

*In addition to the implementation of varied projects within Sri Lanka the Nucleus Foundation now spreads its wings to other parts of Asia. In this edition we report about our assignment in Karachi, Pakistan, where the Nucleus approach is being used to develop the textile industry.*

## Nucleus Approach to Develop the Textile sector in Pakistan

Directors of the Nucleus Foundation were in Karachi earlier this month where they visited the associations and textile manufacturing companies together with the counsellors to introduce the approach. Nucleus is known as the Focus Group approach is Pakistan. It has been introduced by the International Division of the Bfz. It entails the creation and support of Focus Groups within five major textile associations in Karachi. They are:

- ▶ All Pakistan Textile Processing Mills Association (APTPMA)
- ▶ Pakistan Cloth Merchants Association (PCMA),
- ▶ Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PHMA)
- ▶ Pakistan Readymade Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (PRGMEA)
- ▶ Towel Manufacturers' Association of Pakistan (TMA)



**1<sup>st</sup> Nucleus meetings in Karachi**

## Nucleus Counsellor Training in Karachi: Solutions for Development Cooperation



**Counselor Training**

The counsellors recruited by the textile association were trained by the Nucleus Foundation during the mission to Karachi. As well as being taken through a comprehensive experiential training package they were also given the opportunity to share the Sri Lankan experience. Hopefully the lessons learnt in Sri Lanka will be taken to heart and our counterparts in Karachi will be able to learn from and avoid making the same mistakes when they implement the program over there.

Here's what they had to say about the training:

*This training was well designed and well structured. It made us think to feel the importance of doing things in collective manner. In spite of prevailing market competition, it shows the importance of being united and how to use the same platform. It enables us to improve our communication skills to convince others in an effective manner.*

*We had good time with each other in the training and this training has changed our mindsets to do some productive things in future. It was great motivation tool for us and I will never forget this training in my life. The exercises we did will help a lot in achieving our objectives.*

We take this opportunity to wish the Nucleus Counsellor in Karachi all the very best as they initiate and run their first groups. Our sincere appreciation to Mr Martin Strahle, Mr Salahudeen Farukh and Mr Ahmer Butt of Bfz International Division for giving us this opportunity to share our experience and expertise. We look forward to more fruitful collaboration in future.

## Nucleus Foundation trains beneficiaries supported by Red Cross

The Nucleus Foundation is implementing a series of training programs on Motivation, Empowerment, Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management for 241 beneficiaries supported by the Sri Lanka Red Cross Society and Spanish Red Cross. These are persons affected by the tsunami and the support is provided to improve their quality of life, through primarily developing the economic strength of the community.



The project kicked off with a Motivation Picnic conducted by renowned personality development specialist Dr Kuma Iddamallena. This is being followed up by a series of five day workshops during which beneficiaries will develop business plans for their individual micro enterprises.

### Entrepreneur Exchange: Service Centre Owners and Handloom producers visit Colombo

Under the Nucleus Entrepreneur Exchange program supported by the GTZ Facilitating Local Initiatives for Conflict Transformation project (FLICT) the service centre owners Nucleus visited the Automobile Engineering Training Institute in Colombo. They participated in a training program and study tour and were able to learn the finer points of Basic Vehicle System, Service Procedure, Service Equipment, Service Schedule and Types of Maintenance.

The Handloom producers from Maruthumunai also visited Colombo, this time to Kandyg's and the Export Development Board where they participated in a discussion about procedures related to the export of handlooms. These producers were able to identify the items in demand before the Christmas Season so that they will be able to produce and market these items during the festive period.

The Nucleus Entrepreneur Exchange facilitates a process in developing linkages between entrepreneurs of different regions as well as between entrepreneurs and their service providers. These entrepreneurs of the Ampara district have been able to make use of the opportunities afforded to them through this exchange program by not only developing their enterprises but also by developing business and social relationships with their counterparts of other ethnicities.

## Deepavali Celebrations in Karisal



In return for hosting them for the Ramazan Ifthar last September the Tamil Ladies and their families of Sinna Karisal hosted the Muslim Ladies and their families from Periya Karisal for Deepavali in October. The event brought much fanfare to Karisal. The Cashew Development Project commissioned by the International Organisation for Migration and implemented by the Nucleus Foundation has not only improved the livelihoods of these women but also developed social relationships among the two communities.

### Business Planning and Civic Education Training for Ex Combatants

In another project commissioned by the International Organisation for Migration the Nucleus Foundation is implementing program to develop business plans with 300 ex combatants. Another component of the program entails the implementation of civic education workshops for a further 500 beneficiaries under this project. The Nucleus Foundation office in Batticaloa was set up in order to oversee the implementation of these programs.

### Developing Rice Processing Centres (RPCs)



Also in Batticaloa the Nucleus Foundation is supporting to develop 8 RPCs supported by IOM. The group has already undergone exposure visits, technical training and entrepreneurship training and they will participate in a program on organisational development in the next days.

**We welcome your comments and feedback to our newsletter and look forward to hearing from you. Best wishes from the Nucleus Foundation!**