

AIAT-Newsletter 2017

December 2017



„Only by giving a portion of our food to others who are as hungry as we, can we satisfy our deepest hunger.“

*Dear friends, sponsors and interested
of the vocational school
Auroville Institute of Applied Technology (AIAT)*

This time we would like to share with you:

- A) Fresh air in AIAT - Reinforcement in the management team.
- B) Quality, quality! From seeds, cuttings and fruits in our non-profit, private vocational school in Tamil Nadu.
- C) The long, stony path towards the Indian ‚dual system‘ - or
„From the long breath of the pioneers who are ahead of the times.“
- D) Finance or „The arduous search for a stable basis.“
- E) Shaking up's and heart warming's - Why we don't sit in the Bahamas, in the Himalayas or on the sofa.

A) Fresh air in AIAT – Reinforcement in the management team

Karin and Lavkamad have received triple support.

Now we have a vice principal, a department manager for Palmyra and a head of pedagogy and counselling.



„I like to uplift the youth in a proper way.“

Alphonse Moses/Vice Principal: BA economics, personal management and industrial relations, counselling and guidance; he is having experience in human resources management, developmental activities and served 40 years in all kind of industries in Tamil Nadu.



“Want to devote rest of my days in technical education.”

Narendra Gupta/Head of Department in Palmyra: B. Tech (Gold Medallist) and MBA from TIT & FMS, Delhi University. Corporate experience in customer technical services, projects, international marketing and teaching.



“I start with the necessary; then I do what’s possible; and suddenly I’m doing what seemed impossible.”

Angelika Kolb/Head of pedagogic and counsellor: Graduate psychologist and psychotherapist with 30 years of experience in counselling and worked for all health insurance companies in Germany, she also specialises in pedagogy and she is a German teacher for secondary level 2.

B) Quality, quality! From seeds, cuttings and fruits in our non-profit, private vocational school in Tamil Nadu.

You can also see everything with many photos in Facebook.

<https://www.facebook.com/AurovilleInstituteOfAppliedTechnology/>

* In June, we received a „**Hygiene Award**“. Wow.

* A very special event was that Mr Josef Baier, artist from Austria, together with Svaram/musical instruments unit from Auroville, our students and teachers has produced a wonderful **harp made of stainless steel and aluminum** in our workshop. Through his work he was able to arouse the interest of the students and to teach them how he combines creativity and technology. It has visibly pleased our students.



* Thanks to the cooperation of all – students, teachers, administrators, vice principal and principal and the generosity of a teacher – the **extra curriculum „Global warming**“ has become a moving and exemplary example of the environment after theoretical work-up. Together we plant saplings both in the school and in the villages.



Thank you K. for the generous donation!

- * On 15 July, the Labour Minister in Pondicherry announced a competition on the occasion of World Skill Day. AIAT students won the second prize for their **solar lamp and garden table**. We are glad.



- * In India, rituals are often celebrated. On the occasion of the **'Teacher Days'** the Lions Club visited AIAT. All teachers were honoured for their involvement in AIAT.
- * On 29.9. **Ayudha- bzw. Sarasvati-Pooja** was celebrated throughout Tamil Nadu. We also celebrated. All devices, tools books etc. were thanked for being available throughout the year. It is a wonderful opportunity to say thank you!



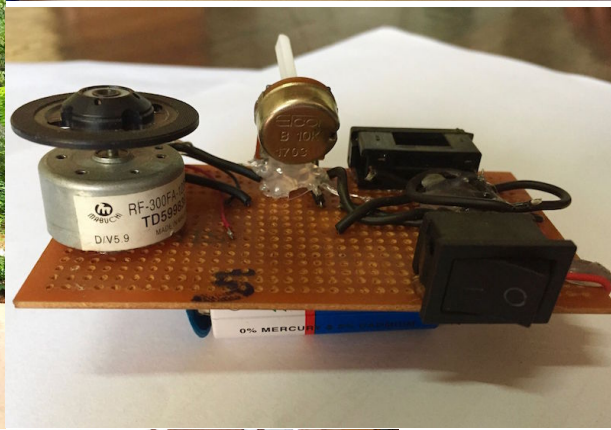
One of the AIAT-'Ammas' leads the ritual

- * At the beginning of September we had to say goodbye to the two **'Weltwärts'-volunteers** who supported us for a year. Above all, we miss Jonathan's quiet, open nature and steady, well versed and effective work with the fitter students. Look at the Facebook photos of the touching farewell.



