

CSR TIMES

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HCL'S PAN INDIA SYMPOSIUMS FOR BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF CSR



Nidhi Pundhir, Director, CSR Head, HCL Foundation

The HCL Grant: Pan India Symposiums" is visiting 10 cities. The objective of the nationwide symposiums is to drive inclusive development models that are innovative, add equitable value and help NGOs gain better understanding on the CSR law and CSR. The second in the series was held on May 22, 2017, at Mumbai with eminent panelists such as Dr Bhaskar Chatterjee, former Director General & CEO, Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs; Dr Meena Galliara, Director, Centre for Sustainability Management and Social Entrepreneurship, NMIMS; Dr Hiren Desai and Mayuri Misra.

The finale of first and second edition of HCL Grant in the year 2015 and 2016 witnessed the presence of President of India Pranab Mukherjee and Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Arun Jaitley, respectively who felicitated the winners and complimented HCL on the institutionalization of a mechanism for Corporate Social Responsibility through HCL Grant.

Speaking on the occasion, Nidhi Pundhir, Director, CSR-Head, HCL Foundation, said, "These capacity building symposiums have been designed to educate and strengthen the NGOs that strive for transformation by doing commendable work in rural India in education, health and environment sectors. The main objective of HCL Grant is meant to support such NGOs that reach out to marginalized, poverty-struck, isolated and underdeveloped rural communities, and achieve sustainable socio-economic development. NGOs are the leaders of change. We applaud their efforts and commitment towards nation building. In the second season, we came across some remarkable work done by these leaders in the sectors of education, environment and health care. Through HCL Grant, we wish to reach out to more and more NGOs to support them in building a better tomorrow."

SWISS REVAMPS VILLAGE IN BAWANA



Swiss International Air Lines (SWISS) and its passengers enabled the refurbishment of 20 village houses and other facilities at SOS Children's Village in Bawana, near Delhi. During a ceremony on May 17, the newly renovated village, reconstructed with the support from SWISS and donations made by passengers aboard SWISS flights, was officially inaugurated. The ceremony was attended by SOS Children's Villages' management and a delegation from SWISS. Through this initiative, 118 children in need got a new home at the SOS Children's Village in Bawana. As a gift of

all SWISS employees, the delegation handed over one bicycle for each village family. The village accommodates a total of 16 families, each family house offering a home to 8-10 children.

"We are happy to strengthen our association with SOS Children's Villages that have enabled us to touch young lives and provide them with an opportunity of a better future. Today we are proud that through our small contribution we are able to foster 118 children and provide them a loving home," says Christoph Ulrich, Head of Human Resources at SWISS. SWISS supports SOS Children's Villages projects through donations, marketing partnerships, coin collections at airports in Switzerland and onboard SWISS flights worldwide.

In addition to the donations for the refurbishment of the houses, the SWISS staff personnel raised funds under the SWISS's in-house fund raising drive "Bikes for India" and gifted 41 bicycles to the children and families in the SOS Children's Villages in Bawana, Faridabad and Greenfield near Faridabad. Under this campaign, the amount initially raised by the SWISS staff personnel was doubled by SWISS.

INFOSYS TIES UP WITH ENVIROFIT INDIA TO DELIVER 37,200 CLEAN COOKSTOVES TO RURAL INDIAN COMMUNITIES

Infosys and cook-stove company Envirofit have come together to create a project that will deliver 37,200 stoves in Maharashtra and offset 1,50,000 tons of CO2. Targeting families in hard-to-access rural communities, this project aims to reduce carbon emissions from rural households and improve livelihoods.

The project is in line with Infosys's overall sustainability strategy and their commitment to RE100, a global platform for major corporations committed to operating on 100 per cent renewable power. In the next five years, Infosys will work with Envirofit to identify families in Maharashtra and Odisha through its CSR programme. Envirofit will employ an innovative mobile app to track cook-stove usage, encourage behavioural change and provide a real-time snapshot of impact for Infosys. The project is a part of Infosys' stated commitment to carbon neutrality by 2018.

Ramadas Kamath, EVP and Head, Administration, Facilities, Infrastructure, Security and Sustainability of Infosys said, "We take our responsibilities to the communities where we operate. By choosing a partner like Envirofit India, we are confident



that their experience and community reach will help the 37,200 families realize the full socio-environmental and economic benefits of this project."

"Partners like Infosys are among a select few who not only go that extra mile and reach communities that are harder to get to, but also provide clean technology that help women breathe easier when they cook. Infosys is supporting this project for the entire lifetime of the cook-stoves," said Harish Anchan, Managing Director of Envirofit.

The cook-stoves will help reduce fuel use, smoke and toxic emissions by up to 80 per cent.