



My recent visit to Shillong for the opening of the Optometry Educators workshop reinforced the strength of Optometry even in the distant corners of India; as well as highlighted model centres of excellence such as Bansara Institute of Ophthalmic Sciences (Shillong) and Vidyasagar College of

Optometry and Vision Science (Kolkata), who partnered with us in delivering the workshops. IVI is very grateful to both the institutions for working with us in making a tangible difference for Optometry in the Eastern part of India. We also gratefully acknowledge Optometry Giving Sight and Alcon Foundation without whose financial support this may not have been achieved.

Taking note of the requirements of our stakeholders, IVI regularly develops a number of new initiatives. Two of the programs, i.e the Young Leaders Program and the Faculty Support Program will be implemented over the next month. I am also delighted that IVI has been able to support the Indian Optometry Federation in implementing an Optometrist awareness program identified in *Aksauhini*.

It was also good to welcome the Australian Rural Leaders delegation and host an evening with celebrated Australian author John Zubrzycki at IVI, reinforcing the strong Australia-India connection anchored by IVI's sustaining partners, the Brien Holden Vision Institute and the L V Prasad Eye Institute.

**Vinod Daniel**  
CEO

## The Last Nizam of Hyderabad's Australian Connection – an evening with Australian Author, John Zubrzycki

IVI hosted an evening of interaction with Australian author and journalist, John Zubrzycki on 1 February 2013. John spoke about his books, particularly about *The Last Nizam*, based on Mukarram Jah, the last Nizam of Hyderabad.

John's interest in the history of Hyderabad continues with his most recent book, *The Mysterious Mr Jacob: Diamond Merchant, Magician and Spy* which tells the story of Alexander Jacob, a diamond merchant, magician and spy, and one of the most enigmatic figures of 19<sup>th</sup> century India.



An award-winning journalist, John also shared his experiences of his time in India including stints as a Hindi student, diplomat (First Secretary, Public Affairs: 1990-91), consultant and foreign correspondent. He was recently in India as part of OZfest, featuring at author events in Kolkata, Hyderabad and at the Jaipur Literature Festival.

## IVI welcomes Australian Rural Leaders delegation

IVI hosted a reception to welcome a thirty member delegation of the Australian Rural Leadership Program (ARLP) on 18 February. ARLP is a unique opportunity for selected rural and regional leaders to undertake a program of personal growth to develop the skills, knowledge and networks needed to be effective in regional, state, national and international arenas.



*Mr Michael Carter from AusTrade addressing the gathering*

Jointly hosted by IVI and the Australian Consulate for South India, the reception provided an opportunity for the delegation to appreciate challenges in the vision care delivery in India and interact with a range of professionals working towards bridging the gap. The delegates also noted the recent launch of IVI's own Young Leaders Program as a step in the same direction and expressed considerable interest in the activities of IVI and in exploring ways to work together in eyecare management.

The ARLP focuses on professional and personal leadership development, examination of key national and international issues that impact on rural Australia. The delegates represented a wide range of areas of rural concerns including agriculture, fisheries, forestry, environment and sustainability, elder services, meat processing & livestock management, dairy, wool and primary industry.

## IVI capacity building initiatives in Eastern India

IVI organized a series of five-day workshops jointly with the Vidyasagar College of Optometry and Vision Science in Kolkata from 4 – 8 March; and with the Bansara Institute of Ophthalmic Sciences in Shillong from 7 - 11 March 2013. The two workshops received overwhelming response, with a request for taking the initiative forward.



*Capacity Building workshop  
Vidyasagar College of Optometry & Vision Science, Kolkata  
4 – 8 March 2013*

First of its kind, the workshop marked a small step in the direction of enhancing the capacity of Optometry educators in eastern India, focusing on a number of specialized areas including dispensing optics; low vision; binocular vision; and teaching and learning methodology. The workshop was attended by over 24 optometric educators from 12 institutions in Kolkata; and 14 educators from five institutions in Shillong.

The workshops were led by a team of national and international experts, including Mr Aditya Goyal, Sankara College of Optometry, Bangalore; Ms Mithali Paranjape, Bharathi Vidyapeeth, Pune; Mr Kunal Shah, private practitioner, Hubli, and Ms Helen Dalton & Ms Jodi Martin, Brien Holden Vision Institute, Sydney.

IVI acknowledges the support of Alcon Foundation and Optometry Giving Sight for funding the workshops. Support of the two partner organizations in successfully delivering the workshops is also appreciated.



