

## National Conference on Supply Chain Model for 'NO CHILD LABOUR' in Home based craft sector in India



Fair Trade Forum-India, in association with Traidcraft Exchange and Centre for education and Communication organised a **National Conference on Supply Chain Model for 'NO CHILD LABOUR' in Home Based Craft Sector** on 8<sup>th</sup> Dec 2014 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi to disseminate the project outcomes and best practices and a cultural event on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec 2014 at Gandhi Smriti, Rajghat, New Delhi.

The Conference was an overwhelming success, attracting 130 delegates and speakers from all over India including Government, EU Delegation in India, Corporates, Fair Trade organisations, Educational institutions and NGOs, and provided great intellectual and social interaction for the participants.



The five vital components of the project model were taken up in the sessions- *Wages & Social Security; Public Provisioning; Supply Chain Management; Awareness & Participation; Education and Schooling*. Each session had a presenter on which experts gave their views, suggestions and ideas on each of the project model components. The discussions focussed on the importance of bridge schools, supply chain, social security, wages and need for separate laws to tackle child labour in home based craft sector.

On this occasion **Sh Navraj Goyal, Additional Development Commissioner (Handicrafts), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India**, offered his full support to this initiative and felt that this sort of initiatives are required to address child labour issue in the craft sector across the country.

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The cultural program-'Aao Manaye Bachpan' on 9<sup>th</sup> Dec 2014 was a fun-filled event for the children of the learning Centres under the fight against child labour project. Ms. Manimala, Director, Gandhi Smriti Darshan Samiti inaugurated the event by lighting of lamp along with President Iytha Mallikarjuna and Mr. J. John from CEC.



There were various performances put up by the children like dance, group songs and skit. An NGO called Apni Koshish also performed a street play for the children. 'Shiddat'a music band also performed for the children. It was an enthralling evening for everyone. People also became nostalgic and shared about their own childhood and youth days. A short documentary was also shown on the plight of families and children who are involved in home based craft work and how the project has made an intervention to provide them sustainable livelihoods and education to the children.



## News from MESH, New Delhi



MESH made their long term strategy plan with the help of volunteers- Mr. Colin and Margaret Warren.



Three women from PAGIR, Leh (People's Action Group for Inclusion and Rights) underwent a training program taken by the women of Well Paper, Auroville, Tamil Nadu (Women's Empowerment through Local Livelihood), organised by MESH Design Studio with financial support from SMC/Sida and IM Soir. Both have a passion for recycling and both want to earn a living from recycling.

## News from Federation of Tibetan Cooperatives, New Delhi

Lugsam Cooperative Society and TDL Cooperative Society participated in the 61st All India Cooperative Week organized by Department of Cooperation, Government of Karnataka at Raitha Bhavan in Kushalnagar.

Shri HS Mahdeva Prasad, Cooperation Minister, Government of Karnataka graced the function as a Chief Guest. Also present at the function were Shri K J George, District Incharge Minister, Shri V Srinivas Prasad, Excise Minister; Shri Appchu Ranjan, MLA & MP, Shri KG Bopaiah, MLA and Shri Venkatesh, MLA.

GT Deve Gowda, President of Federation of Cooperatives in Karnataka and Registrar of Cooperative Societies also attended the function. Both the society displayed Tibetan carpets, incense, gift items and wall hanging at the venue along with other local Indian cooperative societies.

FTCI also launched a weekend Entrepreneurship training to support and facilitate Tibetan entrepreneurs on 31st Dec 2014. There will be a weekend entrepreneurship training course every month on the topic such as accounting and budgeting, making a business plan and sourcing funding, registration of firm and tax account, management and communication skill development, marketing and tally. Experts will give training and Tibetan translation will be provided.





## Exhibitions, Festivals & Fairs

### Indian Heritage Fair Trade Haat, 25th-28th Dec 2014



Fair Trade Forum – India in Partnership with Dharohar-Art & Craft Heritage of India organised "INDIAN HERITAGE FAIR TRADE HAAT" from 25th to 28th December 2014 at Ved Trans Cube Plaza, Central Bus terminus, Vadodra, Gujarat. The fair provided a platform to nationwide artist for presenting and enhancing their talent. The event was a combination handicrafts exhibition, live shows, music and band performances, cultural dances and songs etc. There was also a drawing competition organised for the children.

Thirteen FTF-I members participated in this event and supported in the various activities and events of this program. Apart from Fair Trade organisations, a lot of rural NGOs and self help groups participated in the event and showcased their products and artisans.

The objective of the program was to take the message of Fair Trade to the people of Baroda, Gandhinagar and Ahmedabad in Gujarat. There was a total footfall of around 50,000 people for this four day event. Dr. K. Panchaksharam, Founder-President of Fair Trade Forum-India inaugurated the event on behalf of FTF-I and share about Fair Trade to the gathering. The event also received a lot of local media attention, and a special press conference was also organized for this. Overall it was a successful event, where FTF-I could reach the masses and promote Fair Trade in Gujarat.



