

Cycle India Raises Over £100,000 for ICT



Children at Vilpatti Village Projects meeting one of the participants on the 350km bike ride across South India to raise funds for ICT.

27 cyclists took part in a tough 350 km cycle challenge across Kerala and into Tamil Nadu, South India, to raise money for International Childcare Trust.

Cheered along by ICT Chairman, Richard Fallowfield, cyclists snaked westwards, up, down, and along India's beautiful interior. The cyclists were able to savour a rare taste of the 'real' country: far from the tourist trail. The undulating route explored a lush landscape of rivers, paddy fields and stunning views, whilst also providing the opportunity to meet the locals along the way (*continued on page 3*).

Big Plans For Kenya

Following the restructuring of ICT's Kenyan partner, Njia Panda Ya Tuminai (NPYT) last year, NPYT now has plans to expand its programme in Kitale.

NPYT will continue to manage the Liyavo and Birunda residential centres as well as the existing health clinic. Its new status as a locally registered NGO, however, will make it easier for NPYT to establish more projects including a water supply project, a drop in centre for street children and a new health clinic with a pharmacy and laboratory attached.



This planned expansion will enable NPYT to assist more children and have an even greater impact on the lives of Street children in Kitale.

ICT Begins Work in Cambodia



ICT is delighted to announce that we have embarked upon our first new partnership in 6 years, with the Cambodian organisation, M'Lop Tapang.

M'Lop Tapang is a community-based Non-Governmental Organisation, founded in 2003, which empowers street children by giving them access to learning tools and resources, and by providing physical security, education, counselling and protection from abuse.

M'Lop Tapang is based in the southern city of Sihanoukville, where the majority of street-living and street-working children on the beaches, around the market and in the port areas are denied basic shelter, education, nutrition and healthcare. The insecurity and hazardousness of their lifestyles mean that many are exposed to physical, sexual and emotional abuse, malnutrition and disease. A significant number are engaged in substance abuse and there are increased incidences of intravenous drug use.

ICT looks forward a long and successful partnership with M'Lop Tapang.

Shilpa Centres Continue to Flourish



Shilpa's Residential and Vocational Training Centres in Colombo continue to flourish.

Over the last six months, fifty young women have received vocational training in embroidery, curtain making, beadwork and fabric painting.

The centre residents also took part in an international art competition and put on a fundraising dance and music performance for the local community.

Reaching Out

Feedback from vocational trainees at the Dindigul centre alerted staff to the fact that there were many potential trainees who simply could not afford the few Rupees bus fare to the centre. SEEDS Trust has responded by taking the training to the communities where these young people live. At Chettinaikenpatti, 8 kms from Dindigul, with the help of the Annai Trust, 27 girls are now studying dressmaking. The growing garment industry around Dindigul has many positions for skilled tailors and a well-paid future is awaiting them.



On the edge of Dindigul at Marianathapuram, an area thickly populated by scheduled castes, 15 boys are learning water pump maintenance and coil winding while 14 girls are studying electrical household appliance repair. These skills are much sought after in the district and the latter will enable the girls to work from home when they bear the responsibility of a young family.

ICT's Tsunami Response Work Is Making a Difference

ICT was quick to respond to the Asian tsunami last December. Funds were transferred immediately to support the response of its two partner organisations, Makandura Village Projects (MVP) and Shilpa Children's Trust. Both of these partners responded within hours of the disaster striking and are now working with local communities to assist in their long-term rehabilitation.



In Ampara and Hambantota over 350 families are being assisted, through trauma counselling, vocational training, small loan schemes and financial assistance for guardians caring for those who have lost one or both parents. When the project began in January many children were severely traumatised and in need of counselling and emotional support. Significant improvements have been noticed in the affected children who are now back in school and participating in sport, art and dance activities and as a result are more alert, energetic and joyful than they were immediately after Boxing Day.



It is anticipated that long term support of the affected children will be funded through child sponsorship. 30 tsunami-affected children are currently being sponsored by individual ICT supporters, 150 more are supported by large donors, but support for these 150 children is for one year only and ICT must identify more individuals to ensure that ICT's Tsunami response is sustainable.

If you are interested in becoming a child sponsor for a tsunami affected child, then please email info@ict-uk.org for an information pack.

ICT Announces Details of Cycle Cambodia 2006

ICT is very pleased to release the details of Cycle Cambodia.

This 365km cycle ride will start in Siem Reap, home to the magnificent Angkor Wat temples. Participants will then ride through the capital Phnom Penh, past paddy fields, through the town of Takeo, onto the coast and our final destination, Sihanoukville. Here cyclists will spend a day visiting ICT's newest partner organisation, M'Lop Tapang, which operates a day centre and provides outreach care for street children.



