

CASTME Asia: Report of Activities 2006-07

1. Membership Drive

Attempts were made to increase the membership of CASTME Asia during the financial year 2006-07. Five new members were added during this period.

2. Printing and Distribution of CASTME Journal

CASTME-Asia has undertaken the responsibility of printing and distributing CASTME journal. During the period of the report one journal (Vol. 26, Nos. 1) was printed and sent to members in Asia, Africa, America and Europe.

3. Networking

Networking among the members of CASTME–Asia has been going on regularly from the desk of Secretary in Mumbai. All the members are kept informed about the conferences, useful events and articles.

4. CASTME Awards

Efforts are made to popularize the award scheme among the teachers in Asian commonwealth countries through personal contacts and e-mail messages. As a result, a large number of entries have been sent to CASTME from Asian countries during the period of the report. Some entries were selected for the award.

5. Teachers' International Exchanges

In collaboration with the League for the Exchange of Commonwealth Teachers (LECT), London and the Institute for Oriental Study, (IOS), Thane, India CASTME-Asia has initiated teachers' exchange programme between India and UK. Under this scheme 36 teachers from UK visited Mumbai in the month of February 2007. In return five teachers from India visited West Sussex, UK in October 2006. These exchanges have proved useful in sharing ideas and experiences among practising teachers from both the countries.

6. Students' International Exchanges

Encouraged by the response received to teachers' exchange programme CASTME-Asia in collaboration with LECT and IOS has initiated visit of Indian students to UK. Under this scheme the first team of 15 students visited Oxford, Cambridge and London in May 2006. The second visit of Indian students was arranged from May 6 to 16, 2007. The team consisted of 13 students and two teachers. They had an opportunity to see museums, libraries and colleges in Oxford, Cambridge and London. Lynne Symonds (Chair, CASTME) and Lyn Haynes (Honorary Secretary, CASTME) made it a point to meet the students and interact with them.

7. Participation in International Events

Sudhakar Agarkar, Secretary CASTME-Asia participated in the Commonwealth Foundation workshop on Preparing for Change held at Seychelles in October 2006. He was invited to attend the EASA/Kenton Conference on Education beyond the Boundaries held at Wilderness, South Africa in November 2006. On behalf of CASTME-Asia Dr. Agarkar also participated in the international event during the Conference of the Association for Science Education (ASE) held at Birmingham in January 2007. In all these events Dr. Agarkar emphasized the role of CASTME in generating a scientifically and technologically literate world and appealed the academicians from other countries for collaboration.

Appeal

The programme of international exchange of teachers and students has now taken a good shape. I would like to appeal all the members of CASTME to spare their time and interact with teachers and students. The next visit of Indian teachers to Birmingham and London is scheduled from November 11 to 21, 2007 while the next visit of Indian students to Oxford, Cambridge and London is scheduled from May 25 to June 4, 2008.

Prof Sudhakar Agakar
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