

Shastri News -July 2011

Canada-India Education Summit

A Shastri Delegation of Indian University Vice-Chancellors representing twenty two Universities and the Chair of University Grants Commission, India and a contingent of twenty plus Canadian University Presidents/designates participated in the two-day Canada-India Education Summit held on June 17-18 at Carleton University. Initiated and supported by the Indian High Commission in Canada, the Shastri Vice-Chancellors Delegation initiative was piloted by Shastri President Prof. Sunaina Singh. The Summit was co-organized by Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute in partnership with Carleton University, and co- sponsored by AUCC (Association of Universities and Colleges Canada) and DFAIT (Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada).

The summit began on a high note with an inaugural speech by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Honorable John Baird. Leading the Shastri delegation of Indian Vice Chancellors was Minister of State for Human Resource Development (Higher Education) Smt. Daggubati Purandeswari. Among the speakers at the Summit inauguration were the Indian High Commissioner to Canada the Honourable Shashishekhhar Gavai, Shastri President Prof. Sunaina Singh, and Dr. Braj Sinha, the Shastri Vice President/President Elect.

This historical platform for debate on bi-lateral cooperation builds on the agreement signed by the prime ministers of India and Canada, and the visit of a number of Canadian university presidents to India in November 2010, as a way of maintaining the momentum and building on relationships that already exist. Among the noted speakers at the Summit was also Prof. Ved Prakash, Chair of the Universities Grants Commission, and Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, the author of India's Green Revolution. The Education Summit deliberations resulted in the identification of obstacles, and the participants in the summit made some concrete suggestions regarding ways and means of enhancing educational collaboration between Canada and India. The Education Summit has undoubtedly paved the way and inspired the initiation of future collaborations and initiatives to further facilitate joint ventures and exchanges. Right to Left: Minister of State for Human Resource Development (Higher Education, Govt. India) Smt. Daggubati Purandeswari, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Honorable John Baird, Indian High Commissioner to Canada the Honourable Shashishekhhar Gavai, Shastri President Prof. Sunaina Singh, and Dr. Braj Sinha, Shastri Vice President/President Elect.

This historical platform for debate on bi-lateral cooperation builds on the agreement signed by the prime ministers of India and Canada, and the visit of a number of Canadian university presidents to India in November 2010, as a way of maintaining the momentum and building on relationships that already exist. Among the noted speakers at the Summit was also Prof. Ved Prakash, Chair of the Universities Grants Commission, and Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, the author of India's Green Revolution. The Education Summit deliberations resulted in the identification of obstacles, and the participants in the summit made some concrete suggestions regarding ways and means of enhancing educational collaboration between Canada and India. The Education Summit has undoubtedly paved

the way and inspired the initiation of future collaborations and initiatives to further facilitate joint ventures and exchanges.

Shastri Engaging India: A Multidisciplinary Conference

A meeting of the minds from a diverse array of disciplines took place at the Shastri Engaging India conference at Carleton University on June 17th and 18th. The conference was attended by over 100 scholars, university faculty, community members and organizational representatives and graduate students from Canada and India. The Engaging India Conference featured 8 panel presentations and 22 individual presentations by over 50 accomplished scholars. It was Shastri's great pleasure to have faculty from several Indian Institutions present at the conference. The conference provided the opportunity for colleagues from humanities, social sciences, and science and technology disciplines to have dialogues on significant issues involving Canada-India research, scholarly collaborations, current India focused research and scholarly activities being conducted by different faculty members and researchers were showcased.

The plenary sessions of the conference took place in conjunction with the Canada-India Education Summit which occurred simultaneously at Carleton University. The plenary sessions included speeches by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Honorable John Baird and the Minister of State for Human Resource Development (Higher Education) Smt. Daggubati Purandeswari who delivered the key note address at the inauguration of the Education Summit. Among the speakers were also the Indian High Commissioner to Canada the Honourable Mr. Shashishekar Gavai, Prof. Ved Prakash, Chair of the Universities Grants Commission, Hon. Kevin Lynch, Vice-Chair of BMO Financial Group and former Clerk of the Privy Council, and Prof. M.S. Swaminathan, author of India's Green Revolution who also delivered an uplifting speech to conclude the Summit. The conference was concluded by addresses from Dr. Roseanne O'Reilly Runte, President of Carleton University, Dr. Dinesh Singh, Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University, Dr. Sunaina Singh, former Shastri President and Prof. Balbir Sahni from Concordia University, Co-Chair of Focus India. The session was chaired by newly appointed Shastri President Dr. Braj Sinha, who brought this fruitful and dynamic conference to a close.

Shastri Annual Canadian Member Council Meeting and AGM 2011

Shastri's Canadian Member Council comprised of representatives from 40 institutions of Higher learning throughout Canada, met for the Annual Shastri Canadian Member Council Meeting on June 19th at Carleton University in Ottawa. The CMC Meeting, which was followed by Shastri's Annual General Meeting, was also attended by the members of the Shastri Executive Council, Representatives from the Canadian and Indian governments, and Shastri staff from both the India and Canada office. Shastri was honoured by the presence of Minister of State for Human Resource Development (Higher Education), Government of India, Smt. Daggubati Purandeswari, who referred to the MoU signed by the Indian and Canadian Prime Ministers in July 2010 concerning cooperation in Higher Education between the two countries. She said that in this knowledge era, higher education is the best possible investment to be made in order to develop human resources. She

added that the MoU will yield a vibrant partnership between higher education institutions of both countries pursuing knowledge sharing and exchanges in the areas of undergraduate, graduate, post graduate and vocational education. In this connection, she highly commended the incessant work of Shastri in carrying forward the higher education mandates stated in the said MoU. The Minister was accompanied by Mrs. Narinder Chauhan, Deputy High Commissioner from the Indian High Commission in Ottawa. The Government of Canada funders were represented by Mr. Gerald Le Francois, International Development Project Advisor, CIDA, Marion St-Cyr Lachance, from DFAIT and Ms. Claude Bibeau, Deputy Director, International Development & Youth Division, also from DFAIT who delivered a presentation on Policies and Frameworks of Canada-India Bilateral Education Cooperation and gave an overview of DFAIT programs and funding opportunities.

At the Annual General Meeting, Shastri's Executive Council for year of 2011-2012 was appointed following the elections. Dr. Braj Sinha, Head of the Department of Religion and Culture, University of Saskatchewan assumed his position as the new Shastri President, and Dr. Ranbir Singh, Vice Chancellor, National Law University in Delhi assumed his position as Vice President/President Elect of Shastri. Dr. Biju Abraham, from the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta also assumed his position as Member-at-Large after being elected at the Indian Member Council Meeting in May 2011. Dr. Shanthi Johnson from University of Regina was elected as the new Secretary Treasurer and Dr. Bilkis Vissandjee from University of Montreal as the new Canadian Member-at-Large. Dr. Balraj Chauhan from National Law University in Lucknow India continues as a Member-at-Large.

Indian Vice-Chancellors Mini-Delegation Visits Ontario Institutions

After the conclusion of the Canada-India Education Summit, 9 Indian Vice-Chancellors visited various Universities in Ontario on June 20th and 21st to explore further collaboration and partnership opportunities. The Vice-Chancellors delegation included Dr. Ranbir Singh, National Law University, Delhi (Shastri Vice-President/President Elect), Dr. Veer Singh, NALSAR University of Law (former Shastri EC Member), Dr. Balraj Chauhan, Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow (Shastri EC Member-at-Large), Prof. Suranjan Das, University of Calcutta, Prof. A.M. Patan, Central University of Karnataka, Prof. J.A. K Tareen, Central University of Puducherry, Prof. Namdeo Gajbhiye, H.S. Gaur University, Sagar, Dr. Mohammed Miyan, University of Hyderabad and Prof. Anil Bohwmick, IIT, Patna. The delegation visited York University, Ontario College of Art and Design and University of Toronto Campuses.

Amongst the many fruitful outcomes of this delegation's visit, was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding by Vice-Chancellor Dr. Ranbir Singh on behalf of the National Law University of Delhi with Osgoode Hall Law School at York University to collaborate in a range of activities, including a student exchange program. Dean of the Osgoode Hall Law School, Dr. Lorne Sossin, stated, "We are excited about this new partnership which further deepens the Law School's engagement with India and will provide additional learning and research opportunities for students and faculty."

A New Initiative

The Shastri Indo Canadian Institute is pleased to announce a new institutional grant program for its Canadian and Indian Member Institutions, the Institutional Research Collaboration Development Grant (IRCDG).

