

JAIN UNIVERSITY SIGNS A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH FORUM OF FEDERATIONS FOR ITS CAPACITY BUILDING FOR DEMOCRATIC DECENTRALIZATION PROGRAMME IN MYANMAR

Jain University is privileged to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Forum of Federations – The Global Network on Federalism and Decentralized Governance (of which the Government of India with seven other nations are stakeholders) to provide consultancy for its capacity building for democratic decentralization in Myanmar. The MOU initially provides for assisting in conducting 4 training sessions of three days each for political leaders, parliamentarians, civil society representatives and media personnel on practice of democracy and power sharing. The first two training sessions were held from 14th November to 22nd November 2012 in Yangon.

The Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CERSSE) of Jain University provided support in designing the programme and Dr. Sandeep Shastri, Pro Vice Chancellor of Jain University and Director of CERSSE was the Chief Resource Person who coordinated the team that conducted the programme.



Dr. Sandeep Shastri (sitting 4th from left) with other resource persons and participants at the Workshop

On the sidelines of the workshop, Dr. Sandeep Shastri participated in two other events during his stay at Yangon. He was one of the speakers at a Symposium on '**Raising Federalism Awareness**' at the Myanmar Peace Centre on 16th November 2012. More than 200 delegates participated in the symposium. The Myanmar Peace Centre has been established with support from the European Union to provide a platform for peace activists in Myanmar.



Dr. Sandeep Shastri speaking at the Myanmar Peace Centre

The other public event was a panel discussion on '**Democratization, Decentralization and Federalism**' at HOME – House of Media and Entertainment, held on 19th November 2012. This Centre was established by Mr. Zaraganar, a popular comedian, film maker and film actor from Myanmar who is one of the most popular satirist's in the country. HOME is a training centre for those involved in civic and media engagement. It attract a large number of youth engaged in community activity.



Dr. Sandeep Shastri (sitting second from left) with some of the activists at HOME, Myanmar