spread awareness
- Preparation of Grade 2 disability cases list
- Modify and adopt strategies State specific.

Swami Japananda – Karnataka ILEP Coordinator, Dr.N.Manimozhi AIFO Medical participated in the meeting

AIFO Medical Coordinator highlighted the importance of Non-School going Children and opportunities for them under NLEP during the meeting

Medical College – Kurnool: Leprosy Orientation training programme



As a part of AIFO operations in the district of Kurnool – NLEP, and following a request from Community Medicine department – Training programme focusing mainly on skills was organized. The AIFO-Medical Coordinator, was the chief facilitator for the programme along with Dr. G.Ramachandra Rao , Prof Dr. Mrs, Sridevi – faculty, about 25 Internees underwent training programme (20-25th January 2011).

ILEP meeting at New Delhi

The first ILEP meeting after NLR take over as ILEP Coordination in India, Mr. Daan Ponsteen – NLR Amsterdam, Mr. Doug Soutar – General Secretary ILEP, London and all concerned ILEP Representatives (India) participated. It was a two day meeting during which issues related to ILEP operations were discussed.



A person affected by Leprosy and efforts in providing opportunity:

Sri Nishi Roy, male aged 45 years, Jhalupara, Shillong, EK Hills- Meghalaya (Information as given by District Nucleus Medical Officer)

Following discussions about AIFO's interest on welfare of Persons affected by leprosy – the most needy by providing appropriate opportunity, the SLO had discussions with DLO's and to start with identified Mr.Nishi Roy aged about 45 years, married with 4 children (3 girls and one boy), two of his elder daughters got married and two are dependents. He had been detected having leprosy in Patna/Bihar and for reasons not explained – he had to migrate to Meghalaya to start his treatment 21 July 2004, and was Released From Treatment on 23 March 2005.



Dr.Lanong – SLO, Dr.Kynjing DHS with Mr. Nishi Roy with MC Sisters

He was investigated with skin smear on 5 April 2006, and surprisingly details show that it was positive at the ulcer site. It was not clear why skin smear was been carried out at ulcer site and was restarted with MB-MDT on 26, April 2006 and RFT on 2 May 2007. And later in the month of June 2010 he had developed ulcer right great toe for which he had to undergo skin smear at the ulcer site – following that he was considered for treatment at Neighrim Hospital as out door patient.

Mr.Nishi Roy had been maintaining his family through earning from tailoring. And after he developed the disease trouble started which worsened after he developed ulcers on his foot –with no appropriate treatment facilities. With the intervention of Dr.Lanong, a detailed conversation was carried out to find out his felt/real needs. It came out as a result that if he were provided a sewing machine motorized – he would get back to his profession and stabilize himself in his life



Remembering Gandhiji on Anti Leprosy Day

Looking forward for your kind feedback, and also for your kind contributions in making our newsletter interesting by sharing experiences.

We expect all staff of our partners to have access to our newsletter.

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