

**Activity Report of**

**Institute of International  
Social Development,  
New York**

**For the period  
2000-2006**

## **Year 2006**

### **An interactive session on Values and Business**

The Values and Business Working Group of the NGO Committee Spirituality, Values and Global Concerns in association with the Global Compact organized Session I of an interactive discussion on the principles and best practices of 'Achieving Values, Corporate Citizenship and the Millennium Development Goals through Global Compact. This was held on October 30, 2006 at the Church Center, United Nations. Panelist Shomik Chaudhuri presented a comprehensive idea about the issues under consideration and was benchmarked by the attending audience and speakers.

### **Indian Classical Dance at ISKCON Temple in Brooklyn, New York on Janmastami**

Vaishali Chaudhuri and her students presented an evening of Indian Classical Dance at the ISKCON Temple at Brooklyn, New York on 'Janmastami' Day on August 16, 2006. The annual celebrations of Lord Krishna's birthday had prayers and events till midnight with thousands of attending devotees.

### **Informal Interactive Hearings of the General Assembly with Civil Society and the Private Sector on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001 – 2010. (Second session: Unleashing entrepreneurship to end poverty in the Least Developed Countries)**

Mr. Shomik Chaudhuri presented the Institute's recommendations on the issue under discussion at the meeting on June 22, 2006 at the ECOSOC Chambers, UN Headquarters, and also interjected later to speak about the model of micro-credit pursued by the Institute through projects in the tribal areas of India. It was highly acclaimed by the diplomats, civil society representatives and ministers of different countries.

### **Exhibition of Indian Handicrafts at the United Nations meeting:**

An exhibition of Indian Handicrafts was presented by the Institute in association with Values and Business Working Group Workshop with Helena Steiner Hornsytyn on April 28 at the Church Center of the United Nations. This was organized by Sharon Hamilton, Additional UN Representative of the Institute in New York.

### **NGO FORUM, 6-7 April 2006/ 20-21 April 2006; 2006 HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF ECOSOC**

Mr. Shomik Chaudhuri, UN Representative, presented the institute's paper on the theme of the forum "Creating an environment at the national and international levels, conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development". The recommendations were taken as part of the draft output of the session.

### **Exhibition of Indian Handicrafts at the UN Secretariat (South) Lobby**

The Institute organized an exhibition of Indian Handicrafts entitled 'Path to Attaining the MDG's through Handicraft' at the South Lobby of the UN Secretariat in association with UNSRC Friendship Club from March 27 to April 7, 2006. This showcased Indian Handicrafts among all the UN diplomats and eminent visitors to the UN during this period.

### **Flower Festival at the United Nations Secretariat South Lobby:**

A Flower Festival was organized at the UN Secretariat South Lobby from March 20 to 23, 2006 by the U.N.S.R.C. Friendship Club with the support of Consulate General Japan in New York, Institute of International Social Development, Institute for the Development of Education, Arts & Leisure; United Nations Committee for Spirituality, Values & Global Concerns (Subcommittee Values & Business). While Sharon Hamilton coordinated the event, Shomik Chaudhuri, UN Representative, was the keynote speaker. His speech on the relation of flower to spirituality was acclaimed by the attending diplomats and members of the civil society.

### **Indian Classical Dance presented at ISKCON Temple at Second Avenue, Manhattan New York on March 3, 2006.**

Vaishali Chaudhuri, the Additional UN Representative of IISD, and the Director, Arts & Culture of New York branch, presented Indian Classical Dance at the historic temple of ISKCON in Manhattan.

### **Exhibition of pashmina shawls and silk scarves at the Sushiden Restaurant Storefront Window near Rockefeller Center in Manhattan, New York from February 17 to March 20, 2006**

An exhibition was organized by Sharon Hamilton and Nana Onishi with sample sale at the famous Sushiden Restaurant in Manhattan from February 17 to March 20, 2006. The exhibition showcased hand-woven pashmina shawls and silk scarves from India. The exhibition received wide publicity among the Indian American and Japanese media.

### **Exhibition of handicrafts at the Onishi Gallery on January 7, 2006**

An exhibition of Indian Handicrafts was on display on January 7, 2006 at the Onishi Gallery, a Japanese gallery in Chelsea in Manhattan, New York. It was organized by the Additional UN Representative, Sharon Hamilton in association with Nana Onishi, Director of the gallery.

## **Year 2005**

### **Millennium Development Goals presentation for the United Nations**

Mr. Shomik Chaudhuri of the Institute was requested by Dr. Hanifa Mezoui, Chief of the NGO Section, DESA, United Nations, to design a power-point presentation on 'Report on the survey-questionnaire' relating to the Millennium Development Goals based on responses from NGOs, national ECOSOC bodies, and universities from around the world. He was also asked to edit films involving celebrities like Michael Douglas and Vijay Amritraj who spoke on the Millennium Development Goals. This film is also a part of the global campaign on the Millennium Development Goals. In the power-point presentations, the Institute's international body was recognized as an ideal NGO from the South Block.

