

# 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 to empower youth with skills in South India.

1. „Dual System of Training“ - DST is successful!
  - Cheers - the number of students is rising – with consequences
  - 9 partner companies and the “ravages of time”
  - Extension of the electrician’s workshop – a long-held wish
  - In very good company – IMC/Institutes Management Committee
2. CSR/Corporate Social Responsibility – AIAT has been selected
3. AIAT introduces STEM land project in cooperation with Isai Ambalam School in Auroville
4. Coming soon – the updated website
5. Finances, finances – we continue to be in need of your support.

#### About Auroville Institute of Applied Technology

- Auroville Institute of Applied Technology/AIAT was founded in 2004 with the financial aid of the German Govt. and many private donors in Germany to empower rural youth with skill for a livelihood in dignity. It is a non-profit unit of Auroville Foundation (see more under auroville.org. and aiata.in).
- The AIAT is managed by all German Aurovilians with industrial experience in German MNC’s.
- AIAT is situated in one of the most backward area of Tamil Nadu and serving youth from the bottom of the social and economic pyramid. 95% of our trainees depends on availability of a stipend (BPL and 40% schedule cast).
- AIAT is holistic in its pedagogic approach and addresses issues of the stakeholders (trainees and companies).
- Till date approximately 2700 trainees have been trained in Electronic Mechanic, Draughtsman Civil, Information Technology, Mechanical Engineering, Secretary ship and Accounting.

## 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 8<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> 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?

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 7 members, 4 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. Other members are Shri Senthil Kumar MD GT-Electronics India Pvt. Ltd, Rishi Kapoor MD of Sunlit Future. In this 1<sup>st</sup> 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. 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.

(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. AIAT introduces STEM land project in cooperation with Isai Ambalam School in Auroville

Now we are very happy that through the cooperation with Dr. Sanjeev Raganathan, director of the Isai Ambalam School, the STEM land project in AIAT is starting to gain a foothold:

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.

#### 4. 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.ariat.in](http://www.ariat.in)

#### 5. 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:

- Then there are the costs of about Rs. 20 Lakhs for the equipment of the new electrician workshop according to the requirements of the Indian government. We are looking for friendly sponsors to equip our electrician workshop with the prescribed machines & tools and teaching aids.
- At our Campus in Aurobrindavan we need a room for Eng. Drawing of 70 sqm size. The estimated cost is approx. Rs.15 Lakhs.
- 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 or for additional equipment prescribed for the affiliated trades.
- For replacement of 25 computers and additional requirements prescribed by DGT for Electronic Mechanic and for Fitter we are need of approx. Rs. 9 Lakhs.

*Call for donations!*

**Any amount is welcome**

Without the good will and generosity of you, friends and supporters, AIAT wouldn't exist in its 15<sup>th</sup> 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 or for an Eng. Drawing room or for replacement of old Computers and additional equipment as per changed requirement of DGT e.g. Hydraulic and Pneumatic training kits in Fitter etc.

Pl. consider that 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](mailto: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, Kuilapalayam-PO, Auroville 605101, Tamil Nadu – India | Ph. 0413 2622137

Email: [avunityfund@auroville.org.in](mailto:avunityfund@auroville.org.in) and [principal.aiat@auroville.org.in](mailto: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: Kuilapayalam, Auroville 605101 T.N  
A/C Holder: Auroville Unity Fund Main  
A/C Number: 31612623238  
Purpose: Auroville Institute of Applied Technology  
(Pl. specify the project)



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

*A I A T - M a n a g e m e n t - T e a m*

*Lavkamad Chandra MTech (Germany)  
Correspondent & Principal*

*Karin Latzke, Executive*

*Angelika Kolb M.A. (Germany), Head of Pedagogy*



**AIAT**  
Auroville Institute  
of Applied Technology  
*be part of it!*