



On November 16th, 2011 LV Prasad Eye Institute and Brien Holden Vision Institute signed a memorandum of understanding in New Delhi to formalize the establishment and support for the India Vision Institute. The MOU was signed by Prof Brien Holden, CEO of Brien Holden Vision Institute and Dr G N Rao, Chairman of LV Prasad Eye Institute at the Australian High

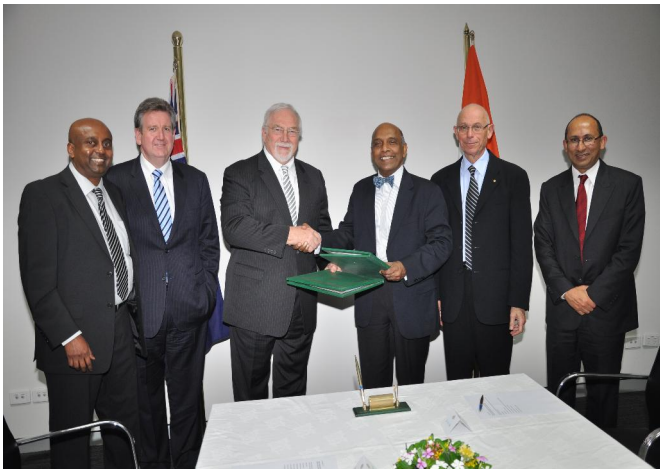
Commission in the presence of the NSW Premier Mr Barry O'Farrell, Australian High Commissioner Mr Peter Varghese and Vice Chancellor of the University of New South Wales Prof Fred Hillmer.

This month also saw IVI host a very important national forum on Refractive Errors and the recommendations from the forum would be an important way to forward document for India as it deals with uncorrected refractive error in over a hundred million Indians.

IVI is also in the process of establishing the current status of Optometry programs in India and has circulated its first report on Optometry schools in India for broader comments.

Saying this, I wish all of you a bright and prosperous new year and look forward to working together in 2012.

Vinod Daniel
CEO



L to R: Vinod Daniel, Barry O'Farrell, Premier of NSW, Brien Holden, G N Rao, Fred Hillmer, Vice Chancellor of UNSW & Peter Varghese, Australian High Commissioner.

Forum on Refractive Errors:

On December 19th, 2011 IVI has hosted a day long "Forum on Refractive Errors". Over 65 Optometry professionals including practitioners, educators and students pursuing post graduation in Optometry attended this forum.

The forum included key note presentations and an open discussion session. Presentations were given by Dr Padmaja Sankaridurg (Brien Holden Vision Institute), Prof Deborah Sweeney (University of Western Sydney), Dr Shrikant Bhardwaj (LV Prasad Eye Institute), Ms Lakshmi Shinde (International Centre for Eyecare Education [ICEE]), Ms Prema Chande (Lotus College of Optometry), Prof Monica Chaudhry (Amity University) & Mr Nilesh Thite (BVP School of Optometry).

The forum recommended that Research in the following areas would be an urgent priority for India: Evidence based practice management, ethnic variations, myopia & ocular growth, environmental factors and myopia progression, social stigma & quality of life, visual impairment & quality of life, reasons for contact lens drop outs, ways to increase contact lens penetration in India and ways to increase contact lens compliance among wearers.

The forum also recommended that strategies such as minimizing barriers to eye care delivery in rural areas, education in Optometry field, active involvement of practitioners through online forum and Optometry reaching out to underprivileged can minimize the occurrence of uncorrected refractive errors impacting over a 100 million people in India.



Participants of the Forum on Refractive Errors

Staff Changes at IVI:

Ms Priya Gupta has joined IVI as a "Program Officer". Priya has done her Masters in Optometry from Bharati Vidyapeeth University, Pune. Prior to joining IVI, Priya has been working with Johnson & Johnson Vision Care India as Professional Affairs Consultant.



IVI Interns:

IVI is delighted to welcome Ms Sowmya Rao, Ms Maimuna Naaz & Ms Pavani on board as interns. All three of them are fourth year Optometry students from the University of Hyderabad and will be assisting IVI team on projects.



Upcoming Events:

India Vision Institute in association with International Centre for Eyecare Education plans to organize yet another EyeTeach© workshop tentatively in early February 2012.

Through this workshop, various Optometries teaching related issues will be discussed, including; what makes a great Optometry program, what makes a good learning experience, different learning styles, teaching, constructive alignment and learning cycle, introduction and preparation for teaching techniques and ways to encourage research skills in students. The workshop will be hands-on, active learning experience in which all are expected to participate.

Kindly update us with information regarding your interest in participating for the "EyeTeach© - Educators Capacity Building Workshop" organized by India Vision Institute.

IVI Trustees & Staff

Wish You & Your Family

A Very Happy & Wonderful

New Year!



Board of Trustees:

L to R: Prof Brien Holden, Ms Lakshmi Shinde,
Dr G N Rao & Mr Vinod Daniel