

## **Summary Report of Discussion between Mr. Bhupinder S. Bhalla, Administrator of the UT of Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu, and Ms Veena Upadhyaya, Expert, National Innovation Council on 12th November, 2013**

Mr. Bhupinder S. Bhalla, Administrator of the UTs of both Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu had a meeting with Ms. Veena Upadhyaya, Expert, NInC on 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2013 to discuss the formulation of the Innovation Action Plan (IAP) for the two UTs for the XII Five Year Plan period in the Expert's office. Mr. Deeptanshu Baranwal, Associate, NInC was also present. The two UTs had formed the UTInC as recently as September, 2013.

2. The Expert, NInC complimented the Administrator on the balanced composition of the UTInC which had a reasonable blend of the governmental and non-governmental representatives. She requested the Administrator to identify the low-hanging fruits i.e. the short-term innovation-driven initiatives to be taken, and also to formulate the Innovation Action Plan (IAP) for the Twelfth Five Year Plan period in consultation with the members of the SInC, and in the light of the inputs provided by the NInC. The Administrator was extremely supportive of the innovation-driven agenda, and said that on the fronts of both the financial resources and attitudinal amenability, the UT is willing to act as a pilot for the results to be replicated across the country, and also emerge as a role model.

3. The Administrator provided the salient features of the socio-industrial profile of the UTs as follows:

(i) He informed that the UTs have a high concentration of both the large and MSM industries, numbering over 5000. Some of these are large industrial houses e.g. Reliance, and Unilever. The industries in the two UTs have an investment of over Rs.70,000 crores. These industries cover a range of sectors, from plastic, labels manufacturing, to pharmaceuticals. He has involved them under the Corporate Social Responsibility obligations (CSR) for filling infrastructural gaps, and for providing sanitation facilities in the 72 villages and 515 hamlets of Dadra & Nagar Haveli. The Administration has assigned the name 'Sankalp' for the CSR initiative, and has allocated villages to industrial firms/companies for meeting the gaps in the areas of sanitation, water, education, community halls, houses for the poorest, among others. The industrial entities have been requested to provide the raw/construction material to the poor beneficiaries who will make the houses themselves.

(ii) In the Education sector, officers have been allocated the 400 odd schools in the UTs and document the infrastructure gaps. Each officer was allocated 8-10 schools for inspection. The PWD has been asked to fill the gaps within six months. This innovative strategy has boosted the infrastructure at the schools. The UT has signed an MoU with CII Institute of Quality, Bengaluru for improving the quality of school education. The UT has aimed to gain recognition from various institutions/ accreditations within 18 months from the start of the program named "Sarvottam", which is already in progress in 30 high/senior secondary schools

(iii) In Health sector, the UT has initiated a proposal to establish a medical college through Public Private Partnership mode. The local Govt. Vinobha Bhave Civil Hospital is paperless and has been awarded an award for this achievement. The two UTs have a highly successful "108" ambulance service run through GVK. The School Health Programme has also been successful in the UTs. The Administrator informed that the UT is considering procuring a ferry and a boat ambulance for reaching villages beyond the Dudhani Lake.

(iv) As for the IT connectivity, the UTs expect to get the SWAN by May/June, 2014, and its Data Center by July, 2014. Pending that, they propose to use the BSNL servers or Goa Data Centre. Their request for the National Optic Fibre Network (NOFN) is still pending. It is imperative to give priority to D&NH, and D&D in providing the fibre optic connectivity and in expanding the mobile connectivity. Four "patelads" or group of villages have no connectivity. BSNL is being requested to establish mobile towers with cost to be borne by the Administration.

4. The Expert, NInC lauded the initiatives taken by the Administrator in the two UTs, and thanked him for his zeal and dynamism for carrying the innovation agenda forward. She made the following suggestions:

(i) In view of the density of the industrial entities in the UTs, the pilot project of MSME Cluster with the Cluster Innovation Centre (CIC) as the nucleus would be beneficial to the industry and the end users. The CIC is a small group of Champion-entrepreneurs who volunteer to spearhead and nurture the industry-research institution collaboration. The NInC acts as a knowledge-partner for the initial stimulus; identifies the problems in consultation with the association of the entrepreneurs; puts them in touch with the R&D institution/s concerned in the CSIR set-up or/and the financial institution/s concerned, depending on the needs of the cluster of industries. At present seven pilot projects have been implemented in various industries such as food processing in Tamil Nadu, bamboo in Tripura, Brassware in UP, Auto components in Faridabad, among others. This initiative has contributed greatly to the increase in the quality and efficiency of the MSME products, and led to rise in the wages of the workers. She requested that representation is also required from Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) which will represent the Industries as a whole. The Administrator welcomed the idea for formation of CIC and involvement of CII. The Expert also mentioned that Mr. Samir Mitra, Expert, MSME Clusters in India during middle of November 2013. A contact can be got established between the Administrator and would like to meet the Administrator for discussing MSME clusters & CIC.

The CII representative may be associated with the UTInC as a member.

(ii) Details of initiatives by NInC in the field of education such as TodFodJod & Innovation Scholarships were provided. Hard copies of the outlines of these two initiatives at the national level were handed over to the Administrator. The Agastya International Foundation, Bengaluru has wide experience in conducting such programmes and may help the UT in initiating this innovation. Their contact details will be provided.

(iii) One of the innovation-based initiatives could be in the field of technical education by bridging the gap between ITIs and Polytechnics on one hand, and the industry on the other hand. The leading industries can be requested to set up the workshops on the premises of the ITI and the Polytechnic of the UTs, and also have a say in the curriculum design of these institutions. The objective is to improve the employability of the local youth.

(iv) The Forests and the Environment Depts of the UT may be associated in the taxonomic cataloguing, and indexing of the floral, faunal and aquatic bio-diversity of the two UTs, along with their traditional knowledge for their being registered in the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) of the CSIR for staking a claim in the intellectual property rights. The TKDL is a global reference point for cross-consultation and referencing.

(v) Mr. Anjan Das, ED, CII hqs. will be asked to establish contact with the Administrator on the CII's suggestion for setting up of the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for promotion of entrepreneurship in the PPP mode. A number of States have set these up, and quite a few are considering its being set up.

5. The following **key decisions** were taken during the course of the meeting:

(i) The UT Innovation Council will hold its first meeting by second week of December. They would like to invite the NInC mentor and the representatives of the NInC.

(ii) The UT will formulate the Innovative Action Plan in identified sectors in the light of the discussions as summarized above.

(iii) NInC will facilitate the contact between the Agastya International Foundation & the UT for facilitating various educational programmes.

(iv) CII and the Administrator will consider the usefulness of the SPV.

VeenaUpadhyaya

Expert, NInC

13.11.2013