*Capacity Building workshop  
Bansara Institute of Ophthalmic Sciences, Shillong  
7 – 11 March 2013*

## Visitors to IVI

Mr Peter Galen and Mr Michael Mulgrew from Quantum Catch visited IVI on 17 January. They were in Hyderabad to attend 28<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Asia-Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology.



## Student Seminar on Progressive Lenses

Mr Abhishek Kalbarga, Senior Program Manager, IVI gave a talk on "Progressive lenses" at the Pushpagiri Eye Institute, Hyderabad on 25 January 2013. The seminar was well received by over 30 Optometry students.



## IVI Young Leaders Program

The inaugural YLP workshop is being planned for 26-28 April at IVI, Hyderabad. Focusing on developing leadership skills, the workshop will include sessions on leadership in eyecare, optometry education and research, challenges in public health delivery and industry related field visits, among others.

YLP will help create a pool of talented youth leaders to develop and promote optometry; contribute towards sustained long-term delivery of quality eye care; provide incentive to young Indians to pursue a career in optometry; promote optometry industry in India; and provide a platform to gain a fresh perspective and insight into viewpoints of the upcoming optometry professionals.

For the participating young leaders, the program will help develop leadership skills to advance optometry services; gain a holistic view of optometry in India at an early juncture in their career; enhance career prospects; and provide networking and mentorship opportunities with key optometry experts, institutions, entrepreneurs and think-tanks.

IVI is pleased with the overwhelming level of interest for the inaugural Young Leaders Program.

## Higher Education Scholarships

Following the announcement of the inaugural round of the Lawrence & Mayo and JSW Foundation - IVI Higher Education Scholarships for up to six Optometry professionals, in September 2012, IVI welcomes applications for the next round of scholarships.

Applications are welcome from optometry educators, students and practitioners to pursue post graduate and doctoral studies in India.

**Deadline for submission - Monday, 15 April 2013**

## Faculty Support Program

IVI is pleased to announce the Faculty Support Program for optometry educators. In the inaugural round, the program is being offered for educators in Eastern India. Applications are invited from faculty members of emerging optometry schools in Eastern India to gain first-hand experience in a core optometry specialty subject, for a period of up to 15 days, with an established optometry school or eye hospital in India.

**Deadline for submission - Monday, 15 April 2013**

## \*MYEYES® Dispensing Sales Software

IVI hosted a presentation on myeyes® Dispensing Sales Software by Mr Jim Papas, Managing Director, NWO Group on 15 March 2013. Jim was recently in India as part of a trade delegation. Developed by Jim Papas, myeyes® automates the selling of eyewear for sales staff. As identified in *Aksauhini*, this is a part of IVI's initiative of providing resources to retail sector improving the quality and to limit significant errors that occur in fitting and service.



## World Optometry Day

As part of the 2013 World Optometry Day celebrations, IVI supported Indian Optometry Federation in production and delivery of signage boards for display by Optometrists. The signage will provide recognition to Optometrists as they work on serving the community. This is one of the projects identified by *Aksauhini*, the optometry national strategic plan implemented through IVI.

## Staffing at IVI

Mr Shubhra K Bhattacharya joined the IVI team as a Senior Program Manager. A Post Graduate in Anthropology, Shubhra has worked in the development sector for nearly 15 years, particularly in the area of HIV/AIDS and blindness interventions. His last assignment was with TCI Foundation as the Regional Manager for the South. He has previously worked with CARE International and LVPEI.



Mr Abhishek Kalabarga, Senior Program Manager at IVI, has taken a new senior management role at Ben Franklin Optical. We wish him all the best and look forward to continued association.

## Upcoming Workshops

12 Apr 2013	Low Vision Awareness Program LVPEI, Hyderabad
26-28 Apr 2013	Inaugural YLP Workshop IVI, Hyderabad
Jun 2013	EyeTeach Workshop Chennai
Jun 2013	EyeTeach Workshop Delhi
27-29 Jul 2013	ICEE EyeTeach Research Methodology & Public Eye Health Amity University, Delhi
Sep 2013	Strategic planning for emerging schools in east India Kolkata
22&23 Nov 2013	Occupational Optometry IVI, Hyderabad

IVI's updated report on Optometry schools in India is now available on the IVI website ([indiavisioninstitute.org](http://indiavisioninstitute.org)).

On the occasion of  
**World Optometry Day,**  
let us reiterate our  
resolve towards  
delivering excellence in  
vision care for India.  
Best wishes from IVI  
on this special day for  
the Indian Optometry  
community!

### Contact Details: