

Press Release

Hyderabad, October 26, 2010 — Pipal Tree Ventures Pvt. Ltd. (PTVPL) along with IDFC Foundation organized its first ever round-table conference at the Taj Banjara. The conference brought together around 50 people from 20 prominent and distinguished infrastructure and construction companies to discuss the challenges faced due to lack of skills development in the infrastructure and construction sector as well as the future prospects and the way forward.

The MD and CEO of NSDC, Mr. Dilip Chenoy, set the conference in motion with a presentation that emphasized on the gravity of skills shortage in India, in the years to come, and the significance of setting up Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) in the country. His presentation stated the probability of India facing a shortage of over 240 million people by 2022. In the attempt to reduce this gap, various initiatives are being taken across India. With 14 ventures already in pipeline, NSDC plans to train 150 million individuals by 2022. In addition various Sector Skill Councils are being formed by different segments. These SSCs will provide training in different skills, measuring standards and qualifications for various job opportunities with various companies. The magnitude of establishing SSCs will be market analysis, standardization/certification, accreditation, training the trainers, etc.

This was followed by a presentation from Mr. Anupam Srivastava, group Director CSR of IDFC, in which he catalyzed the significance of SSCs for Infrastructure and Construction sector in partnership with NSDC and the industry. Accordingly, a SSC will be formed with an initial equity of 10 crores. IDFC will hold a 26% stake in the SSC, NSDC a 49% stake, with the remaining stake being held by other construction companies and associations. IDFC has proposed to fund the initial amount towards setting up SSCs across India with the help of NSDC and Industry players.

Mr. Santosh Parulekar, Co-Founder and COO of PTVPL, continued with a panel discussion, during which, he addressed PTVPL as a vocational training provider that provides skill training for the infrastructure and construction industry, in turn which helps unemployed youth in rural areas and helps customers improve their business efficiency.

Head quartered at Mumbai, PTVPL with 5 vocational training centres in India, spread across A.P, U.P, Bihar, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan, as of today, wishes to set up more in Orissa, M.P, Chhattisgarh, and Jharkhand. PTVPL provides training in reinforcement and masonry, plant and equipment, surveying, toll collectors and supervisors, material testing, and occupational health.

IDFC Foundation has taken stake (equity) in PTVPL and, with its collaboration, wants to fill the skill gap in the infrastructure and construction industry in India.

The panel discussion focused on various topics. Some of the highlights are as follows:

1. Majority of the construction companies agreed upon the need for an SSC for the infrastructure and construction sector and were comfortable with IDFC foundation, an independent organization, taking the lead.
2. SSC is essential in leveraging the career growth of a construction worker through training, developing the behavioural skills and the image of the construction worker. It also plays a vital role in recognising the value of the worker, enabling the worker produce full-time work in the company, providing uniformity and safety, thereby, motivating the worker to join the company and elevate his level of performance in the company.
3. An SSC can also impart the training skills facility by providing certification at different levels.
4. SSC will incorporate on the job, onsite training modules. Based on the requirement these training modules should be developed in various locations as required.