Farewell and thanks to the two 'Weltwärts' volunteers + solar lamp.

- * The first teacher training of the head of pedagogic was the **„Mission possible or I can“-training**. On 4 Saturdays the teachers have developed personal and professional goals in 16 steps. From the 23rd of September they were ready to pass this program on to the students. It supports young people in setting and achieving their own positive goals. It helps to solve problems constructively and students can learn that a positive change can be better achieved with trust, joy and together with others. This program strengthens motivation and self-confidence. We got very good feedbacks both from the teachers and from the students. „I can – you can - we can!“
- * This year we're lucky again because Manuel, a new 'Weltwärts' volunteer and sports student, teaches our students twice a week in **sports**. It's a direct hit! The students are able to act out and at the same time they learn to treat each other respectfully based on the rules of the game. There are some funny pictures on Facebook.
- * The Palmyra students can also be happy as the new head of the department starts the day with the students with **yoga and small changing meditations**.
- * Here are some pictures of our hobbyhorse 'Project based learning': **results from the project-oriented lessons**.



* In November-December, **Ingo Herde**, former head of a vocational school in Germany, Dipl.-Ing. for electrical engineering and qualified in pedagogy and sports visited AIAT via **SES/Senior Expert Service** for three weeks. It was an intense and productive collaboration. He supported management and teachers in a variety of practical ways and made suggestions as to how we can better combine and control theory and practice lessons in accordance with the German dual system. Mr Herde also generously supplied us with programs and workbooks. We have learned a lot from this experienced man and are grateful for this valuable opportunity!



C) The long, stony path towards the Indian ,dual system' – or „From the long breath of the pioneers who are ahead of the times“

It seemed to be nearing the completion of the dual system in India. As you could read in the 2016 annual report, our dream seemed to come true. After hard work, we had signed contracts with 5 industrial partners in March and we were ready to start.

தொழிற்சாலையில் 96 மாணவர்களுக்கு ஊக்கத்தொகையுடன் கூடிய இரட்டை அமைப்பு பயிற்சி முறை (DST) வழங்கப்பட உள்ளது.
(AIAT-Industry Partner in DUAL SYSTEM OF TRAINING)

Our Industrial Partner's

LED FASTENERS

SUNLIT FUTURE
Inspired.....by the source

SCHNEIDER
INTERNATIONAL

METTECHNIX AUTOMATION PVT. & Engg. Sol. Private Ltd.

Then the following happens:

We have sent the contracts to the Indian government asking for approval.

In July, to our great surprise, the rules and procedure were changed so that only companies with more than 200 employees and Rupee 100 million in sales can participate in the dual system. Therefore we could not start with the well and long prepared on 1.8.2017. It was a very bitter disappointment! But „hope dies last!“ We are aiming for the 1st of August 2018.

Now urgently and, as so often very short-term, the capacity of the school had to be more utilized, also to put AIAT on a financially more manageable basis.

After several visits to the authorities, we received permission from the Tamil Nadu Skills Development Corporation (TNSDC) to hold 3-month short-term courses in accounting, welding, metalworking, and home appliance maintenance. Even though we do not love these short-term courses – this option is a bright spot for students and school, as these courses are sponsored by TNSDC. Unemployed and candidates who have dropped out of school receive this additional training. So far 33 students have registered for it.

In addition, AIAT has received government approval to train employees of local companies in the field of welding, electronics, computer hardware and networking, metalworking and accounting. The Government of India financially supports these courses, so some money comes in the tight funds.

D) Finance or „The arduous search for a stable basis“

* In May we had a PC summer course for students from the 10th to the 12th grade and for housewives. That brought us some money.

* The solar lamp, the table, the oven as an attachment to an open gas flame and a prototype for a smoke-free cooking area are all products that we hope to be able to market.



