

Nucleus

SEPTEMBER 2010

Nucleus Entrepreneurs from all sectors of Ampara enjoying themselves in Jaffna and meeting Entrepreneurs there



Nucleus Entrepreneur Exchange goes North!

Implemented by NF with the support of GTZ FLICT & ProMIS Projects

Entrepreneurs from the East visited Jaffna recently under the Nucleus Entrepreneur Exchange program supported by the GTZ Facilitating Local Initiatives for Conflict Transformation Project (FLICT). The networking event with entrepreneurs from similar sectors in Jaffna served as a launching pad to introduce the Nucleus ProMIS program for promoting micro finance among marginalized persons in the North. The group from the East stayed overnight at Kilinochchi, hosted by one of their colleagues. In Jaffna they visited places of religious and cultural significance relevant to all communities. They also visited the Jaffna library and a school for Muslim children who have been resettled there. Always generous the entrepreneurs didn't forget to buy

sweets and gifts for the children. The visit to Jaffna was the most recent activity under a program that aspired to promote peace building through initiating and fostering business and social linkages between different ethnic groups and regions.

The experiences of implementing the program, the lessons learnt and impacts expected and unexpected have opened our eyes to the potential that lies in using small and medium entrepreneurs as peace builders. - Marisa Fernando, FLICT

I am extremely happy about the interaction between three communities and the exchange of business ideas - Ranjith Priyantha, Ampara

- For the whole business community this was a bridging of relationships. I am heartily happy. - Abdul Malik, Kalmunai
- The meeting was quite interesting. Interaction between the two business communities created a new relationship, not only business-wise but also for the building of a new peaceful community. We expect a lot of service from Nucleus. Keep it up. - Dr. Rajendra Prasath Shanker, Jaffna

Even though the FLICT support has now come to an end the Nucleus Foundation hopes to continue to engage these entrepreneurs and to disseminate the learning experiences from this project in other areas and regions including the North. We appreciate the support given to us by FLICT to pilot this program learn from it.

Nucleus
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 Innovative Solutions for
 Development

The Nucleus Foundation is a non-profit association working in development cooperation, providing a range of services to partner agencies throughout Sri Lanka. These solutions range from planning and executing projects, conceptualising and conducting training programmes, designing and carrying out research and monitoring and evaluation services. The Foundation was set up as the exit strategy of two longstanding German Development Cooperation (GTZ) private sector development projects and has been in operation since 2007. The Directors of the Foundation count many years of experience working in multi cultural multi national teams.

Funny or Sad?

We told our counsellor in Batticaloa that he was spending too much on refreshments for the participants of a training program, here's his response ...

"...I wish to inform you that other organizations provide them with chicken Buriyani or fried rice with desert and also participants are given transport expenses. Those who are self employed are given an allowance to cover the day's wages. This is Batticaloa Training environment..."

Is this funny or sad? Let us know what you think, Please write in with your opinion about the role of projects in the post conflict development landscape of the North & East.

Book Launch

Nucleus Entrepreneur Exchange: Building peace through economic and social integration
To be launched at the conference:

Reflections 2010: Managing Diversity, Reconciliation & Development, a conference organised by FLICT at the Hotel Galadari in Colombo on 1st November 2010.

to register please visit www.reflect2010.com

those who are interested in obtaining the document are invited to write in...

Nucleus ProMIS News...

Pot makers get brand new ideas

Pottery is an age-old income generation activity for most of the women of Periya Porathivu in Batticaloa. For many women it is the only way to run their lives and educate their children, for others it is an additional source of income. As in many rural businesses, the middlemen have a strong hand on deciding the income of the poor families of Periya Porathivu. During some seasons, all the hard work and time end with only pain without any gain.

Nucleus started its intervention by organizing the pottery community members into Nucleus Groups, they were empowered through a series of counseling sessions and training on social empowerment. A recent visit undertaken in September to Rakmale and Helinavela villages in Kurunagala shows the level of courage and interest to work on their own. 24 members of the pottery community joined in this exposure visit. Among the many learning points were, new technology pottery Kiln, low cost and environment friendly burning methods and modern marketing techniques.

Time is Money



Time is money, but the members of the tailoring Nucleus of Valaichchenai have never calculated the value of time. 19 members participated in the one day training program on Social Empowerment held in August at Social Care Service Centre of Valaichchenai, DS office. The Nucleus Counsellors in Batticaloa facilitated the training. Participants were able to get to know one another via an introductory game, calculate the value of their time, think out of the box by practicing different games and identify alternative sources of income that can be easily started during the 'off seasons'.

Nucleus Research

EMPLOYMENT NEEDS ANALYSIS OF THE CONSTRUCTION SECTOR IN BATTICALOA

Prepared for: GTZ and the Chamber of Construction Industry in Sri Lanka
Prepared by: The Nucleus Foundation
Date: 5 October 2010



Research is an area that NF has increasingly been requested to take up by various clients. In addition to two ongoing projects on behalf of the European Union on Food Security and Organizational Development Needs analysis, NF recently completed an assignment for GTZ and the Chamber of Construction Industry identifying the employment needs of the construction sector in Batticaloa.

The research team visited 97 construction companies and held discussion with Key informants including the Road Development Authority and the Batticaloa Municipal Council. The field work and report were completed within a short time span of two weeks, a feat deemed impossible at the onset by some.

The findings of the survey indicates that there is much potential for youth for gaining employment in the construction trade and the demand for traditional trades like carpentry and masonry remains high. The construction industry in Batticaloa faces competition from the South and many of the major development works are implemented by companies from outside of Batticaloa with even labour being brought in from the South.

An interesting findings was that those in Batticaloa were expecting higher salaries in line with the payments made in the aftermath of the tsunami where they were paid above market rates by donors and projects. See also our story about the *Batticaloa training environment* in the box above - Funny or Sad?

Introducing

Nucleus Services

A division of The Nucleus Foundation providing cost effective services to Agencies & Enterprises across Sri Lanka

NF provides the following services islandwide with the same commitment, dedication & professionalism that characterises our development interventions...

- research & surveys
- reporting & photo/ video documentaries
- partner & process audits
- legal services
- accounting services
- payroll services & EPF /ETF
- marketing support
- events, trade fairs & exhibitions
- website development
- training on organisational development, management, entrepreneurship and a range of other programmes
- business counselling
- lobby & advocacy support
- technical consultancies
- supporting access to credit and financial services
- organising field visits and study tours and many other activities are planned for the next days.

If you are an agency or enterprise looking for cost effective solutions that will save you time and energy, contact us today.

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