

**Friend For Education International**  
**Minutes of the meeting**

Monday, November 9, 2008

**Attendees:** Benjamin Kaila, President, James Kommu, Treasurer, and Roy Manthena, Secretary

**Quorum:** Full (all attended)

**Meeting Date:** Monday, November 9, 2008

**Agenda:**

1. Introduction
2. 2007 Ambedkar Awards Update
3. 2008 Scholarships Update
4. 2008 Educational adoption
5. Micro-Loans Progress Report review
6. Vocational Course Training discussion:
  - a. Sewing
  - b. Leather Training
  - c. Agriculture Training (Rama Naidu Institute)
7. Bank Account and Tax-Exemption Update
8. Any other items

**Meeting Minutes and Discussion:**

(All three Board Members contributed to it):

1. Secretary: Welcomed 2nd Board Meeting.
2. President Gave update on various projects at hand:  
Thanked rest of the Board for joining the call.

***Scholarships:***

- President is surprised and happy to see the donations to receive donations for 70 scholarships though economy is not doing well. Promises for 20 more donations are received.
- Most of the donations came from Prof Shiva Shankar and his friends from Academic field. President expressed his gratitude to Prof Shiva Shankar.
- President aimed for 300 scholarships this year. But looking at Economy, it may seem a tough goal but we try our best.
- President urged rest of the members to spend time to send emails and call individually all known people soliciting donations.
- Board Members agreed to raise 200 Scholarship for year 2008.

***Micro-Loans:***

- This program is a big success and response from borrowers is good.

- Payments are prompt, consistent, and repayment is 100% so far.
- Prof Anand Swaroop is a big supporter of this program and it is expanding rapidly.
- President explained about Micro-Program and its implementation details.
- Some of the borrowers: roadside vegetables vendors, small grocery shops, and other small businesses.
- Prof Anand Swaroop, Australia was first to study microloans. He liked it and has been supporting with his donations since then.
- ASHA USA, a nonprofit did field study on microloans and submitted a positive report to his organization. Report is published on the website.
- Rangede.org, another microloans nonprofit visited and did field study a few days ago and will be submitting report in a few days.
- After reading the report of ASHA USA, another nonprofit approached the President and committed to support the project. A member of that organization is visiting India in November and would like to visit the beneficiaries.

#### ***Educational Adoption:***

- We got a promise to support 10 sponsorships from ASHA USA. They will be supporting each children from 1st class to 10th.
- President's goal to achieve at least 15 adoption scholarships for up coming academic year.
- President is in consultation with English medium schools in AP (Chilkaluripeta) and UP (in collaboration with Rawat).
- These scholarships may be for 2008-09 or 2009-10 (academic year).

#### ***Awards:***

- 2007 declared award for Baby Kamble got delayed. Formalities are completed and ready to present it on Feb 2, 2009 on her 81st Birth Day (as per family recommendation).
- Board is discussed about giving award to Gaddar. Spent time about Gaddar's achievement and his commitment to the downtrodden cause.
- We will have further discussion on award Selection in the next meeting.

#### ***Helping Hands (Help to individuals):***

- This project is to help individuals who are in need in education.
- President Benjamin explained about this program and current beneficiaries.
- President Benjamin spoke to beneficiaries and inquired about their progress.
- Benjamin spoke to Tulasi, BSC Nursing student and inquired about her needs for this year.

- Rayadas discussed about two MBBS students who are in need of money. Names of these students as follows: Joel Babu and Talari Srinivas. He has been asked to send complete details of the students.
- Many more requests came to the President's attention.

### ***Vocational Training:***

#### ***a. Sewing Machine:***

- President Benjamin discussed about sewing training to girls in a AP village.
- It got delayed due to non availability of resources in time
- A nonprofit expressed interest in the project
- Further discussions will take place in the coming days

#### ***b. Leather Training:***

- President Benjamin discussed about ways and means to recruit students for a free leather training center in AP. He has been working with volunteers for interested students.
- Rev Sunder, a volunteer is visiting the institute to inquire about details. He will submit the report to Benjamin.

#### ***c. Ramanaidu Institute for Rural Development:***

- Free coaching in agricultural methods is offered in this institute in AP. President is working on recruiting interested students.

### **FFEI Bank Account:**

- Bank account opened under FFEI name
- Treasurer James will be added to Bank Account.
- President Benjamin explained about Google-checkout cart. He setup online payment through Google checkout. He preferred it to Paypal as the commission is less when compared to Paypal. But the account is suspended as Google needs 501(c) (3) approval. It will be activated after tax exemption is received.

### **Scholarship Applications Update:**

- Applications are sent very early this year (during the month of June).
- So far, disappointingly only 100 applications are received as against several hundreds in previous years. We may have to advertise it again.
- Board-members are requested to think about ideas for increasing the application count. Answering to a question, president said that advertisement in newspapers is prohibitively expensive.

### **Action Items:**

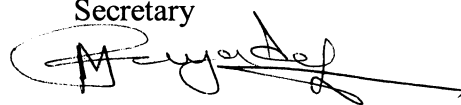
- President Benjamin will add James Kommu to Bank Account

- President will work on pending projects and appraise the board in the next meeting
- Board Members will send emails to raise funds for Scholarships
- Secretary will compile Meeting notes and send to Board Members

**Next Meeting:** Team agreed for 7th December, 2008 (9 P.M EST)

**Closing:** Meeting has been adjourned for the day.

Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rayadas Manthena', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

(Rayadas Manthena)