



It has now been a year since the India Vision Institute was launched, a joint initiative of the Brien Holden Vision Institute, Sydney and the LV Prasad Eye Institute, Hyderabad. We have been able to achieve a lot in the inaugural year with strong support from the Indian optometry community.

Aksauhini, the national level human resource and industry development plan launched on the occasion of the first anniversary reflects the future of Indian optometry as it marches to become a world leader.

I very much look forward to working closely with the ophthalmic Industry sector, optometry bodies and the forty nine thousand strong Indian optometry community in making *Aksauhini* a reality over the next few years.

Vinod Daniel
CEO, India Vision Institute

IVI celebrates first anniversary

The India Vision Institute celebrated its first anniversary with the launch of *Aksauhini*, a 20-year all India strategic plan for ensuring excellence in eye care, at a function in Hyderabad on 16 September 2012.

IVI achievements during its inaugural year were applauded by prominent guests including, Mr David Holly, Australian Consul General for South India; Mr Bob McCullum, President, International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness; Ms Sujaya Krishnan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India; Dr Gullapalli N Rao, Chair, LV Prasad Eye Institute & Co Chair, IVI; Prof Brien Holden, CEO, Brien Holden Vision Institute & Co Chair, IVI and Ms Lakshmi Shinde, Trustee, IVI.



It was also an occasion to launch the IVI Academy for Eyecare Educators.

Ms Sujaya Krishnan presented certificates to two of the six recipients of the Lawrence & Mayo and JSW Steel Limited - IVI Higher Education Scholarships which will enable doctoral studies in optometry in India.

Mr Vinod Daniel in his welcome address, listed the achievements of the IVI in its inaugural year including announcement of IVI Higher Education Scholarships recipients, skill and capacity building workshops, student seminars; MOUs with the Africa Vision Research Institute and the Salus University to promote educational research and scholarships to 325 Indian Optometrists enabling participation in IAPB 9 GA on *Eye Health: Everyone's Business* in Hyderabad during 17 - 20 September 2012.

Reiterating continuing Australian Government support towards achieving excellence in eyecare in India, Mr David Holly wished IVI "*Happy Birthday*". Other eminent speakers also congratulated IVI on its achievements and wished it success for future.

Over 230 vision care practitioners, research scholars, students, members of the NGO fraternity and vision care advocates from across India and overseas were present to celebrate the first anniversary of IVI. The evening provided a brilliant start to the events planned during the week including the IAPB General Assembly and associated activities. Having celebrated the first successful year, the IVI team is all geared to continue with their 'visionary' mission.



Aksauhini provides vision for the future

To enable excellence in eyecare and position India as a world leader is the focus of *Aksauhini*, the all-India strategic plan launched on the occasion of the first anniversary of IVI.

Aksauhini sets out a framework to improve eye care in India by providing excellent and equitable eyecare solutions, assist in eliminating visual impairment and avoidable blindness, ensure optometry is a vibrant and recognized profession and assist the development of the Indian eyecare industry to become a world leader.

For implementation over the next five years, 16 strategic projects have been identified with an estimated funding requirement for the first three years of the plan being INR 80 crores. The projects are aimed at raising public awareness and building professional recognition, ramping-up human resource development, ensuring minimum standards of diagnostic and clinical infrastructure and developing an innovative vision care technology sector in India. You can download a copy of *Aksauhini* from www.indiavisioninstitute.org



Launch of IVI Academy for Eyecare Educators

The IVI Academy for Eyecare Educators was launched on the occasion of the first anniversary of IVI by Mr David Holly, Australian Consul General for South India.

The proposed academy will be a resource centre to create an excellent educational resource in optometry education in India by upgrading the skills of existing educators and developing a larger pool of highly qualified educators.

The Academy will play a significant role in improving the quality of eye care education in India, leading to excellence in eye care services available to all Indians.



Announcement of Higher Education Scholarships

Coinciding with its first anniversary, IVI recently announced the awarding of the Lawrence & Mayo and JSW Steel Limited - IVI Higher Education Scholarships to six Optometry professionals to pursue doctoral studies in India for the academic year 2012-13.

Recipients of the inaugural scholarship:

- § Prema Chande, Lotus College of Optometry
- § Pancham Kulkarni, Lotus College of Optometry
- § Hiral Korani, Lotus College of Optometry
- § Jyothi Thomas, Manipal College of Allied Health Sciences
- § Babu Noushad, Manipal College of Allied Health Sciences
- § Nijil Sanker, Manipal College of Allied Health Sciences

Ms Chande and Mr Kulkarni received their awards at the first anniversary celebrations in Hyderabad. Congratulating the recipients, Mr Vinod Daniel gratefully acknowledged the generous contribution of Lawrence & Mayo and JSW Steel Limited towards the scholarship program.

Applications are now open for the next round of scholarships. The last date to submit a detailed research proposal is 10 November 2012. All shortlisted applicants will be expected to appear for a personal interview on 4 December 2012.



Brien Holden Vision Institute Scholarships for IAPB 9 GA

IVI supported the participation of 325 Indian Optometrists at the IAPB 9 GA through the Brien Holden Vision Institute scholarship. The conference paved the way forward for new insights for optometry professionals from over twenty five states across the country.

We express our appreciation to the scholarship committee members (Mr Jayanta Bhattacharjee, Vidyasagar College of Optometry; Prof Monica Chaudhry, Amity University and Mr Rajbir Singh Berwal, National Ophthalmic Association) for their excellent support.

We also thank Brien Holden Vision Institute, L V Prasad Eye Institute, International Agency for Prevention of Blindness, Indian Optometry Federation, Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry India and all the applicants who made our efforts worthwhile for the successful and efficient delivery of the Brien Holden Vision Institute scholarship for IAPB 9 GA.