Oven as an attachment on a gas stove + table with solar lamp

- * Again, we have done intensive marketing in the villages to get students into the new school year. We can see a slight increase in the number of students compared to last year. There are 80 new students, plus 20 from the 2nd year and 30 for TNSD courses, a total of 130 students for a total capacity of 270. If only we could offer more scholarships!
- * The German Vice-Consul from Chennai, Mr M. Wegener and his wife, have made a private visit to AIAT. They were very impressed with both locations and the demonstrations of electronics mechanics and fitter and welder students. Mr Wegener has promised to help us raise funds.



The guests of honour received a scarf

E) Shaking up's and heart warming's or „Why we don't sit in the Bahamas, in the Himalayas or on the sofa.

The 22-year old **Victor** Satyanan from Chennai has to deal with a double challenge to finish his 1-year-education as a welder.

His mother died when he was 12 years old and not long after his father got married again. Obviously a very difficult time started for himself and his older brother and sister with the new family constellation. After his brother and his sister got married, Victor was asked by his father to move out of the house.

13 years old at that time he is still very grateful to his brother, that he was willing to offer him a home.

He did his 10th grade in the age of 16 and felt he should now start also to earn money to support his brothers' family. Starting with different day jobs, after a year he got offered a job at the Penals Company at Sedarapet (an Industrial area near to Pondicherry), where he worked for 2,5 years as a housekeeper and gardener. But he missed his siblings and took the opportunity to move back to Chennai, when he got a job at the Royal Enfield Company in the packing department.

The former supervisor at Penals Company, with who he still was in contact during his time in Chennai, suggested to him the better opportunities he could get by having a proper education and he told him about AIAT.

Moving away from Chennai and back to the surrounding of Auroville meant for him: How can I earn money to survive? Paying the school fees, paying a rent for a room to stay and having something to eat?

After having looked into the offers of AIAT he decided to go for a 1-year-education as a welder at day time. Doing night shifts at Kentucky Fried Chicken had to cover his monthly expenses.

We came to know about the situation, when he fainted at school, because of too little food and too little sleep. As a first aid and to make his life a little easier, we found somebody who pays half of his school fees. Now he is able to cut his night work down to 4 hours.

Beside learning and working he loves music and dance and in his little leisure times he writes, composes and sings songs. "When I was only 4 years old, I could not stop moving my legs when I heard music. These are the happiest times of my days".

But at the moment his first aim is to become a good welder, a good business man and he knows already now, that he has to continue learning after his examination and starting a job as a welder. The very first will be to learn CADD by joining an evening class.

Open minded and realistically he is looking forward to see what else will cross his way. He is a happy and self-confident young man, willing to be flexible in life and looking forward to better days.



Victor shows the German vice consul the first result from Welder classes.

Amarnath is a 18 year old fitter student and is able to lead the interview in English.

His family consists of only two persons, which is seldom in India. When his father died many years ago his mother moved with him into the house of his uncle – to be able to meet her monthly expenses. She works as a practical nurse in a hospital.

Amarnath talks excited about the green area of Navarkakulam (near to Pondicherry) he speaks about his social commitment for the environment. E.g. some months ago they informed there neighbourhood about the importance of separating waste and dug up different big holes at the side of the village to make it easier for the neighbours to separate the waste. At the weekend the group of youngsters has taken up the difficult task to empty these holes and arrange a transport to the Pondicherry dump.

After passing his 10th standard he did not know how to go on with his life. Touching an electronic education made it clear, that this is not his interest and by searching for another idea he came across a poster of AIAT. By reading the newspaper and talking with friends he realized, that many companies were searching for fitter. So he started to compare the education given in different ITI's and decided to join AIAT, although he felt the price was higher than in some other schools. His mother is not earning enough money to makes it easy for them to pay the school fees, but nevertheless he feels he has done the right decision, since the education at AIAT is much more practical oriented, the equipment of machines is up to date and the quality of the teachers is

very good. "The daily quiz hour at school about the topics of the day helps me to memorize what I have learned that day and is just fun. An extra gift is also the opportunity to have English classes and I have already improved my English a lot. So I am really happy here and feel I have done the right decision to take up this 2-years training."

