



NEWSLETTER

Dear SIETAR members and friends,

It's been a while since our last newsletter. So we do have lots of news and resources for you. India has been on the world stage a lot these past few months, given that world's most populous democracy just went to the polls. The main theme therefore is one of hope for better times- at least, this has been what the Indian masses have voted for. As we are all set for better governance and faster reforms bringing in better economic times, interculturalism will remain hugely relevant for India and India Inc, not only for the country to leverage its own internal hugely diverse workforce but also for harmonious social relations. In the coming months, we hope to launch SIETAR Hyderabad thanks to the dynamism of Smita Rane who has volunteered to organize SIETAR learning events in Hyderabad. Do not hesitate to send in an email to sietarindia@gmail.com, should you be interested in facilitating a learning event on an intercultural theme that you have been working on. In the meanwhile, here is a round up of some interesting workshops and resources that you may find valuable.

REMINDERS

This June 7th is the VPA® – Virtual Performance Assessment licensing workshop. This one day certification is happening in Chennai and will be conducted by Stefan Meister of Intercultures, Berlin. For more information about this workshop contact mendieta@intercultures.de.

Also coming up is the 4-day residential programme from Meta-Cultures in Bangalore. Called, Ah!Wake : Learn creative and effective mechanisms to manage complexity, diversity, conflict and change, to be held on July 3 – 6 on Kanakapura Road in Bangalore. The fees are INR 12,000 for the non-profit sector and INR 16,000 for the for-profit sector. Check out the course outline and registration information at <http://www.meta-culture.in/Ah!Wake.php>.

EDITORIALS & USEFUL LINKS

Book Review: by Sunita Nichani

Being different –An Indian Challenge to Western Universalism by Rajiv Malhotra published by Harper Collins. This powerfully written and very well researched book is an eye-opener and a must read even more so for Indians. The author explains what makes the Indian worldview so different from that of any other culture and how the uniqueness of the Indian civilization has been distorted by the Western lens leading to inaccurate simplifications of concepts that are literally untranslatable in any other language but Sanskrit. Ultimately, this book is a huge argument for understanding any culture at its own terms without the violence of imposing another lens on it. Only then do we move into a phase of accepting difference, rather than just tolerating it for some perceived similarity with our frames of reference.

Film Recommendations: Queen by Sunita Nichani

Bollywood as an indicator of social change! Largely known for its escapist "masalafilms" and its glam quotient, the last few hugely successful films in Bollywood mirror the social changes that India is going through. The runaway success of the film – "Queen" narrates the story of a young girl raised in a conservative Punjabi family, deferring to the dictates of her family and society. Jilted at her wedding by her fiancé, she goes for her honeymoon in Paris all by herself and from there on to Amsterdam- a truly intercultural adventure. The culture shock phase is painful but learning rarely happens when you are in a comfort zone. Rani (which means Queen in Hindi and hence the title of the movie), discovers the joys of a more individualistic society where one lives less in fear of "what others will say," to come back more confident having expanded her horizons!

Mini Documentary: presented by Lakshmi Kumar and the Orchid School, Pune

The work of one of our Pune board members, Lakshmi Kumar, has been documented in this video. The Sweden – India project is celebrating 20 years! Dedicated to the students of these programs, this video captures some of the great intercultural moments. Google: Swindia Movie or visit the you tube link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aXQgoXafYSw>

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Sunita Nichani

PRESIDENT



Sreemathi Ramnath

SECRETARY



Anantdeb Bandyopadhyay



Lakshmi Kumar



Line Mark Rugholt



Mala Malkani



Jili Sheldekar