



World Skills Day celebration by Meghalaya State Skills Development Society (MSSDS) at Shillong



Since 2014 World Skills Day, one of the UN International Days observed on July 14, The Meghalaya State Skills Development Society (MSSDS) commemorated this day with a function at the State Convention Centre (Shillong) to recognise the importance of skill development. The event was graced by leading dignitaries, which included Mr. Barkas Warji, IAS (Chief Secretary, Govt. of Meghalaya), Mr. R. M. Mishra, IAS (Development Commissioner, Govt. of Meghalaya) and other high ranking officers from the MSSDS such as Mr. K. N. Kumar, IAS (CEO, MSSDS), Mr. Pankaj Jain, IAS (Deputy CEO, MSSDS), Smt. R. M. Kurbah, MCS (Executive Director, MSSDS).

The participants of the event that numbered about 200 included many staff members and representatives of Don Bosco Tech, school students and trainees from multiple project implementing agencies. The programme consisted of a speech competition organised for the children and youth, who

were present. Various topics chosen by lot were dealt with by the participants and it was a platform for them to comment on topics such as poverty, skill development etc. It was good to see them presenting before the assembly their own thoughts and perspectives in today's context.

Don Bosco Tech plays a valued partner for the MSSDS through its skilling initiatives. In this event, Don Bosco Tech was asked to present success models to the gathered assembly. Three alumni namely Cathleen Laloo, Anniekha Khongthaw and Liness Rynnga shared their experiences of training and their employed life. The open sharing was well received as they narrated their experiences of struggle, endurance, persistence, passion, commitment and the eventual redemption. They attributed their present life of success and happiness to hard work, passion and commitment. They did demonstrate that any youth can succeed, earn a livelihood through skill development.

Altaf Hussain awarded with Humanitarian Award by Caritas India (Jammu and Kashmir)



Kashmir) was awarded by Caritas India for his distinguished work during Kashmir floods in September 2014.

In September 2014, Kashmir was badly hit by flash floods due to unprecedented rain. He volunteered himself for rescue, relief and rehabilitation activities at his home town at Phulwara. Caritas India also started relief and rehabilitation activities in cooperation with Don Bosco Tech. Mr. Altaf was

officially given the charge as program officer. He coordinated the actions with the help of Caritas team and community volunteers. He started his work with base line assessment, medical camps, sanitization, setting up of tents and providing drinking water on priority basis. Despite all the challenges he faced during the relief program, he was able to reach out to a large number of needy people.

"After seeing the pain and suffering of the people I was feeling helpless and did not know how to help them. Caritas India provided me with the platform where I could reach out to the people and help them with immediate relief," says Altaf.

Appreciating the selfless work of Mr. Altaf Hussain Lone, Caritas India recognised his efforts and awarded him with a memento and a cash award as a mark of appreciation. Altaf dedicated the award to hundreds of people who benefited from his efforts.

Industrial visit to Quest Mall and Spencer by DB Tech (Park Circus, West Bengal) trainees



Continuing its efforts to offer industrial exposure to trainees, DB Tech (Park Circus, West Bengal) organized an industrial visit to Quest Mall and Spencer respectively on August 22 and 25, 2015. The visit was initiated for corporate exposure and soft skills enhancement. During their visit to Quest Mall and Spencer, the trainees were guided about the importance of customer relationship and importance of modern technology in business.

On reaching the premises, two companies gave a profile summary of their respective organizations, which was followed by visit to all the stores located within their respective space.

During the guided tour, students learned about buying and selling policy, loss and profit, convenience of customer, incentive, grooming, etc. The students had the opportunity to interact, ask questions and clarify doubts during the visit. Some trainees were also selected after an on the spot interview during their visit to The Spencer.

