

AIAT-Newsletter 2019



In 2019 we celebrated Ayudha Pooja. A very good day to say THANK YOU to everyone and everything.

*Dear friends, sponsors and supporters
of vocational training at
Auroville Institute of Applied Technology/AIAT*

A hearty welcome to our annual report 2019 which brings you new developments and photos from AIAT. Once again, we share with you some of the exciting, inspiring, grateful, hopeful and challenging moments of our work in South India. Make a cup of tea, relax and let yourself be touched.

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1. "Dual System of Training" - DST is successful!

- Cheers - the number of students is raising – with consequences



In this year 160 students have enrolled for the Dual System of Training ', so that AIAT is currently training about 180 students. This is a great success for us – on the one hand. On the other hand, we now have to deal with even



more under-performing students than ever before. Now more parents are sending their boys for skill training to AIAT, who otherwise would have remained unskilled after the 8th or 10th grade as they

could not afford to pay for further education. The possibility of the company scholarship in the 'Dual System of Training' lured them out of this vicious circle.



- 9 partner companies and the “ravages of time”

By signing of MOU’s with the companies Manatec, Lenovo and Metalscope from Pondicherry, AIAT has now been able to win a total of 9 partner companies for the dual system of training. You remember? The students work 4-5 months/year in the companies and receive a stipend of 15000 to 25000 Rs. for their training time in the company. In return they should pay AIAT tuition fees, books, stationery, uniforms and travel expenses. This is a win-win situation for students, families, companies and schools! Unfortunately, because the recession economic situation in India has also worsened so that some companies (especially the car suppliers) are taking a smaller number of trainees as signed in the MOU or do not take at all. Doing what? Where should we find a company replacement so quickly – which is urgently necessary, because the financial possibilities of these families depend on the opportunity that their sons get a stipend to finance the training. We are looking for solutions.

MOU with Lenovo company for the training in DST of 30 students in ‘Information and Communication Technology and Electronics.

Mr. Shirkant, head of Lenovo Company and L. Chandra exchange the documents.



- Extension of the electrician's workshop – a long-held wish



Here the demand for trained electricians, especially in the solar energy sector, for electric scooters and charging stations is high. So far, our training capacity has only been sufficient for government-sponsored 3-6-month courses without any recognized certificate. Thanks to a generous donation from the German Consulate in Chennai we are currently extending our

electricians' workshop and will be able to offer the government-approved 2-year course under DST in 2020, provided we can also organize funds to finance the equipment. Of course, we want to come closer to our goal of improving AIAT's economic situation in the direction of sustainability but also to empower more young people for a better future through industrial demand-oriented skill education.

- In very good company – IMC/Institutes Management Committee

IMC consists of 9 members, 7 of them come from the industry and advise AIAT with their know-how and network in its strategy and future course offerings as well as in industrial relations, for example, CSR-funding, industrial demand and placement



activities. Shri Nanda Kumar CEO of Le Bracs in Sedrapet and Shri Arjun Puri CEO of Varuna in Auroville are nominated as the chairman and Vice chairman of the IMC respectively. In this 1st meeting we learned, among other things, that Sunlit future in Auroville would have good demand for trained electricians in the field of solar energy.

2. CSR/Corporate Social Responsibility – AIAT has been selected!

India is the first country in the world to make Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) mandatory in April 2014. Companies with an annual turnover of INR 1000 crore (USD 140 million) or more must spend 2% or more of their profits for social projects such as education, health care, cleansing of rivers, poverty reduction, gender equality or nutrition etc. AIAT is pleased to have been selected by the Grace Infrastructure Pvt Ltd., Pondicherry for their CSR project “English education to ITI’s candidates”. We feel honoured. Two times 40 AIAT students daily will receive an 8-week highly qualified English course in which discipline, motivation, inspiration, and goal orientation are emphasized.



The “Inspire Spoken English/Career Development Centre”, Pondicherry, is conducting this programme for the Grace Infrastructure. It was moving when a trainee’s mother came to school and touched the teacher’s feet, and said that her son is now voluntarily learning English at home, practises in front of the mirror and tells only good things about this class. (Photo: This student won one of the seven prizes for best performance in English class.)

Furthermore, the Grace Infrastructure also donated cash to purchase tools and material for toolboxes to be made in AIAT welding workshop. These toolboxes made in our workshop are being handed over to the trainees of Fitter trades.



CSR Inauguration and symbolic handover of toolboxes from General Manager/Grace and his team to AIAT students.

3. Volunteers at our side – two supporters from Austria

- Goodbye Karim



Those who have read the 2018 Annual Report 'know' Karim a bit. Since September 2018 he worked as a trainer in the welding section of AIAT. His volunteer period ended in July. Here are a few words to say goodbye:

"Today we said goodbye to Karim Abdalla. Karim worked as a volunteer from Austria in AIAT in the welding class since August 2018. He taught the students to weld on various objects, paid attention to safety, scored with his friendly, social nature and his great ability to network. With these skills Karim was also an exemplary part of the group in AIAT who taught the students communication and motivation in the Extra Curriculum classes to increase their self-confidence. Another particularly successful contribution of Karim to AIAT were the two welding

courses he conducted for Aurovilians and guests. We thank Karim for his helpful commitment and participation in AIAT and wish him all the best."

