



Sep. 19, 2015 Foundation Board Meeting – Draft

Date: Saturday, Sep. 19, 2015 2.00 PM
Location: 895 Edgewater Drive, Lexington, KY, 40502
Attending: Usha Chandra (online), D. Sudharshan & M. S. Viji
Invited: None
Excused: Sibhu Saha & Nima Desai (Proxy authorization given by both to Acting Chair Dr Sudharshan)

1. Acting Chair Dr. Sudharshan called the Board meeting to order at 2.15 PM. Adequate quorum was present, (3 in person and 2 by Proxy).
2. Minutes of the last Board Meeting held on May, 10, 2015 – were reviewed, duly proposed and unanimously approved as presented, without any change.
3. Financial status Update – up to Sep. 18, 2015 was presented by Dr. M. S. Viji. These were reviewed in detail by the Board and accepted as presented. A copy of the Financial report is enclosed as part of these Minutes. The two Grants submitted to date by the IWSF were not selected. Board Member Usha Chandra volunteered to request her family and contacts to list IWSF as a beneficiary for the Amazon Smile donations.

The Board appreciated that donations from IWSF to collaborating Rotary Clubs are enhanced significantly. The added contributions from (i) the partnering Rotary Clubs in USA and India, (ii) their Rotary Districts and (iii) the Global Matching Grant from the Rotary International allow funding major projects. Currently final approvals are awaited for (a) Phase-1 Solar Power Supply for 22 public schools enrolling 14,120+ poor students in Rameswaram, Rotary Dist 3212, TN, India and (b) 1T:1S Tablet based E-Learning Smart Classrooms for four public schools educating 8,000+ poor students in Rotary Dist 3000, TN, India.

4. Missions & Projects Update – a detailed report was discussed and a PPT Presentation was made to the Board. The Board was happy the four missions and the many projects under each are well received by over 420,000 deserving people in India and Africa. The multiple projects, each with a specific focus and implementation, benefiting thousands in each location were appreciated. The Board thanked the volunteers, local non-profits and for-profits for taking up the responsibility ensuring sustainability of each project.

IWSF Missions & Projects Update

Update – Sep. 20, 2015: This summarizes the active Missions and Projects, benefiting over 420,000+ economically disadvantaged, thanks to the incredible generosity of hundreds of volunteers, non-profit organizations, for-profit enterprises, donors as well as sponsors in many countries.

Caring Corporate citizens: IWSF collaborates with many non-profit and for-profit entities. Many offer their products and services (i) free (ii) at cost without profit or (iii) at a significantly lower price in empowering the less fortunate. IWSF does not promote any particular product, service or company. But at the same time, IWSF readily appreciates the contributions and participation of the socially conscious corporate citizens in its various missions to empower the poor in many ways.



- Active Missions**
1. Igniting Minds
 2. Empower Africa
 3. Solar Rameswaram
 4. Disaster Relief

Table 1: Missions

[1] 'IGNITING MINDS' Mission: Quality education, adequate knowledge combined with appropriate skills have enabled over 4 billion individuals in many countries overcome centuries of illiteracy, ignorance, ill-health and intolerance while creating happy, prosperous and peaceful societies. IWSF, in collaboration with thousands, is keen on reaching out as designed in Table 2, and empowering the remaining 3+ billion in this world.

a) E-Learning Smart Classrooms (ESC):

VSC: Started in Apr. 2013, now 28 ESC benefit 35,000+ poor students via multi-media, high-definition course contents in many subjects, based on the syllabus (KG-12). The teachers and the students report (i) improved student-attendance, (ii) more attentive in class and (iii) improving grades. Aiming for 50,000 ESC providing interactive learning for 50 million poor students and youth.

IT:1S ESC: '1Teacher- 1 Student' interactive, mobile, Tablet-based Smart Classrooms effectively (i) address acute Teacher Shortage (ii) bridge the urban-rural educational quality divide (iii) bring world-class contents using modern technology and (iv) customize teaching and learning for the economically disadvantaged students, youth and adults in India and Africa.

b) 120,000 Free Public Libraries (FPL): IWSF, in collaboration with the **International Book Project**, has dispatched from USA to India (Oct. 2013 to Sep. 2015), 165,000+ quality donated used-books (Pre-KG to Post-Doctoral; non-fiction & fiction). The sea and land transportation cost (from USA to India) is less than \$ 0.30 / book, giving the best ROI. 320+ FPL are in place in partnership with 450+ Rotary Clubs and Lions Clubs in USA and India. Currently 350,000+ poor students in public schools and colleges in India have access to these Free Libraries installed in their school / college.

Freight & related costs: Need \$ 6,500+ / 40' Container to cover the freight and related costs.

Project	Completed	Goal	Benefitting
E-Learning Smart Classrooms	28	50,000 ESC	50 million students
Free Public Libraries	320	120,000 FPL	120 million
Digital Public Libraries	1	120,000 DPL	120 million
Rural Skills Development Center	1	2,000 RSDC	50 million youth & women
Tele-Education	0	2,000	10 million students
Visiting Professors	12	10,000	10 million students
1D:1Y Skills Development	0	20 million	20 million youth

Table 2: Igniting Minds Mission - Projects and Progress



c) **'1-D: 1-Y' (One Donor: One Youth):** By default, English (American) has become the language of global communication for international trade & commerce. Talented youth (especially from rural areas & non-English medium schools) not able to converse in English, perform poorly in interviews. This directly affects their chances for higher education, employment / promotion / higher earning, etc. Online language courses will allow deserving youth to acquire the necessary language skills to eliminate denied opportunities and brighten their future.