The industrial visit has helped a great deal towards enhancing their professional life. They were immensely encouraged after interacting with the alumni, who were working as customer executives and marketing executives at the mall. It was useful for the trainees both for improving their knowledge of the domain as well as gain confidence and enthusiasm. One of the trainees commented, "Today we realized that the world is full of opportunities if one is groomed properly and with better exposure." They expressed their contentment on their visit and were very happy about this opportunity provided by Don Bosco Tech.

Delegate from Barclay India PLC at DB Tech (Perambur, Tamil Nadu)



Mrs. Renu Vasantha Kumar (Vice President, Community Investment - Barclays Bank) paid a visit to DB Tech centre at Perambur on August 28, 2015. The motive of her visit to the centre was to assess the impact of imparting the workplace skills to the unemployed youth. Barclays India PLC is a leading British financial firm and a reputed MNC, who holds the leading market position in the lines of corporate banking and investment banking businesses.

After being introduced to the trainees, the visitor engaged the group in an interactive session offering also a

concise note about Barclays and their social activities. All the trainees introduced themselves and shared their aspirations and also the challenges they faced in their life.

Later Mrs. Renu testified how she had struggled in her own life to reach where she is at present in her career and eulogized the joint effort of Quest Alliance and DB Tech for linking the learning with livelihood. She appreciated and encouraged the trainees with her thought provoking speech. The visit concluded with the interaction with the state level and trainers regarding the process and outcomes, skill training of the trainees and to choose their career path, trainer's educational background and the factors that motivates them to work competently. The visit proved to be motivating for the trainees as well as the staff from the personal sharing and the positive appreciation and encouragement experienced.

DB Tech (Andhra Pradesh and Telangana) celebrated Youth Fest with splendour



A blissful morning on August 2, 2015, marked the celebration of Youth Fest for the students and trainers of DB Tech (Andhra Pradesh and Telangana) organized by the Hyderabad Province on the occasion of the bicentenary birthday of Don Bosco. Shri. R. S. Praveen Kumar, IPS (Secretary, APSWREIS) and Fr. Raminedi Balaraju (Provincial, Hyderabad Province, Salesians of Don Bosco) was the Chief Guest, who graced the event with their presence. Fr. P. Arul Das (Province In-Charge, Hyderabad Province, DB Tech), Fr. Arul Maran (Director, Don Bosco Skill Mission), Fr. Y. Jogi Reddy (Vice Provincial, Hyderabad Province, Salesians of Don Bosco), Fr. Paul Raj (Parish Priest, Gajilapuram) and Sridhar Kottur (M&E and MIS Coordinator, DB Tech, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana) were other dignitaries present at the event.

The Youth Fest was held in the ground of Don Bosco Human Resource Development Centre (DBHRDC) at Gajilapuram. The event saw the participation of trainers and students from

all the centres in the two states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Fr. Arul Das stated, "Don Bosco will be happy to see these 400 youth, who are moulded into good human beings and honest citizens." Shri. R. S. Praveen Kumar and Fr. Raminedi Balaraju each planted a tree sapling marking the celebration with a positive note.

Shri. R. S. Praveen Kumar inspired the gathering with his valuable speech. He explained the present scenario of youth and emphasized on the importance of learning. He advised the students to continue their learning all through life and also elaborated on the adverse effects of drinking and smoking on youth. Fr. Arul Maran and Fr. Y. Jogi Reddy also delivered inspiring and motivating message to the young people. Mr. P. Venkateswarlu (CI, Dindigul) appreciated DB Tech and Don Bosco for the service rendered to the poor youth giving them a bright future. Mr. Sridhar proposed vote of thanks to all the participants, guests and special invitees.

Fr. Cyriac felicitated by Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh for outstanding contribution to skill development



certificates to Fr. Cyriac Pulinthanathumalayil for his outstanding contribution to skill development of underprivileged youth of Arunachal Pradesh. He was among several other recipients, who had contributed outstandingly in their own respective fields. Fr. Cyriac Pulinthanathumalayil is the founder director of Don Bosco Youth Centre in Itanagar.

