

Knowledge Exchange Expedition

-Get a glimpse on the latest news from the Knowledge Exchange Expedition-

A week to meet Indian players in the field of social innovation

The advantage of the close partnership between swissnex India and oikos is the opportunity to meet twice more players in the field of sustainability with whom it could be interesting to collaborate with and get inspiration from.

swissnex India is supporting the establishment of a Winter School Indo-Swiss Social Innovation Camp (INSSINC) in India initiated by professors from EPFL. The goal of this program are as follows: participants address problem statements issued by Indian NGOs and work in cross-cultural and interdisciplinary teams (students from Indian and Swiss institutions specialized in engineering, social sciences and design). At the end, participants will add a layer of social impact in their education. To identify potential partners meetings have been organized with different players in the field.

This Winter School is very much aligned with the oikos culture and values. Thus, oikos might promote it within its Swiss students' network when the time comes.

Find below the institutions met during that week and who are among the main players in the field of social innovation in Bangalore, India. They all share similar values as oikos and could be useful to contact for some local/international projects for instance.

- Ashoka South Asia

Ashoka is the one of the largest networks of social entrepreneurs worldwide (3,000+ Ashoka Fellows in 70 countries) creating large-scale impact through new innovations solving social problems. In India, the 350+ fellows play a unique role in integrating the emerging social sector in South Asia. Added to the fellows, they accompany children to take leadership so they can become change makers. Ashoka's moto: "Everyone is a change maker".

Met with Sunish Jauhari, India Leader & Archana Sinha, Change Leader Health and Nutrition Initiative.

More about their philosophy & activities: <http://india.ashoka.org>

- Daily Dump

Daily Dump brings together design thinking, traditional pottery and the science of composting to develop over 50 aesthetic products and services that enable urban Indians to compost their waste at home. More than just developing a new product, Daily Dump is about putting into practice a specific thinking process approach in the field of sustainability: observe the environment around, understand the needs, provide a designed solution, keep adapting to the needs and modify the solution created throughout time.

Met with Poonam Bir Kasturi, founder and India Social entrepreneur of the year 2015 from the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship & Vinita, Research Lead.

More about their philosophy & activities: <http://www.dailydump.org/>

- Reap Benefit

Reap Benefit is enabling children to influence their environment through participatory problem-solving methodologies based on their schools' and students' environmental needs and concerns. Reap Benefit is creating a new method of environmental education for children and youth by merging theory and practice, instilling the empathy, knowledge, skills, and experiences to identify and solve environmental problems. It runs its programs at over a 1000 schools in Bangalore. Their thinking process approach follows the DISC framework: Discover and Investigate (problem), Solution (develop prototypes or ways to raise awareness), Communicate (Impact) and then ask for feedback from the crowd to improve their solution.

The organization being 6 years old, some of the first solve ninjas (young students part of Reap Benefit's program) are now nominated in same prize categories as the Reap Benefit founders. Some are also now part of Ashoka Youth Venture Program.

Met with the co-founder Kuldeep Dantewadia who is an Ashoka Fellow.

More about their philosophy & activities: <http://www.reapbenefit.org/>

- **Social Alpha**

Social Alpha combines 125 years of Tata Trusts' grassroots experience, with experimental thinking, for addressing the strategic and executional needs of social entrepreneurs. It is evolutionary ecosystem, created to bridge the gap in the Indian social entrepreneurial landscape through interventions at every stage of the start-up journey. They cater the untapped need for enabling high-risk, high-impact technological interventions that have the potential for causing disruptive and irreversible impact. For instance, Help Us Green, Indian start-up from an oikos Alumnus, has been supported by Social Alpha.

Met with Srikanth Prabhu, Portfolio and Innovation (also former president of Vikasana, The social impact club of IIMB) & Aathira Jayaraj, Partnerships & Alliances.

More about their philosophy & activities: <http://www.socialalpha.in/>

- **Yunus Social Business Funds Bangalore**

YSBFB art of Yunus Social Business Global Initiatives, co-founded by Nobel laureate Muhammed Yunus. YSBFB is committed to fund and support businesses that are solving human problems. With specific focus in housing, healthcare, education and agriculture. YSB's mission is to promote social business as a sustainable alternative to long-term aid, bridging the gap between business and philanthropy.

Met with Priya Shah, Senior Portfolio Manager.

More about their philosophy & activities: <http://bangalore.yunussb.com>

- **SELCO foundation**

Founded by Harish Hande, SELCO Foundation strives to inspire and support champions of sustainability. It invests in disruptive ideas and implementing replicable interventions. The foundation is focused on social innovation, ecosystem building and enterprise incubation in the field of sustainable energy. It has developed a specific thinking process approach combining financial, social and technological aspects of a challenge/solution.

More about their philosophy & activities: <http://selcofoundation.org/>

Met with Harish Hande, Managing Director, Ashoka Fellow & winners of several awards: Social Entrepreneur of the Year 2007 by the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship; 2011 Ramon Magsaysay Award; 2018 Skoll award for Social entrepreneurship. In 2008, India Today named him one of the 50 pioneers of change in India.

- **Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (Academic institution)**

IIM B is a leading Business School in India. NSRCEL located at IIM brings together start-ups, co-working ventures, industry mentors, eminent academicians and researchers. Promising early stage ventures get access to seed funding and distinguished mentors with years of industry experience. 'NSRCEL Social' plans to leverage its experience in nurturing early stage ventures to build successful social ventures capable of delivering impact.

Met with Prof Bhagavatula (Head NSRCEL); Prof Mukherji (Chair Centre for Teaching and Learning and expert in social innovation who has already collaborated with oikos in the past); Anuradha Shukla from Office of International Affairs.

More about their philosophy & activities: <http://www.nsrcele.org>

After meeting all those players active in the field of social innovation in India, the goal is to determine to what extent it could be interesting to collaborate with them and for what purpose. Many leads can be explored according to their needs and oikos'. In any case, partners to bring credibility to local, cross chapters & international projects.

Daily Dump, Reap Benefit and SELCO foundation work on sustainability-related issues with a specific and inspiring thinking process approach they have developed within them after observing their environment. Those thinking process approaches are thus to be understood and appropriated by the youth who is to become tomorrow's responsible leaders. It could

inspire oikos members as well as alumni and help redefine some of the oikos international processes.

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