

International Conference inaugurated at Asia Plateau, Panchgani



Dr. J.J. Irani

140 delegates from 13 countries were welcomed by Dr. Ravindra Rao which was followed by a welcome by Mr Rajendra Chavan, the CEO of the Municipal Corporation of Panchgani who welcomed all delegates to the beautiful hill station of Panchgani.

The Traditional Inaugural lamp was lit by representatives of the 13 countries participating in the conference. The Asia Plateau Choir sang the song 'It's better to Light one Candle than to Curse the Darkness'.

Sarosh Ghandy then gave the details of the 4-day conference. Farhad Forbes in his address talked about the importance of Integrity and the need for building institutions on the principles of trust and Integrity. He gave details of the loss in trillions of dollars due to the meltdown and large number of jobs lost. While the impact was not severe in India, he said we need to be on our alert. He also mentioned that the growth and development model should be inclusive and take care of the large segment of the population.

Delivering the keynote address, Dr. J.J Irani talked about reintroducing integrity and trust as a common business practice. He gave details of his experience in the House of Tatas. Talking about the great visionary, Jamsetji Tata, he highlighted the difference between making money for oneself and creating wealth for others. He mentioned the importance of creating wealth before it could be distributed. It was very necessary to distribute wealth and quoting from the life of Mr. JRD Tata who did not spend money of the company in buying expensive curtains for his office. Helping the community where one was working was important. He stressed the need to follow the principle of ruling but with the consent of the ruled. There was a special responsibility towards the people who live around and the needs of the community must be met.

A special issue of 'Disha', the in-house magazine of Initiatives of Change, India, was released on the occasion. Mr. Mohan Bhagwandas gave a detailed account of the 3 decades of the conferences in Caux and Panchgani and now referred to the focus on trust and integrity in Business. Mr. H. Yano, Chairman of Initiatives of Change, Japan and co-host of this conference took the trouble to send a video welcome message to all delegates. The inaugural session was closed by a vote of thanks by Mr. Bhagwandas.

