

CSEND DIALOGUE FORUM



Monday, the 20th of October 2008 from 6.30 to 8.00 pm

Creating Sustainable Decent Work Conditions for the Informal Sector workers in India



In India, although there are about 400 million informal sector service providers, they are fragmented, hard to find, of unreliable quality, untrained and uncertified. LabourNet, set up in 2005, is an innovative social enterprise that is leveraging the capacity of informal sector micro entrepreneurs (e.g. construction workers, domestic workers, drivers, gardeners etc).

The aim of LabourNet is to provide a technology enabled exchange for matching demand and supply. This entire system of searching for a particular service by the client is made possible by a web enabled application supported by a call centre that matches the customers' service needs with the labour skill set that is available in a particular locality. In addition, LabourNet will provide mechanisms for skills up-grading, ratings and certifications while increasing access to employment and benefits such as social protection measures.

LabourNet has already registered over 5300 small enterprise profiles and has a reach of close to 20,000 service providers (together referred to as MSEs) in Bangalore. Over the next five years, the network will expand to India's seven most populous cities, linking over one million informal service providers to approximately two million paying clients.

LabourNet is a livelihood initiative of MAYA (Movement for Alternatives and Youth Awareness), a non-governmental organization that has been active in Bangalore for the last 19 years and working to create an empowered and equitable society. This bold initiative offers a promising market oriented approach to provide decent work conditions to the informal sector workers. Its IT platform based approach makes such effort scaleable!

Speaker

Social Entrepreneurship in Action

JP Solomon, is an Ashoka fellow and is the Founder and CEO of MAYA. He has worked in the development sector for 20 years. He has a Mechanical engineering background and has earlier worked in the corporate sector in the automobile and mechanical engineering industries and later with an electro-chemical engineering firm making Printed Circuit Boards. He went to Germany and worked with an international youth organization in Europe and has worked with youth groups in Asia, Latin America and Africa. He lives with his family in Bangalore, India.

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Dialogue Partner/Discussant: Implications to Social Systems and Change

Professor Raymond Saner is the Professor for Organisation and International Management at Basle University. His recent project leadership responsibilities have included the development of management training centres in Russia, China and India. He has recently conducted a study which aim is to improve skill levels, and thereby employability qualification of semi-skilled workers from the South in developed countries

Subsequent to Mr Salomo's presentation, Professor Saner will dialogue with Mr Salomo on the managing tools for developing sustainable training centre in the South.

Organisers:

Prof. Lichia Yiu, the Centre for Socio-Eco-Nomic Development (CSEND)

Prof. Beat Bürgenmeier, Political Economy Department, the University of Geneva

Coordinator:

Nicolas Velebit, MA in I.R., HEI and associate researcher at CSEND

Free of Charge

Uni-Mail, Room M 2150

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