

Dear Sietar members and supporters,

A very happy new year to all of you!

The year 2011 saw a lot of activity in Sietar India. We started 2011 with our fourth Annual conference in Chennai on the theme Intercultural solutions for a sustainable world. Thanks to all of you, it was a great success from the start to the finish with our opening and closing keynote speakers being none other than Dr. Devdatt Pattnaik and Padmashri Alarmel Valli.

UPDATES

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS – As we are updating our database, we request all members to please complete and send in the attached Membership Form with your Annual Renewal Fee or New Membership fee as applicable. Please note that Annual Membership Fees received from New Members as well as all Renewals would be valid up to March 2013. If you join or renew your membership now you get an extra month's benefit. **Click here** for a direct link to the website with our membership form. Please do confirm your membership by renewing if you have not already.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS - Post the conference, the Sietar team held a retreat and renewed the board. We are happy and proud to announce that we have two dynamic new board members – Jill Sheldekar from Pune and Line Mark Rugholt from Delhi. The Sietar board now comprises of 7 members, each with a well defined portfolio.

ROUNDTABLES ON EXPAT MANAGEMENT - In the latter part of the year, Sietar Chennai and Sietar Pune organized Expat Management round tables in collaboration with Crown Relocations. With this we have had three Roundtables beginning with Mumbai in 2010. All three events had a wonderful turnout and were very well appreciated and generated a lot of interest.

LEARNING EVENTS - Mumbai had a fabulous learning event on the topic "Using Online Tools to Create More Targeted Virtual or Live Intercultural Training" by guest speaker Shelley Morrison. She very generously made time for this on her short visit from the United States, despite a hectic training schedule. The objective of this very interactive presentation was to demonstrate how web-based tools such as Globesmart, by Aperian Global, and similar tools, which have intercultural profile assessments can be used to: 1) Move beyond cultural generalizations and assumptions (which can be incorrect for an individual), 2) Create more targeted and specific training and consulting programs and 3) Improve communication between working individuals and teams with simple customized role plays.

Thank you Shelley! Thank you Goethe Institute for hosting the event! And a big thank you to Heather Robinson for initiating this!

UPCOMING ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEXT ANNUAL CONFERENCE - We also have some exciting news for you. Our next conference theme, date and venue have been decided. We are spreading the Sietar magic to Mumbai on February 2nd and 3rd 2012. The venue is the prestigious Y.B Chavan Center in South Mumbai and the theme is "From Internationalization to Intercultural Competence". The call for proposals is on our website. Spread the word and send in your proposal for presenting at the conference. Remember, the deadline for submission of proposals is May 1, 2012.

Looking forward to an event filled 2012 and hoping to see more of you at our events and conference.

Best Wishes,
The Sietar India Team



Sunita Nichani

PRESIDENT



Sreemathi Ramnath

SECRETARY



Guillaume Gevrey

TREASURER



Lakshmi Kumar



Line Mark Rugholt



Mala Malkani



Jill Sheldekar