Fr. Cyriac was recognised for establishing the skill training centre with various programmes imparting skills in computer,

Hospitality, Spa and Beauty Care, Retail, Travel and Tourism, spoken English and other soft skills that opened a fresh avenues to hundreds of unemployed youth from across Arunachal Pradesh. His specific contribution to developing the personality and leadership skills of the candidates was appreciated and recognised. This has led to many young people to seek training and take up jobs all over the country with courage and confidence.

Prior to his appointment in Itanagar, Fr. Cyriac had started the Don Bosco Youth Centre at Khonsa in the insurgency infested Tirap district and initiated similar activities for the welfare of young people of Arunachal Pradesh.

The announcement and recognition of Fr. Cyriac's contribution also coincided with the celebration of the bi-centenary of the birth of Don Bosco. The award will be presented to Fr. Cyriac at Indira Gandhi Park, Itanagar on February 20, 2016, on the occasion of the Statehood Day of Arunachal Pradesh.

An energiser Session through acting organized at DB Tech (Muzaffarpur, Bihar)



DB Tech (Muzaffarpur, Bihar) organised a special programme for the trainees, which consisted of activities through acting on August 17, 2015. A theatre artist, Mr. Saurav Kumar was the resource person invited to the centre to conduct this session. Mr. Saurav heads an organization that uses the medium of acting to bring out the best in people especially the youth.

During the very interactive and engaging session, he used various techniques to bring out the best in the students towards having a healthy attitude, happy approach.

demeanor and positive outlook to life and situations. The sessions which also had elements of fun and laughter helped them to work in team, be free and spontaneous in the group as well as activities that pointed towards the need for power of observation, keen memory and sharp reflexes. Towards the end of the programme he also led them to a reflective mood through conducting yoga and meditation for the group.

The resource person ensured that he took feedback from the group about the day and highlighted how acting and being active can lead to better life and achievements. He also cited examples of people who have succeeded using these opportunities. The trainees were grateful to Mr. Saurav Kumar for this wonderful experience and appreciated the organisation that gave them this chance to interact and learn through a different approach.

Rising Star | Benedic Suchiang

Benedic Suchiang comes from a small village called Lum-Mylri in East Jaintia Hills district Meghalaya. He is the older of the two siblings. After the divorce of his parents, lots of problem overshadowed his family, as there was no one to assist and support his studies and family. He left home and stayed with his maternal grandmother. After loads of hardship and struggle, he somehow managed to complete his matriculation but could not continue further in studies due to financial constraints. It was during this distressing phase of his life that he came across the advertisement of DB Tech about the skills training opportunity. He was very happy to get the information about the job oriented free course training at Bosco Pnar, Jowai. With the permission from his mother and blessing from grandmother, he enrolled himself for the training in the Motor Mechanic domain under MSSDS project. He said, "The training was very useful and exciting." He found it very interesting to learn new things every day. During the

training, besides the domain specific knowledge he gained practical knowledge of English, life skills and had a happy experience in the residential facility. His confidence and personality too developed moulding him into a bright and zealous young man. He said, "I did not realise how the time went by because every day I woke up to learn new things and each day the schedule was so full that I had no time to get distracted." After the successful completion of his training, he appeared an interview at Marikar Motor Ltd, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. When he finally got the job offer, his joy knew no bounds and shared the good news to his mother and grandmother, who encouraged him and wished him well during the entire time of his training. He was offered a monthly salary of Rs. 7500 per month. He reached his new workplace in Kerala with positive mind to work and support his family. He is happy with this opportunity for training and earning. He said, "Struggle is the key to success. I want to give my 'Best' wherever I will be; this is my personal attitude towards this job."

From Struggle to Success

Struggle is the key to success. I want to give my 'Best' wherever I will be; this is my personal attitude towards this job.

Benedic Suchiang
(Alumnus, DB Tech)