**Sadhana:** Sadhana participated in **Shilpkala Ustav** held at Agha Khan Hall New Delhi from 26-28 November 14. The esteemed guest included Bollywood actress Ms. Jaya Bacchan and eminent personalities from various industries.

**Kadam Haat:** The 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Handmade Collective Exhibition was held on December 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> 2014 at St. Andrew's Church, Cubbon Road, Bangalore - 560001 with Poetry as the theme. KADAM HAAT had chosen Marigold as its theme, handicraft products were specially designed to portray the mesmerizing bright and joyful colors of Marigold flower. As a part of their Golden Jubilee Celebration, **Crafts Bazaar 2014** was held at the Valluvar Kottam Hall, from 5<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> December 2014 showcasing the finest of crafts from across India. KADAM HAAT had participated. Kadam also participated in **Going Natural @Solace** was organized by Solace to celebrate Natural products on the 20<sup>th</sup> of December 2014.



## Nagalakshmi from Blue Mango Trust Shares her Story



Nagalakshmi is a bead worker in Blue Mango Trust, Tamil Nadu, MESH's best supplier. Just opposite the entrance road to Blue Mango is a residential center for people with disabilities called RUADT, where Nagalakshmi lives.

Nagalakshmi shares a little about her life:

"I had polio as a baby and if I walk for more than 10 minutes my back hurts me so much that I have to stop. I studied until 9th grade and I dropped out after failing my math examinations. I stayed with my parents for a while and became very depressed. I couldn't leave the house without help so I just sat there and didn't do anything. For a change, I moved into my brother's house to take care of his new baby. Living there was unpleasant because my brother and his wife fought all the time. I finally decided that I needed to live in RUADT and find some work. I came to Blue Mango in 2005.

I don't have any dreams for the future. Whenever I go home I bring my parents some money to support them. I have earned enough money to buy myself some gold jewelry. It's the first jewelry I have ever owned and I'm proud of having earned it myself. The women here are helpful. It's a good atmosphere."

## Interns at FTF-I from Deakin University, Australia



Melody and Robert visited FTF-I and its members during their internship in the month of December 2014. They visited organisations- TARA Projects, Usha Exim, MESH, Kala Aparajita, FTCL, Conserve and Himalaya Tailoring Centre. They were encouraged to meet and discuss the Fair Trade lives of grassroot artisans and producers. They also visited few FAIR TRADE INDIA shops to know about the Fair Trade domestic market reach.

They shared their Fair Trade travelogues with FTF-I team. They were impressed with the wonderful variety of goods from all the different producers, and enjoyed seeing the huge variety of Indian handicrafts from around the nation. They both observed the attention to quality, and consider Fair Trade products to be consistently better quality than their commercial counterparts.

They also visited Women in India exhibition in Delhi Haat in which nineteen Fair Trade organizations participated. At Delhi Haat they saw the way that the women in India expo provided a platform for Fair Trade members to promote their goods alongside commercial markets. It seemed that Delhi haat was a very good way to introduce the younger generation to the market context and teach them the way that Fair Trade stands out against competitors, why price and quality are important etc.



**Fair Trade Forum-India's Online Social Media Campaign to fight against child labour and promote Fair Trade India began in Dec 2014**



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[www.facebook.com/fairtradeindia](http://www.facebook.com/fairtradeindia)**

### **Upcoming...**

**FTF-I will be participating in Quo Vadis 2015, an Annual Management and Cultural event organised by Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi from 23rd to 25th Jan 2015**

#### **Sasha, Kolkata**

will organize an exhibition on Upcycle products, from 12th Jan onwards at Sasha Shop

#### **Sasha, Delhi**

at Design Fair at Dastakar, Nature Bazaar  
16th to 27th Jan 2015

#### **Arawali Exports, Jaipur**

at 54th INDIA INTERNATIONAL GARMENT FAIR  
from 28th to 30th Jan 2015  
at Pragati Maidan New Delhi

#### **MESH, Delhi**

- ✂ Discount sale begins at MESH Fair Trade shop from 2nd Jan 2015
- ✂ Jan first week MESH is distributing 10,000 New Year 2015 small desk calendars highlighting our work and Fair Trade
- ✂ Jan 15th Emma Carlson, Swedish Environmental scientist arrives for a 45 day programme of environment workshops for MESH suppliers
- ✂ Jan 12th MESH staff are off to Nainital for a training programme about coping with change

#### **Aagor Dagra Afad, Assam**

at Delhi Haat Fair organised by Dastkari Haat Samiti from 1st to 15th Jan 2015