At the end of his time with us, Karim has drawn up a list of "10 things I learned in AIAT" that we find important to publish, not just for future AIAT volunteers.

"10 things I learned during my volunteer time in AIAT from 8/2018 to 7/2019:

First of all, I learned a lot about the Tamil culture and their traditions and how to deal and work with them through the language barrier as foreigner.

I also learned a lot about being patient with others.

Teaching there myself taught me a lot about teaching methods.

Especially in my welding course where I had to deal with people from various cultures, I got a good feeling for what and how to teach to reach the students.

I learned a lot about organizing courses and building up a schedule.

Working on projects I improved my practical skills or even develop new ones, such as designing, planning and implementation of project.

In extra curriculum I learned about the social problems of the trainees. And with time I also learned what to do to improve those.

At last, I can say that I also learned a lot about myself how I work as an individual."

Karim Abdalla, July 2019



Welder course for Aurovilians and guests led by Karim

- Welcome Pascal

We are happy that Pascal is with AIAT since October 2019. After one week already our EM teachers learned programming from him and our school had an electronic school bell, so that the Amma's are free for other work. Super!

"My name is Pascal, I am from Austria, a small country in the heart of Europe. I graduated from the Higher Technical College for Electrical Engineering this spring. For the upcoming eight months I am assisting the Electronic Mechanic teachers at AIAT and I'm hoping to pass as much of my knowledge & experience as possible on to the students and help wherever I can."



Pascal brings a gift from Austria



Pascal shows his thesis: Head of a robot

4. Outreach school cooperation

AIAT is a so-called Auroville Outreach School, i.e. it is located outside Auroville, in Irumbai – one of the surrounding villages - and is not financially supported by Auroville. There are several of these outreach schools, such as Isai Ambalam School, www.isaiambalamschool.wordpress.com, which works with children aged 3-14 and is known for good value-oriented education and favors 'learning by doing' as AIAT. In search of a practicable way to educate youth that is rooted in Indian basic values,

we've tried a few things, as you may recall. Now we are very happy that through the cooperation with Sanjeev Raganathan, director of the Isai Ambalam School, the following projects in AIAT are starting to gain a foothold:

- [STEM land](#)

STEM refers to science, technology, engineering and mathematics and is a 'place'/classroom where students can explore and express their creativity and curiosity.

Using the SCRATCH software, students are introduced to the concepts of computer programming and begin to create their own interactive stories.

Skills such as critical thinking, creative problem solving, collaboration, communication and the new reading skill called coding aka computer programming are encouraged.

The students develop various curriculum-compliant practical projects, use open source prototyping platforms such as Arduino and are encouraged to use these resources to solve the urgent problems of our planet Earth. We are just in the beginning and will continue to report.

- [Values based education: Swami Satyayuktanand](#)



Like in many places the families here are strongly oriented towards recognized education certificates and want their children to pass the exams, to have 'good' chance on the applicant market. In addition to professional training, we see the urgent need for personality development: for example, that students learn to concentrate and

transfer, that they find a meaningful goal and are motivated to continuously make efforts to achieve it, that curiosity and creativity are awakened through practical action, that they are guided to value orientation, so that a secure inner space can develop from which they can move away from consumer orientation to self-confidence through knowledge and its application.

Mediated by Sanjeev Ranganathan, a seminar with Swami Satyayuktananda of the Ramakrishna Mission took place on 1 October 2019, from which four working groups were formed to translate, read and discuss papers on the following topics: 1. Self-confidence. 2. The secret of concentration. 3. The art of meditation. 4. True education. Each group should develop a presentation (small sketch, own stories, poetry, small video, etc.) and present it to the others. There will be prizes for the best. We are curious.

5. Alumni-Association – Former students join forces

On 22.10.2019 the constituent meeting of the AIAT-Alumni-Association took place. 18 former AIAT students were present. Thiru Shiv Kumar was elected as chairman of the Alumni Association of AIAT.

The main purpose of the Alumni Association is:

- To keep in touch with each other and with AIAT after completing the training in AIAT.
- To network and to exchange information
- To update knowledge and skills and to participate in advanced courses.
- To support current AIAT students in their striving.
- To support AIAT in its growth and strategies.

For a long time, we have been talking about such a helpful body, especially as a support for the students. Now it is here.

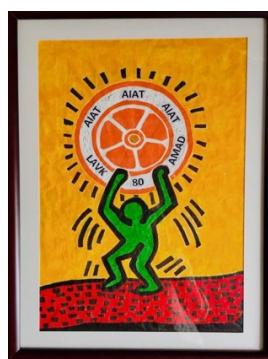
6. AIAT students took part in the 12th Auroville-Marathon

The 12th Auroville Marathon took place on 10 February 2019. More than 3000 young, older and old from all over the world ran 10, 21 or 42 km. Nine AIAT students took part in this international sports event for the first time and ran the 10 km distance. Eight of them arrived at the finish line, 4 in 45 or 50 minutes. We are happy and congratulate the sporty guys on their marathon experience.



