



Minutes of the COMMACT MEETING held at Don Bosco on 29th March 2009

MEMBERS PRESENT

1. Mr. Noel'D Silva
2. Mrs. Roopa Mehta
3. Mrs. Devasmita Sridhar
4. Mr. Michael K.J.
5. Mr. Mathews Philip
6. Mr. Bhanwar Singh Chadana
7. Mrs. Bhanwar Dhabai
8. Sr. Georgina Ezhanikatt
9. Sr. Josena SB
10. Fr. Michael Vettickat

Special Guest

11. Mr. David Thompson
12. Mr. Garry Barg
13. Mr. Naresh
14. Ms. Vijay Laxmi
15. Mr. Jagadananda
16. Ms. Stephnie
17. Mr. Misra
18. Ms. Parbati (C.S.W.S.)
19. Mr. Sabitri (R.S.M.)
20. Mr. Sushanta (Serampore Hastashilpa)
21. Ms. Dola Mitra (Representing Commaact Secretariat)

PROCEEDINGS

The meeting started with a welcome speech by Mrs. Devasmita Sridhar. It was followed by a short discussion by Mr. Noel D'Silva about the slow progress of activities by the Commaact Members in context to the promises taken at Bangalore. In agreement to this Mrs. Devasmita Sridhar too expressed her deep regret for the lack of communication by the Commaact Members with the Secretariat. She said Secretariat was functioning but unfortunately the net-work did not work as it should have. Finally, it was decided that in future all informations, applications etc. should be routed through the secretariat.

Membership

Dola presented an update on the present status of members.

- Michael K.J. explained the past practice of taking new members. Some members suggested the need for membership expansion. One suggestion was that each member brings in 2 new members (David Thomson and Michael K.J.). Further it was suggested and approved that applications should come through existing members and it need to be approved by the Exco.

Resource mobilization

It was suggested by Mr. Jagadananda to prepare a road map of resource mobilization

- David Thompson will be meeting with Commonwealth Foundation to pursue their future support to Commact
- Membership expansion

Last International Conference

Devasmita enquired about the selection process for the last inter. Conference in Brisbane and regretted that many more could not participate from India. She expressed the view that there should have been better communication between Commact International and Commact India Chapter about the conference.

- David and Michael K.J. explained about the partnership-sponsorship experiment with regard to the selection of participants. Money was a constraint for the selection of more participants. Michael K.J. suggested that there should be better communication between Commact International and Chapters.

Member Profile-

Dola presented the list of members who have sent profiles and CV.

Mr. Mathews Philips suggested that a dead line should be given to the members for the pending Organizational profile and Bio-data. After all are received it should be send to the Commact International. Mr. David Thompson on behalf of Commact International said that the International Web can create an Indian chapter.

R.T.I. Workshop

- Members expressed appreciation for the RTI workshop.
- Report of the workshop to be circulated

News Letter

Though there was a suggestion to have a monthly bulletin published by the secretariat (Jagdananda & Michael K.J.), it was agreed to have a quarterly e-mail news letter to be designed and prepared by Fr Michael Vettickat in collaboration with Commact Secretariat and circulate the same to all the members.

Human Rights

For the knowledge of members present, Mathews Philip and Noel D'silva shared about the human rights issues of two persons.

AGM

It was suggested to hold the Commact India AGM during the Commact International conference in Kottayam later this year. Notice and agenda should be circulated accordingly.

Next the programs which were prioritized and assigned for the year at the Bangalore meet were discussed one by one.

- ❖ Sasha was appreciated by all the members as it had hosted a conference as committed at the Bangalore Meet.
- ❖ R.G.M. and Jagaran had committed to conduct training on traditional medicines and practice in which Commact members could participate. Unfortunately nothing was heard from them the whole year. Mrs. Bhanwar Dhabai informed the members they have several camps through out the year but the secretariat was not informed even once. It was explained by Mrs.Roopa Mehta to Mrs.Bhanwar that in future they should at least keep one or two camps open for the Commact Members and inform them through the Secretariat.
- ❖ Read Center would assist any of Commact members with documentation techniques but nothing was heard from them till today. It was decided that the Secretariat will communicate with READ to send a proposal to restate and recirculate whether this facility is still available or not. Following this discussion Mr. Noel D'Silva said that the members should also come forward and ask for assistance when required by submitting formal proposals.
- ❖ Devasmita who is willing to assist any of the Commact members with consultation services, free of cost, on development of micro-enterprise has reminded once again to the members that she is still ready to render her services voluntarily. If anyone needs the training she will do it on voluntary basis only the traveling cost needs to be paid.
- ❖ It was unanimously declared by the Commact Members that the Secretariat of Sasha would continue its work for another year i.e. March 2010.
- ❖ Cooperation between India and Nepal Commact's – Mr. Garry Barg welcomed this partnership and was ready to take this forward by close interactions.
- ❖ A resource directory of members to be created for which the format to be provided by Sam. Since no information was received till date another reminder should be sent to Sam for the format. It was further discussed that an electronic Data base would be created where in all the information relating to trainings, resource person and good technical skill etc not only of Commact but also external resources will be recorded

Mr. Jagadananda suggested that he too would join Commact and request CYSD to do the same but he mentioned some important issues which he feels should be taken care of. He mentioned the gaps discussed so far should be filled in by the working committee. He also explained the necessity of a monthly bulletin. He

expressed his views that, Commact should connect with other networks. Sustaining the activities of Commact is the responsibility of every member.

Responding to his words Mr. Noel D'Silva requested KSS to design the news letter. A quarterly newsletter will include events; stories etc.and the 1st issue should be circulated by the 15th April 2009.

It was discussed in case of new membership, an application for membership must be recommended by the concerned regional member to the executive body The application must be passed by the executive committee before an applicant becomes a member

Future Agenda

1. Notice and Agenda for the A.G.M. to be circulated to the members by 1st week of October.
2. Commact International to inform Commact India Secretariat about the criteria for the participation at Commact International Meeting (tentative date 10th, 11th and 12th of November 2009) which in turn to be circulated to all the members.
3. Commact International to give a list of participants of other countries who will be present at the Commact International Meet to the Commact India Secretariat.
4. Mr. Noel D'Silva will send the old Commact International brochure to help in the development of new brochures for Commact India.
5. Father Vettickat to inform the Secretariat how much space can be allotted to each Member organization of Commact India to exhibit their work in form of exhibition etc. in the Commact International Meet.
6. The name of the Bank Account to be changed to COMMACT INDIA instead of Commonwealth Association for local Action and Economic Development.

Finally Mr. Noel D'Silva shared his valuable ideas that since the main objective of Commact is to serve the people, members of Commact India should have the attitude of sacrificing and giving. Each and every member should give their best to the organization.

Members expressed satisfaction over Dola's functioning in the Commact Secretariat. They applauded her efficient services.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Mathews Philip.