The objective of IRCDG is to support the Institute's emerging research collaboration programs in the field of social and economic development. The program, made possible by the funding the Institute receives from the Canadian International development Agency (CIDA), is to encourage new institutional investments in this area of research. Small matching grants of up to CAD \$10,000 are available to selected member institutions prepare to invest an equivalent amount in cash to initiate and develop research projects or programs that address CIDA's development priorities, are based on bi-national collaboration, and will lead to future research in these broad areas.

- Proposed IRCDG projects must involve a new bi-national research initiative in the field of social and economic development, but they can build on existing institutional research collaboration.
- Proposed projects must demonstrate evidence of a matching cash investment by one or both of the applicants.
- Proposed IRCDG projects must specifically address one or more of the following CIDA's developmental priorities: increasing food security; improving basic education; securing the future of children and youth; stimulating sustainable economic growth; environmental sustainability (climate change, land degradation, water supply etc.); or good governance (human rights, democracy and helping to strengthen government institutions and practices). Gender equality and environmental sustainability are cross cutting themes in all of these development priorities.

The details of this grant are currently being defined and further information will soon be available on the Shastri Institute website.

Facilitating an Education Roundtable between Alberta and Maharashtra

Shastri is pleased to announce a signed agreement between the Ministry of Alberta Advanced Education and Technology and the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute for the facilitation of discussions between the province of Alberta and the State of Maharashtra. Alberta is known for its dynamism and innovation in research, technology, and education, as well as for putting into practical use all advances to enhance and enrich the lives of Albertans. From November 1st to the 3rd, 2011 Shastri will host a Roundtable in Mumbai, India with an Alberta delegation of approximately 20 representatives to discuss with Indian counterparts topics such as Life Sciences, Energy and Environment, Healthcare and Healthcare Management, and Information and Communications Technology. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Maharashtra and Alberta government will be also signed during that time to pave the path for future collaborations.

Shastri Regional Workshops

Following on the success of Saskatchewan Regional Workshop that took place at the University of Saskatchewan on October 28th and 29th 2010, was the Shastri Atlantic Canada Roundtable, on March 25th, 2011 in Halifax, Nova Scotia at St. Mary's University. Shastri Executive Director Michele Neider gave a presentation on Shastri Strategic Action plan and members dialogued on the services

and support that Shastri can provide as well as issues that is unique to Atlantic Canada. Also Janice Goguen from Atlantic Canada Opportunity Agency presented on ACOA's developments regarding their focus on India, including the designation of Education as one of the business development sectors to qualify for ACOA funding. Participants provided Shastri with feedback on how to further support its members, as well as ideas on how to proactively identify opportunities in India.

Shastri is now working on the coordination of the French Canada Regional Workshop which has been tentatively scheduled for early December 2011, details to follow.

A Luncheon with the High Commissioner of Canada to India

On June 8th, 2011 the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute and the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce, Alberta Business Council had the privilege of hosting His Excellency, Stewart Beck, High Commissioner of Canada to the Republic of India at a luncheon at the Telus Convention Centre in Calgary. Mr. Stewart Beck addressed important issues such as Canada and India negotiations on Bilateral Trade, Educational and Cultural collaborations and Economic partnerships, in his talk entitled "Canada's place in India's "now" economy; are we positioned for the "next" economy?"

Also present were the Honourable Iris Evans, Minister of International and Intergovernmental Relations from the Government of Alberta, Shastri's former President Prof. Sunaina Singh from Hyderabad and from the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce, National Director Geetha Ramesh, who also addressed the gathering and commended the High Commissioner on his outreach efforts to connect with the Indo-Canadian organizations and communities in Alberta. The High Commissioner also spoke on the great increase in student enrollment from India in Canadian Universities and other areas with great potential for Canada-India collaboration.

Mr. Stewart Beck was appointed High Commissioner-Designate to the Republic of India and Ambassador-designate to the Kingdom of Bhutan in September 2010. His background as trade commissioner makes him a strong trade-focused Canadian High Commission in India, which is needed to support bi-lateral trade and increase in the number of companies doing business in India. The High Commissioner has been working on ensuring Canada and India work together to identify core competencies of the two countries for mutual benefits and has been connecting with Indo-Canadian organizations throughout the country to achieve this objective.