7. Yes, unbelievable! – Our principal turned 80 this year

You can't tell by looking at Chandra, our principal – work – almost tirelessly – for in AIAT. Maybe he even made System' here. An incredible he has been celebrated in *he shall live high* – may long time to come.



him, but it is true – Lavkamad turned 80 in July and continues to the well-being of the Indian youth history by realizing the 'Dual energy at his disposal. Three times various contexts – and once again he remain so full of energy for a

Lavkamad
Chandra is
honored
by his team



8. Coming soon – the updated website

For many, many months we have been working on the renewal of our website in addition to the daily school routine and other challenges. Now it is fed with valuable information, photos and videos. Thanks to a generous donation it will be at your disposal in January 2020. Enjoy! www.aiat.in

9. Finances, finances – We continue to be in need of your support

It is basically quite easy to explain why we continue to need your support and why the ‘rays of hope’ outlined in the 2018 Annual Report do not shine as brightly as initially hoped:

- AIAT now has 180 students who are being trained and we would therefore have more income from tuition fees, and everything would not be so tight financially if it were not for the changes in the way the world’s economies deal with each other. Concretely: If the supplier companies have to lay off employees due to the ailing automotive industry and thus fewer AIAT students can be trained in the companies in the Dual System of Training’ as contractually agreed, and we can’t simply find company replacements the parents of our students have a liquidity problem and so do we.
- Basically, we need scholarships for these 15 students, as we can probably only send them on an internship (without or with very little earnings).
- Then there are the costs of about 25.000 € for the equipment of the new electrician workshop according to the requirements of the Indian government. We have good reason to believe that by expanding this trade and cooperating with Sunlit Future/Auroville, AIAT will become more financially flexible in addition to satisfied students. We are looking for friendly sponsors to equip our electrician workshop with the prescribed machines & tools and teaching aids.

- Not to forget the families who, despite better knowledge, think that the stipend given to their son under DST is available to the family and does not have to be used for the payment of AIAT tuition fees. It is perhaps the most difficult part of our work; to run after the tuition fees every month so that AIAT can pay the teachers' salaries and survive and see that the majority of families cannot pay them at all.
- AIAT has not been able to increase tuition fees in the last 5 years for the reasons mentioned above, but our costs are increasing by about 10% annually, especially for salaries and for the replacement of equipment, such as computers and other electronic devices, which have been in use since 2008, but need to be renewed.

All in all, 30.000 € (without scholarships) need to be raised. It would be wonderful if we could collect a third of this sum, i.e. 10.000 €, in Germany. For the other two thirds we will also approach Indian companies. Then we could breathe a sigh of relief for 2020, keep it that way and take a very good step forward!



Call for donations!

Any amount is welcome

Without the good will and generosity of you, friends and supporters, AIAT wouldn't exist in its 15th year. Your donations are the essential lifeline of our school and thus of all students. Through the training in AIAT, many of the former students have been able to stand on their own feet and even realize their dreams. AIAT gets a lot of thanks, which we are happy to pass on to you!

How to donate:

- a) Any amount to cover the running costs.
- b) Support a student with a stipend (Indian rupees 2500/month or \$ 35/month).
- c) A sum to cover the equipment of the electrician workshop.

(97% of it benefits young people directly; only 3% is used for administration; we ourselves in the management team work on an honorary basis.) Your donations are tax deductible.

Important pl. mention always in your remittance to AIAT: „AIAT Scholarship“ or „Donation for AIAT“ so that your money actually reaches us.

Important to specify: your name and address on the transfer, so that we can send the donation receipt.

Pl. inform us via E-Mail so that we can follow your remittance and make sure that you get a donation receipt; principal.aiat@aurovill.org.in

Bank accounts:

1) FOREIGN INWARD REMITTANCE:

SWIFT Code: SBININBB474
Bank Name: State Bank of India
Branch Code: 03160
A/C Holder: Auroville Unity Fund Foreign
A/C Number: 10237876508
Beneficiary: Auroville Unity Fund
Purpose: Auroville Institute of Applied Technology (specify which stipend)

Address: Auroville International Township Branch, Main Road
Auroville, Kulapalayam-PO, Auroville 605101, Tamil Nadu – India | Ph.
0413 2622137

Email: avunityfund@auroville.org.in and principal.aiat@auroville.org.in

2) INDIAN INWARD REMITTANCE:

IFSC Code: SBI0003160
MICR Code: 605002007
A/C with: State Bank of India, Auroville International Township
Branch: Kulapayalam, Auroville 605101 T.N
A/C Holder: Auroville Unity Fund Main
A/C Number: 31612623238
Purpose: Auroville Institute of Applied Technology
(specify which stipend)



*A big and full hearted thank you
from our side!*

AIAT - Management - Team



AIAT
Auroville Institute
of Applied Technology
be part of it!