*'Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration',
Dept. of Economics, University College of London, UK
Report on English Fluency in India:*

- ✓ **34 % better hourly earnings with fluency in English language**
- ✓ **13 % higher hourly earnings with basic English language**

◆ Online Language Course: ENGLISH Level 1 & 2 (American) or (British) 3 months license
From Aug. 1, 2015 (until further notice) **Rs. 3,400 + 14 % Service Tax / License**

d) **Visiting Professor Lectures (VPL):** 12 VPL so far have been conducted benefiting 2,500+ students in India. Active and retired educators, faculty, professors, teachers, executives, industry leaders, etc. in the USA volunteer to provide free guest lectures and interactive sessions in public schools and colleges when visiting India. These are highly popular and well received. To volunteer: www.weservefoundation.org/participate/volunteering

e) **Rural Skills Development Centers (RSDC):** One pilot center in Thonugal village (Meenakshi Mission PURA, 40 km south of Madurai, TN), is training 12 rural youth and women from the surrounding 17 villages. The core competence, locally available natural resources, etc. are taken into account to design suitable skill development program tailored to each enrollee. Most are gainfully employed by the time they complete their training. Similar RSDC are needed in many locations to provide employable skills, encouraging creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship.

UMA (Uttarakhand Mandal of America) San Jose, CA has donated \$ 30,000 grant to set up two Women Rural Empowerment centers in Utrkhand. Will provide update on this as it becomes operational. Donations are most welcome to set up many more RSDC.

f) **'Edu-Sat' Network:** IWSF has an ambitious plan to set up CubeSat network linking all the ESC, DPL, RSDC, Rural Clinics, etc. to facilitate online education, knowledge connectivity, Tele-Tutoring, Tele-Medicine Consultations, etc. This cost effective technology will provide broadband connectivity even in remote areas (i.e. rugged mountains, dense forests, remote islands, tribal communities, etc.). IWSF seeks grants and sponsorships to make this a reality.

[2] **'EMPOWER AFRICA' Mission:** Started in July 2013, four rural schools in Kenya are being renovated. Five boxes of Basic school supplies have been sent to donate to the poor children. A lot more needs to be done, to advance rural education in many countries in Africa. Local non-profits collaborate with IWSF. Funds are welcome to renovate more rural schools.

Project	Active	Goal	Benefitting
Rural Schools Renovation	4	2,000	Rural East Africa
School Supplies Donation	1	1,000	Poor Children in schools
Tele-Education & Tele-Tutoring	0	1,000	10 million poor students



Table 3: Empower Africa Mission - Projects and Progress

[3] **‘SOLAR RAMESWARAM’ Mission:** Rotary Clubs (USA and India), for-profit entities and many volunteers are participating. Need \$ 35,000 during 2015 to complete Phase 2 Solar Power Supply project for the 22 public schools in Rameswaram teaching 14,120+ poor students.

Project	Completed	Goal	Benefitting
Solar HB 22W LED Light	200	2,000	Small Fishing Boats
Solar Portable Lamps	1,200	3,000	Poor Students
Solar Power for homes	150	3,000	Poor Families
Solar Water Heaters	2 x 100 liter	2	2 Public Hospitals
Solar Power Supply (66 KVA Off-Grid)	0	22	22 Public Schools 14,120 poor students
Solar Lights power	1	4	Temple Corridors
Solar Power for 220 posts	0	220	2.4 KM – Pamban Bridge

Table 4: Solar Rameswaram Mission - Projects and Progress

[4] **Disaster Relief’ Mission:** On July 5, 2015 a major fire completely destroyed 101 huts in Nagaram, Guntur Dist., AP, forcing 350 + victims (including 130 + children), to live on the street with no means, not even a decent meal a day. Our local affiliate, ‘A P Neil Armstrong Rural Multi-Scheme Team Organisation Society’, Cherukupalli, AP, a non-profit, is coordinating efforts to help the disaster victims. IWSF appeals to all generous individuals and organizations to help the affected 101 families get back on their feet soon.

Contact: To learn more about these Missions and Projects: www.weservefoundation.org
 Dr. M. S. Viji, MD, President msviji2020@weservefoundation.org
 Mr. Mani Narayanasamy (Igniting Minds Mission) na.manivannan@riinc.net
 Mr. Shyam Vijayaraghavan (Advisor) shyam@riinc.net

To Volunteer: www.weservefoundation.org/participate/volunteering
 To Donate online: www.weservefoundation.org/donate
 To mail a check: ‘INTL ‘WE SERVE’ FOUNDATION
 Mailing address: 895 Edgewater Drive, Lexington, KY 40502-3159 USA

5. 2015 next meetings - Sat. Dec. 5, 2015 2.00 PM (subject to inclement weather and emergencies)
6. With no other items to discuss, the Acting Chair thanked the participants and adjourned the meeting at 3.20 PM.

Prepared by M S Viji MD, President - for the Board review and acceptance (including the attached Financial and Projects Update reports) at the next Board meeting. Sep. 20, 2015

Enclosed: 1. IWSF Financial Status Report