Shastri Honour Roll Recipient 2011 – Dr. Stephen Inglis

Having begun his own scholarly training with the assistance of a Shastri grant and an MA from the University of Calcutta, Dr. Stephen Inglis has served the Institute for more than 30 years in various and numerous roles:

- Member Institution representative, Canadian Museum of Civilization
- Secretary, Executive Council
- Chair, India Studies Committee

- Co-chair, Committee on Restructuring of Shastri as a bi-national Institute
- Chair, Shastri 40th Anniversary Celebrations Committee

Throughout his career, Dr. Inglis has worked to bring his expertise and love of Indian culture and art to the people of Canada and to audiences around the world. His entire career has enacted Shastri's mission to foster academic and cultural exchange between India and Canada. In this connection, it is noteworthy that, in 2008, Dr. Inglis received the Canadian Museums Association's Award of Distinguished Service, which recognizes his lifetime contribution to Canadian Museums. The press release describing this honor cites Dr. Inglis' roles as Director General of Research and Collections and as Senior Curator at the Canadian Museum of Civilization, his role as adjunct Professor of Art History at Carleton University, his more than 30 years of service to the Shastri Institute, and his lectures on crafts, South Asian culture, and museology to audiences around the world. For his extensive service to and on behalf of the Shastri Institute and its goals it is Shastri's pleasure to name Dr. Stephen Inglis the 2011 Shastri Honor Roll Award Recipient.

Year of India in Canada 2011- Bringing Indian Culture to Canada

As part of the Year of India in Canada 2011 celebrations, the Indian High Commission to Canada has sponsored several world renowned artists and performers from India to tour and perform in different cities throughout Canada sharing the beauty and magic of the infinitely diverse Indian Culture. Shastri has had the privilege of being instrumental in the coordination of many of the cultural performances that have taken place in the different provinces, and will continue to do so for the upcoming events.

In February/March 2011 the global classical music icon, Maestro Amjad Ali Khan "Master of the Sarod", and his two sons Amaan and Ayaan Ali Khan performed in several cities including Ottawa, Saskatoon, Calgary, Edmonton and Montreal to full houses of adoring fans and music appreciators who came out to witness the genius of a live legend. Mr. Khan is the top Sarod player in India today.

Shastri members and partnering institutions also had the privilege of hosting the Tanushree Shankar Dance Company during the months of March and April 2011. Led by Tanushree Shankar herself, the dance group of 13 performers dazzled audiences in Ontario, Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan. This contemporary style of dance, a blend of ballet and Indian classical dance, acts as a powerful story telling vessel through which the artists communicate universal truths.

Shastri Institute and its members continue to support and take part in the Year of India 2011 Cultural celebrations.

Coming to Canada in August 2011 are:

- Kuchipudi Dance Group lead by Guru Jayarama and Vanashree Rao
- Kadamb Kathak Contemporary Dance Group of Guru Kumudini Lakhia

Shastri is also currently supporting the coordination of the Year of India in Canada 2011 Film Festivals that will be taking place in numerous Canadian cities screening Hindi and regional Indian

films sponsored and provided by the Indian High Commission in Ottawa. These Film Festivals will take place tentatively in Regina, Calgary, Montreal, Waterloo, Lethbridge, Saskatoon and Hamilton during the months of August, September and October.

For further details of the Cultural events of the Year of Canada in India please visit <http://www.hciottawa.ca>.

Shastri Grants – Upcoming Deadlines

Canadian Studies Visiting Lectureship / August 14th, 2011

India Studies Fellowships / August 15th, 2011

Faculty Mobility Program / August 23rd, 2011

Student Mobility Program / August 23rd, 2011

Lal Bahadur Shastri Student Prize / December 30th, 2011

Student Excellence Award / January 30th, 2012

Scholar Travel Subsidy (2 competitions) / November 1st, 2011 / March 1st, 2012

Canadian Membership Development Fund (2 competitions) / September 30th, 2011 / December 30th, 2011

Shastri will shortly be accepting nominations from Canadian and Indian Member Council Representatives:

Nominating an Indian Visiting Lecturer (In Canada)

Shastri Lester Pearson Memorial Lecture (In India)

Kanta Marwah Lecture Series (In Canada)

Shastri Lester Pearson Memorial Lecture (In India)