



TISS ALUMNI MEET

February 10–11, 2007

A Report

The famed quadrangle of TISS, with the tree of knowledge which has been witness to many a student and events across generations, was the venue of the TISS Alumni Meet on the February 10 and 11, 2007. That TISS still generates a strong affinity amongst its alumni was reflected in the number of alumni who willingly invested their time to attend the meet. They came from Delhi, Hyderabad, Chennai, Bangalore, Pune and some from UAE & Canada. It was for the first time ever that nearly a 1000 TISSians, including Alumni, faculty and retired faculty from TISS ,staff members and students of TISS came together to revisit the glorious history of TISS. The course-wise registration details are given below:

MA (Social Work)	272
MA (Personnel Management & Industrial Relations)	71
MHA (Hospital & Health)	28
Ph.D., Diploma and Certificate Programmes	21
Total	392

The opening ceremony on February 10 commenced with Prof. Usha Nayar (Deputy Director, TISS) welcoming the Alumni and felicitating the Guests of Honour — Mr. R K Krishna Kumar (Chairperson, TISS Governing Board), and Prof. Armaity Desai (Alumna of the 1957 batch and Former Director of TISS). Prof. S. Parasuraman (Director, TISS) spoke about the progress that TISS had made through the decades. The session was facilitated by Dr. R.S.S. Mani (ex-faculty and an alumnus of TISS).

The post-lunch session was one on developing the TISS-Alumni interface. This session was facilitated by Ms. Mary D'Souza, Mr. P. Vijayan, Dr. A.V. Supe and coordinated by Mr. Suryakant Waghmore (Assistant Professor, School of Social Work) and Mr. Sanjaya Pradhan (General Secretary, TISS Students' Union). Some of the key issues on which discussions were conducted were:

- Disparity between the haves and have nots in the context of education.
- Concern for youth, education and its relevance.
- Volunteering and social engagement for alumni.
- Concerns for persons with disability.
- Dignified life of the elderly.
- Issues facing Dalits and Adivasis in changing context.
- Environment and alternate sources of energy.

The evening witnessed a cultural programme, which was put together by the Faculty and students of TISS on various aspects of the Institute. The performances regaled the audience and transported them to the days when they were in TISS.

Day II commenced with the alumni of the respective schools having focused group discussions and agreeing on key action that would be taken by the alumni of the respective schools to further strengthen the schools through close interaction and involvement of the alumni.

The discussions led to the decision by the Alumni who proposed the need to set up a formal Alumni Association, which could serve as an information centre and facilitate the active participation of the Alumni in the activities of the Institute.

To commemorate the event, the students of School of Management & Labour Studies, TISS, planned to initiate **TISpeakS**, an e-newsletter, comprising articles, news, events and other interactive items revolving around the world of HR and related practices inside and beyond the institution. On the one hand, the plan is to keep distinguished alumni and well-wishers updated about the recent happenings at the Institute and enhance our interaction with them, while on the other hand efforts will also be to reach out to colleagues from other management campuses and aspirants.

In his closing address, Prof. Parasuraman thanked the Alumni for investing their time and for their active involvement and participation in the two-day meet. He also stated that to fulfill the mission of the Institute, the continuing participation and engagement of the Alumni was desirable. He also announced the setting up of an alumni office at the TISS campus that would facilitate interaction between the alumni and the Institute.

The two-day mega reunion at the Campus came to a close with a reaffirmation of the clichéd saying: ‘You can take a TISSian out of TISS, but you can’t take TISS out of a TISSian!!