### **Handicraft Items presented to Mayor Michael Bloomberg**

The Institute presented New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg with a selection of Indian Handicrafts gift items in July 2005. The Mayor appreciated the gesture and the exquisite nature of the items through a letter on a later date.

### **Side Event at the Dag Hammarskjold Library Auditorium**

The Institute organized a side event during the on-going ECOSOC High-Level Segment Meeting on ‘Working the Millennium Development Goals at the Local Level and in the Family’ at the Dag Hammarskjold Library Auditorium at the United Nations Headquarters in New York on July 1. The event presented Indian Classical Dance performance by Vaishali Chaudhuri, Director, Arts and Culture, of the Institute. Dr. Hanifa Mezoui, Chief, NGO Section, DESA, United Nations spoke on the importance of arts and culture in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The main aspect of the event was a couple of multimedia presentations by the Institute entitled ‘Activities of the Institute on the screen of the MDGs’ and ‘Handicrafts of India – Origins and Traditions’.

### **‘An Afternoon of Indian Culture and Tradition’**

The Institute also organized a special program entitled ‘An Afternoon of Indian Culture and Tradition’ at the Visitor’s Lobby Exhibition Center of the United Nations on May 26<sup>th</sup>. The event had an Indian Classical Dance performance by Vaishali Chaudhuri, and a live demonstration of Indian Minakari handicraft work by Deepak Sankit, an artisan from India. The specialty, history, and diversity of Indian handicrafts were discussed by Mr. Shomik Chaudhuri, Vice President and Ms Rajyashree Chaudhuri, Secretary General.

### **Church Center and other Exhibitions**

The Institute in New York also organized numerous other exhibitions at the Church Center of the United Nations on May 27<sup>th</sup>, Jaipur Indian Restaurant in Manhattan in June, among others.

### **Handicrafts given as gifts**

**Distribution of Handicraft gift items** to the High-Level Officials at the Round Table of Ministerial Breakfast on July 1, 2005 ensured the Institute’s endeavor to promote Indian traditional handicrafts at the high-level global community and reach the heads of national policy-making more personally.

### **Exhibition of Indian Handicrafts at the United Nations (Visitors’ Lobby) from May 16<sup>th</sup> to July 29, 2005**

Our Institute thought of reaching the 191 member Nations by participating in an exhibition at the UN where the decision-makers of member states would be present during major UN sessions.

**The Forum for Indigenous People in May, 2005** became the right forum thematically for the institute to launch the promotion of Indian traditional goods at the UN. While this Forum was attended by leaders of civil societies and the diplomatic world, the subsequent UN Meeting attracted political and administrative Heads of States to come to the UN till 5th June, 2005.

The exhibition lasted till the end of July, 2005 and exposed the items to delegates of a series of other issue-based UN conferences that took place during that time. This was the first time that Indian Handicrafts were exposed to the officials and visitors to the United Nations.

### **NGO Forum of the 2005 High Level Segment of ECOSOC**

Mr. Shomik Chaudhuri, Vice President, attended the ‘**NGO Forum of the 2005 High Level Segment of ECOSOC**’ on the theme “**Achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, as well as implementing the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits: progress made,**

**challenges and opportunities”** at the ECOSOC Chambers of the UN on March 10, 2005. Mr. Chaudhuri made recommendations at the forum (which was webcast all over the world) on behalf of the Institute, which were drafted as part of the final Report.

The Recommendations of the Institute were published as a part of the **Report of the Substantive Session of 2005** held in New York, from 27 June-27 July 2005, as part of Item 2 of the provisional agenda.

### **PREPARATIONS FOR THE FORTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

9 Feb – 18 Feb, 2005

Mr. Shomik Chaudhuri, Vice President, attended the Conference as an observer.

## **Year 2004**

### **Conference on “Healing the World: The Ethical dimension of globalization and interdependence in the age of terror”**

Mr. Shomik Chaudhuri attended the conference held in New York on September 10, 2004, and also submitted an essay entitled “Pathways to Peace”, written by him, to the NGO Section of the ECOSOC.

### **57th Annual DPI/NGO Conference on ‘Millennium Development Goals: Civil Society Takes Action’**

The UN Representative Shomik Chaudhuri, attended the Conference held from 8 to 10 September 2004 and also submitted an essay entitled “Traditional Wisdom: Pathway to Peace, Prosperity and Fraternity”, written by him, to the NGO Section of the ECOSOC.

