

23 September, 2007 - Flashnews Visit of Italian Ambassador and two General Consols of Delhi and Calcutta at Bodhgaya – Alice Project School



From left: Agostino Pinna Console Generale Calcutta, Parolo Trichilo Console Generale New Delhi, H.E. Ambassador Antonio Armellini his wife Maria Giovanna Ceriani, Valentino Giacomini director and founder of Alice Project Schools.

The visit of the Italian delegation at Alice Project School in Bodhgaya on September 23th was extremely successful, beyond any expectation. The Italian Ambassador talked about the feeling he had when he entered the school. *“The first feeling was very positive and I felt peace”*, he said. He continued talking about the impressive behavior of the students, who followed the whole ceremony with real attention and concentration. He was very interested on the results of the educational research named Alice Project and he promised the help of Italian Government.

At the end of the brief welcome ceremony, the delegation visited the school, the laboratories of Science, history, geography, language and math.

”This is a school European standard!” commented the Ambassador’s wife, madam Ceriani. The wife was also impressed by the aims of Alice Project Educational Project. Particularly, she wanted to know how we manage to “prepare the students non only for job but also to be jobless” (see Valentino’s speech). “This is very interesting!” she said. Valentino explained that among 100 students, only 10% would have the opportunity to get a job according to their degree. “What about the remaining 90%? We keep this statistic in our mind when we prepare our educational program. You can be jobless, as many young people are here in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. If you are jobless and become

depressed then you have two problems: no job and your depression. We have no the power to give job to our students, but we are trying to help our students to avoid, at least, one problem which depends on them: depression!”

More in the next newsletter.

Speech of V. Giacomini

[Valentino Giacomini's \(Founder and Director of Alice Project Schools\) Speech for Italian Ambassador H.E. Antonio Armellini – Bodhgaya School – September 23th, 2007](#)

Your Excellency, Dr. Antonio Armellini, Italian Ambassador, most honorable guests.

We are extremely pleased to welcome all of you to Universal Education – Alice Project School. Particularly, we are especially happy to welcome the diplomatic representative of Italy, a country which has long and deep ties to India.

The presence of His Excellency here today, means a lot for our Educational research, named Alice Project.

Alice Project is the brainchild of two Italian teachers, Luigina de Biasi, my fellow-researcher, and myself. It started in 1986 with a didactic test of the Alice Project methodology and its philosophical basis in two Governmental Schools, in the north of Italy which lasted some five years. Our target was to find an answer to the problems, which were affecting school classes all over Europe.

In the last thirty years the Earth became a place more dangerous to live, due to natural disasters and “global warming”. For instance, some scientists believe that our Holy river, the Ganga, is one among the rivers which is going to disappear. Underground water resources are going to finish within a few years. Maybe the monsoon also will be disrupted...*If this tragedy could happen, how can our Educational system remain a silent witness of this global calamity?*

In other words, we cannot go on teaching and educating our children as we used to do thirty years ago: that's to say, according to the old paradigm, as the scientists call it.

We are facing and we will face unthinkable problems because – in West as well in the East – we've lost the contact to our Myths, our cultural roots, our religions, and our traditions, based on a holistic and Unitarian vision of the world (the new scientific paradigm)

Alice Project wants to prove that we have nothing to lose if our students know both : Science and Myths, physics and spirituality.

We need Patanjali (the scientist of yoga) and Einstein (the scientist of physics).

But, if we have to choose between the two, we'd suggest our students to study Patanjali, because yoga (based on the concept of Unity and interdependence) and meditation brings inner peace.

After many years of research, we can say that this new education (based on the new paradigm of Unity and Interdependence) has a tremendous impact on the minds of children. In fact, the students of Alice project (Italian or Indian) are peaceful and show a difference, which was underlined by His Holiness The Dalai Lama when he visited our Sarnath school. His Holiness said: **“We are meeting the little students who have the light of self confidence and assurance in their eyes. I am really very happy to see this!”**

Not only the behavior of the students is positive, also the academic results are brilliant as proved by the results of Exam Board in class X and XII. Every student has passed these exams in the past three years. (We had similar results in Italy)

We believe that the children from poor villages have a chance to succeed in the competitive modern India, if they can attend a high standard school similar to those children of well-off families attend. For this reason, and with unimaginable effort, we build a first class school, in Sarnath (UP) and then a second in this remote area of Bihar. They offer the best facilities and the most up-to-date methods of teaching: a science laboratory; a special history and geography room based on holistic instruction; a math laboratory based on a revolutionary research of an Italian scientist; an English and Italian laboratory based on the concept of “global perception and power of visualization”.

Beside the quality of education, which makes this school unique for the underprivileged children, as we mentioned before, we also offer something that the education business neglects: A “spiritual education” or the science of the mind.

In brief, we are preparing the students not only to get a job, but we are preparing them to the eventuality of being jobless, as more than 50 per cents (may be more!) of graduates of this State are.

This is Alice Project.

The results are quite encouraging.

At least, at our schools in Sarnath and Bodhgaya, with more than one thousand students and 30 teachers, we do not have the students' behavioral problems which the West and now also the East are facing. This encourages us to go on with our educational research.

We are also involved in several projects of social service. Our Society has created some effective social welfare programmes for girls and women, orphans, child laborers, jobless and destitute villagers, teacher's training as well as some health projects.

The presence of Italian Ambassador today is a great honor for our schools that have a special connection to Italy. In fact, as we mentioned earlier, Alice Project started in Italy based on the gift of ancient Indian wisdom. After discovering that the culture treasure is no longer part of the traditional educational system, the Italian researchers decided to return this gift to India, the place where they found their original inspiration.

Your Excellency: We hope you can appreciate the importance of our research, which is an attempt to offer a contribution for a better future of the generations of India and other countries. We also hope you will help to strengthen the friendship between India and Italy by supporting our educational research.