IVI Team is overwhelmed by the words of encouragement received, to quote a few...

- Congratulations on all you have achieved – IVI is such a fine initiative. *Mr Peter Ackland, CEO, IAPB.*
- To you dear Vinod we extend our heartfelt gratitude for the manner. YOU AND YOUR MEMBERS made us comfortable and gave us the warm feeling of being wanted at THE 9GA IAPB. *Brig Ashok Sondhi, CEO, IOF.*
- On behalf of the ASCO fraternity and on my own behalf, would like to heartily congratulate IVI and sincerely thank ALL staff of IVI for the complex task in handling the IAPB sponsorships, conducting numerous sessions, mammoth hosting of the dinner and breakfast meets, etc., etc.!

ALL the very best to ALL of you, thanks once again for your support, and congrats on a great job done with flair. *Prof P Sudarshan, CEO, ASCO India.*

IVI Breakfast Session during IAPB 9 GA

IVI hosted an interactive session over breakfast at IAPB 9GA on 18 September 2012 to address the current status as well as the future role of key optometry institutions including the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO), India, the Indian Optometry Federation (IOF) and the Optometry Council of India (OCI) in promoting Optometry in India.

Presenting the keynote for the session, Professor Brien Holden, CEO, Brien Holden Vision Institute provided an overview of the eyecare scenario in India and highlighted the significant contribution of key optometry institutions.

Chaired by Mr Vinod Daniel, CEO, IVI, several speakers addressed the session, including, Mr Vivek Mendonca, President, ASCO, India; Ms Lakshmi Shinde, CEO, OCI; Brig Ashok Soundhi, CEO, IOF and Mr Rajbir Berwal, General Secretary, NOA.



IVI Stall at IAPB 9 GA

The IVI stall at the IAPB 9 GA generated considerable interest among 1500 participants during the conference. The stall showcased IVI's vision for Indian optometry, its achievements in the inaugural year and the future course of action highlighted through *Aksauhini*. The stall also provided an excellent opportunity for interaction with peers in the industry.



Presentation on Optometry Schools in India by IVI Team during IAPB 9GA

With only 49,000 four and two year trained optometrists currently available in India, against the demand for 115,000 optometrists, there exists a big gap in demand and supply impacting the delivery of eye care in India.

With this background, IVI Senior Program Manager, Mr Abhishek Kalbarga, presented a "status report on Optometry Schools in India" at the IAPB 9 GA.



Low Vision Awareness Program

IVI in association with the LVPEI organised a Low Vision Awareness Program (LAP) at LVPEI on 21 September 2012. LAP is an exclusive orientation program providing a broad overview of low vision care and rehabilitation of the visually impaired.

Over 100 optometry professionals, educators and students attended the exclusive one day program with support from IVI.

Discussion of case studies and hands-on practicals with access to advanced low vision devices were successful in instilling confidence among participants to examine and treat patients with low vision. The workshop was lead by Dr Vijaya K Gothwal, Head, Meera & Dr L B Deshpande Centre for Sight Enhancement, LVPEI.



L V PRASAD EYE INSTITUTE, HYDERABAD, INDIA

Supported by : India Vision Institute

Photo courtesy - L V Prasad Eye Institute



The IVI team has a new member

Ms Anusha Kolisetty joined the IVI team as Program Officer.

Anusha holds a Bachelors Degree in Optometry from the Elite School of Optometry and Post Graduation in Hospital Management from the Administrative Staff College of India. Anusha was an Associate Consultant with Medica Synergie prior to joining IVI.



IVI Upcoming Workshops

Capacity building workshops for Optometry Educators in Eastern India

IVI is planning to conduct a series of capacity building workshops for educators in Kolkata and Shillong in early February 2013.

Mr Vinod Daniel and Ms Jissa James visited Kolkata during 12 - 13 October to explore possibilities of collaboration with regional optometry institutes in Eastern India. IVI acknowledges the generous support of the Alcon Foundation for this initiative through Optometry Giving Sight.

Workshop on Non Strabismic Binocular Vision Anomalies

Binocular vision anomalies are one of the most frequently encountered ocular problems. To address this issue, IVI Academy for Eyecare Educators will conduct a two day workshop on Non Strabismic Binocular Vision Anomalies at IVI on 19-20 November 2012.

The workshop will focus on behavioural optometry, non strabismic binocular vision anomalies and clinical evaluation, followed by a hands-on session to discuss case studies. Eminent speakers including Mr Aditya Goyal and Mr Diwakar Rao from Sankara School of Optometry, Dr Shrikant Bharadwaj from LVPEI, Ms Sunita Agarwal from Drishtikone and Ms Jameel Rizwana from Sankara Netralaya will address the frequently found set of anomalies. The last date for registration is **10 November 2012**.

Workshop on Biostatistics and Scientific Writing in collaboration with AVRI

India Vision Institute (IVI) in collaboration with the African Vision Research Institute (AVRI) Durban, South Africa, is organising a "Workshop on Biostatistics and Scientific Writing" on 6 - 8 December 2012 at Hyderabad.

The workshop will focus on several introductory topics in biostatistics which form the basis for further methods such as linear regression, logistic regression and survival analysis. The workshop is also intended to help eye health cadres and researchers develop their skills in written communication and make them more effective in sharing their knowledge through scientific papers, reports and peer reviewed articles.

The workshop would be led by Dr Tom Were Okello and Mr Farai Chinanyi from AVRI. The last date for registration is **15 November 2012**.

For further information about the workshop/registration, please contact Priya Gupta at priya.gupta@indiavisioninstitute.org or Tel: +91 40 2354 8269.



Brien Holden Vision Institute

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