### **\*\*Forum in Preparation of the 2004 High Level Segment of ECOSOC\*\***

Mr. Shomik Chaudhuri and Ms. Vaishali Chaudhuri, the UN and Additional UN Representatives respectively, attended the ‘Forum in Preparation of the 2004 High Level Segment of ECOSOC’ on the theme “**Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010**” at the ECOSOC Chambers of the UN on March 18, 2004. Mr. Chaudhuri made recommendations at the forum (which was web cast all over the world) on behalf of the Institute, which were drafted as part of the final Report.

The Recommendations of the Institute were published as a part of the Report of the **Substantive session of 2004** held in New York, from 28 June-23 July 2004, as part of Item 2 of the provisional agenda.

## **Year 2003**

### **56<sup>th</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference on “Human Security and Dignity: Fulfilling the promise of the United Nations”**

The UN Representative Shomik Chaudhuri attended the Conference as an observer from September 8 to 10, 2003 at the UN Headquarters in New York.

### **COMMISSION ON STATUS OF WOMEN - 47TH SESSION**

A 2 – member delegation from our Institute attended the 47th session of the Commission on Status of Women held at the UN Headquarters in New York, U.S.A., from March 3rd 2003 to March 14th 2003.

## **Year 2002**

### **55<sup>th</sup> Annual DPI/NGO Conference on “Rebuilding Societies emerging from Conflict: A shared responsibility”**

The UN Representative Shomik Chaudhuri, the Additional UN Representative Vaishali Chaudhuri and Board Member Swapna Chaudhuri attended the Conference as observers from September 9 to 11, 2002 at the UN Headquarters in New York.

### **Commission on Sustainable Development acting as the preparatory committee for the World Summit on Sustainable Development, third session**

The conference held from 25 March to 5 April 2002 was attended by UN Representative Shomik Chaudhuri, UN Additional Representative Vaishali Chaudhuri and Board Member Swapna Chaudhuri as observers.

### **Commission on the Status of Women, forty-sixth session**

The conference held from March 4 to 15, 2002 was attended by UN Representative Shomik Chaudhuri as observer.

## **Year 2001**

### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY SPECIAL SESSION ON CHILDREN – SECOND SUBSTANTIVE SESSION**

The Institute’s representation was made by Mr. Shomik Chaudhuri, UN Representative who attended the session from January 29 to February 2, 2001. Other than being an observer, he participated in the side events and shared the experiences with other delegates. The event details were sent to the institute’s headquarters.

### **UN SPECIAL SESSION ON HIV/AIDS**

A three-member delegation participated in the SPECIAL SESSION on HIV/AIDS at the UN Headquarters at New York, USA, from June 25 to 27, 2001. Besides being observers in the main session, the delegates actively participated in the various side events organized by NGOs and Foundations. The members included Mr. Shomik Chaudhuri, UN Representative; Ms.

Rajyashree Chaudhuri, Secretary General; and Vaishali Chaudhuri, Additional UN Representative.

## **Year 2000**

### **53rd Annual DPI/NGO Conference “Global Solidarity The Way to Peace and International Cooperation”**

The DPI/NGO Conference, held in the UN Headquarters, from August 28-30, 2000, was attended by the Institute’s Vice President, Mr. Shomik Chaudhuri. He was an observer for the various plenary and workshop sessions during the Conference.

### **The Millennium World Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders**

The Millennium World Peace Summit held at the United Nations and the Waldorf Astoria, New York, from August 28-31, 2000, was also attended by Mr. Shomik Chaudhuri, Vice President, in parts with the DPI/NGO Conference. The information gained from attending the conferences, was sent to the Institute for awareness purposes.

### **SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON CHILDREN – Preparatory Committee - Second Substantive Session**

The UN Representative, Mr. Shomik Chaudhuri, attended the Special Session of the General Assembly on Children that was held from January 29 to February 2, 2001 at the United Nations as an observer. The information and the knowledge that was gained from the Session, was sent to the Institute’s headquarters for consideration, adoption and implementation.

### **FORTY-FIFTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

The UN Representative, Mr. Shomik Chaudhuri, attended the forty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women from March 6 to 16, 2001 at the United Nations as an observer. The papers and information gathered from the Session was sent to the Institute for awareness generation and for record.

### **‘Asian NGOs’ response to Sustainable Development of African Societies’**

A report by Dr. Yukio Kamino, International Affairs Division, OISCA, Japan, for United Nations NGO Section: The Institute contributed to the above-mentioned report by Dr. Yukio Kamino of OISCA for the UN NGO Section in March 2001. Dr. Kamino’s report to the NGO section contained the excerpts from the Institute’s recommendations that were submitted by Mr. Shomik Chaudhuri, UN Representative, after consultations and inputs from the Institute’s international headquarters in Calcutta, India.