After finishing his education as fitter he is planning to join a one-year education at CTI in Chennai to get a teachers training. It will give him a fairer marks and a better Maths teacher than he has at school at the moment. *(This is a challenge for us to find an extra volunteer coming to school to support him and maybe others in improving his Maths knowledge.)*

Not only to earn more money for the family he wants to do this additional education. It will also provide him with a better opportunity to work with the most advanced technology, which is not so easily to find in India, therefore he wants to go abroad and this knowledge he wants then to bring back to India.

He feels very strongly, that India has to work on its environmental issues, the possibilities to get an affordable education for everybody and to lead the economy into fairer lanes by not letting out the poorer parts of his country.

"I nearly forgot that we learned at AIAT about the programme I CAN. This is a tool and huge help to follow my wishes and aims and work at it step by step. It was also helpful to work with this programme to sort out things with my family and friends.



Amamath and his mother on Parents' Day.

At the first glance [Jayadurga](#) looks older than 17 years. Despite her young age, it became crystal clear during the talk, that she has very clear and well-thought opinions about life.

Raised alone by her mother as a single child – the parents separated early in her life – she had to learn fast to be independent. Both of them enjoy in the evening sitting together for a talk, exchanging the happenings of the day, cuddling the cats and walking the dogs. Such a good Mother/Daughter relation is something really special for India.

She would have preferred to study art after finishing her A-level, because she loves all kind of art and is painting beautiful pictures. But with only the salary of her mother any kind of studying was not visible.

Living up to reality all her life made it easier for her to accept another way of education. Friends told her about AIAT and she decided to study Financial Executive, since Maths was one of her preferred topics at school.

In the beginning she felt fearful to do the next step in life but now – after 5 months at AIAT – she is happy. She likes the way of teaching in AIAT, is very pleased about the opportunity to learn English and has an amazing English level after only 5 months.

“Since I love to travel and visited already many South Indian temples with my mother, I hope to also see some countries abroad. Therefore and for my future job, it will be good to have English knowledge. After my examination in 7 months I hope to get – with the help of AIAT - a good job and will be able to support my mother financially. At the same time I’m planning to apply for a correspondence place at University to do my B Com in the evening. I came across this idea through the I CAN program, that the teachers are doing with us. It helps to see our aims more clear and gives us good hints how to go step for step to reach our wishes for the future.



Jayadurga and her English teacher Anandhi.

We can tell many such life stories...

For example the 16-year-old fitter student [Anand](#), who struck us because his absentee quota was very high. It turned out that he and his single mother live in the street slum in a small tin roof room/not even in a hut, trying to earn money to pay the school fees. We are **urgently** looking for people who will grant students like this a scholarship of € 200-250.

Call for donations!

Without the good will and generosity of you friends and supporters – especially from Germany – AIAT wouldn't exist. Your donations are still the existential lifeline for our school and thus for all students. By training in AIAT, many of the former students are now able to take care of themselves, to secure the livelihood of their families and even to realize their dreams.

AIAT receives a lot of thanks, which we would like to pass on to you!

Even though there are alarming signs of the widespread resurrection of the egocentric side in us humans all over the world, our main goal remains to provide education and training opportunities to the disadvantaged population in the rural environment here in the south of India for the urgently needed financial security basis and the unfolding of its inherent potential.

*For this we ask again this year
for your generous donations*

Any amount is welcome

There are the following donation possibilities:

a) Scholarship (Indian rupees 2000/month or \$ 31/month).

b) An amount to cover on-going operating costs.

(97% of it benefits young people directly; 3% is used for administration; we ourselves in the management team work honorary.)

Your donations are tax deductible.

Definitely use „AIAT Scholarship“ or „Donation for AIAT“ as purpose, so that your money actually reaches us.

Definitely specify your name and address on the transfer, so that the donation receipt arrives with you.

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
Kuilapalayam-PO, Auroville 605101
Tamil Nadu - INDIA | Ph. 0413 2622137
Email: avunityfund@auroville.org.in

2) INDIAN INWARD REMITTANCE:

IFSC Code: SBI0003160
MICR Code: 605002007
A/C with: State Bank of India, Auroville International Township
Branch: Kuilapalayam, 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!