

COMPLETION OF CONSULTANCY PROJECT ON CAPACITY BUILDING FOR DECENTRALIZATION IN MYANMAR

The Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education, Jain University had signed an MoU with the Forum of Federations (The Global Network on Federalism and Decentralized Governance) to collaborate in a programme on Capacity Building for Decentralization in Myanmar. The Forum of Federations is based in Canada and India is a partner member of the forum. The project involved a series of Capacity Building Workshops to be held at Myanmar for Political Leaders, Parliamentarians, Civil Servants, Representatives of Civil Society Organizations and Journalists. Dr. Sandeep Shastri, Pro Vice Chancellor, Jain University was the Chief Consultant for the Project and the Centre provided the resource support for workshop material development. The first two workshops were held in Yangon the capital of Myanmar in November 2012. The next two workshops in the series were held in Taunggyi, in Shan State of Myanmar from 28 - 30 January 2013 and at Yangon from 31 January - 2 February 2013. Dr. Sandeep Shastri was the Chief Resource Person at the workshops which were attended by Senior Government Ministers, Civil Servants, Representatives of Major Political Parties and Journalists.

The workshops covered a wide range of themes which included an overview of Federalism/ Decentralization, Unity and Diversity issues in Federal / Decentralized Systems, Constitutional provisions to promote Federalism / Decentralization, Local Government and Federalism / Decentralization. Each day concluded with a group discussion in which participants reflected on the learnings from global experiences and its relevance for Myanmar. All workshops had translations of presentations into Myanmar to facilitate a more meaningful dialogue.

The participants expressed great satisfaction at the learnings from the workshop and hoped that such workshops would be held at more locations in the country.



Dr. Sandeep Shastri making a point at the Yangon workshop



Dr. Sandeep Shastri (extreme right) with the other Resource Persons, Mr. Felix Knuepling from the Forum of Federations and Dr. Indraneel Datta from the Habibe Centre, Indonesia



The Resource Persons with participants representing Ethnic Minority Groups



Dr. Sandeep Shastri's presentation being translated