This is a once in a life time opportunity to see parts of Cambodia that you would not normally get to see, as well as to visit an ICT project and raise money for a really great cause. This cycle challenge is on offer NOW to ICT supporters, so sign up quickly to secure your place. The full itinerary and registration forms are on the ICT website: www.ict-uk.org

Cycle India (continued)

And finally, the group arrived at the once-far-off mountains of Kodaikanal for the final challenge: a gruelling climb to what has to be one of the most impressive views in the country. It was in Kodaikanal where the cyclists spent a day at the Vilpatti Village Project seeing how an ICT project works and meeting the children that they had raised the money to support.

“...the one thing that kept us all going in that searing heat out there was the thought of seeing the children we were doing this for! Which I have to say, after 5 days of saddlesores and lots of sunburn, the reception of the children and families in Villpatti Village made it all worth the while. I have never seen so many happy people in all my life, the appreciation of them all told in every single smile and solid handshake” – Wes Budd, 22

The cycle ride raised a massive £101,000 for ICT. THANK YOU to everyone who took part in or supported the event. ICT's next challenge event is taking place in October this year, where 55 participants will cycle 430km coast-to-coast from Negombo to Trincomolee. For more information on this event see www.cyclesrilanka.com.



Participants in Cycle India 2005 had the opportunity to visit the Vilpatti Village Project and meet some of the children benefitting from their contributions to ICT.

International Childcare Trust's Summer Picnic in the Park

On 13 August, ICT was fortunate enough to be able to hold a very special Summer Picnic in the Park at Cumberland Lodge in Windsor Great Park.

Unfortunately, it rained, but fortunately, ICT's guests were able to move through the various rooms of Cumberland Lodge, a stunning royal estate that is usually used exclusively as a conference centre for social awareness and closed to the general public.

ICT would not have been able to hold this event, raise awareness of our work and raise over £2500 if it was not for the incredible generosity of our host, Cumberland Lodge, and those who volunteered their time, energy and talents to help ICT including: the hilarious Complimentary Complement Service (www.compliments.moonfruit.com) who welcomed some of our lucky guests; The Candlelight Opera (www.candlelightopera.co.uk), who performed in period costume at the beginning of the evening; and the Andy Drysch Band (www.drysch.com) who got many of ICT's guests out on the dance floor until almost midnight!

Special thanks to Fuller Smith and Turner PLC (www.fullers.co.uk) for providing wine for the evening and to Stephen Matthews for providing the food. Thanks to our volunteers who prepared food, brought and cleared plates, made beds, vacuumed and did all the things that staff at a royal manor would usually do! Thanks to Marianna Ware, Svetlana Makeeva, Ian Fergus, Sandra Willson, Terry Ffrench Graham and Maia Fergus-O'Grady.

Special thanks to ICT intern, Rob Lewis, who traipsed around London finding raffle prizes for the event such as theatre tickets and dinners for two (thanks to Tabernacle, Maxwell's, The Apollo Victoria Theatre, the Tricycle Theatre and others for their prize donations).

Finally, and most importantly, thanks to everyone who came along and helped to make the night a great success. Many guests spent the night at the lodge and were served a special breakfast in the morning! Some of you even decided to become official 'Friends of ICT.' Thank you so much for your ongoing support!



ICT Corporate Sponsorship

Since our last newsletter, ICT has received increased support from the corporate sector. Italian technology company Finmeccanica are supporting ICT's Tsunami response work in Sri Lanka. Kroll Worldwide made ICT their charity of the year in March; they are sending eight employees on Cycle Sri Lanka as well as donating match funding on the sponsorship raised by the cyclists; and are providing ICT with IT support, time and resources; they are also generously printing this newsletter for free! Law firm, White & Case have also been providing ICT with pro bono legal advice; the free use of their meeting facilities and have hosted a Cycle Sri Lanka Information Evening for ICT. Nine White & Case employees are also taking part in Cycle Sri Lanka.



If you think your company would be interested in supporting ICT, please contact us on info@ict-uk.org.

Thank You

Huge thanks to all the returned Cycle India Participants for raising so much money for ICT, and to the Cycle Sri Lanka participants for their fundraising to date, as well as all the regular givers, one off donations and child sponsors.

ICT has also been fortunate to receive significant donations from some several UK-based charitable trusts, small island governments and like minded NGOs, including:

Four Acre Trust
Three Oak Trust
Hilden Charitable Fund

Peter Birse Charitable Trust
Mercury Phoenix Trust

Guernsey Overseas Aid
Consortium for Street Children

Thank you very much to all these large donors as well as the many others who have made smaller donations over the past 6 months.

In addition, ICT would like to thank Xtra Print for discount printing and support, Mike Clayton and Frank Marcus for their ongoing technical IT support and recent volunteers and interns, including: Tom Donnelly, Smriti Sharma, Matt Breeze, Rob Lewis, Arun Kumar, Stephen Matthews, Sarah Hildrew, Thea Lacey and Ian Fergus for the valuable contribution they make to the ICT team.

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