



Amroha International Society

This quarterly newsletter provides information about the latest activities of the Amroha International Society and shares the stories and news of its members.

A Quarterly Newsletter

Issue No. 5 - March 2008

Paypal

Make donations online

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Cataract Operations

AIS is now facilitating cataract operations in Amroha through camps operated by Venu Hospital.

Cataracts are the leading cause of blindness in the world. In India, 80.1% of sight-impaired people are blind due to cataract. Given the numbers (around 12 million blind people) there is an enormous backlog of cataract operations and experts have cited the need for collaboration between non-government organizations and the public sector to expand coverage to the most disadvantaged populations. (Source: R.B. Vajpayee, Sujata Joshib, Rohit Saxenaa, S.K. Gupta, "Epidemiology of Cataract in India: Combating Plans and Strategies", *Ophthalmic Research* 1999;31:86-92).



In India, 80.1% of sight-impaired people are blind due to cataract

AIS is starting to work towards that contribution. In January 2008, Ikram Naqvi had the pleasure of meeting the doctors, and looking at the facilities, of the Venu hospital in New Delhi. This eye hospital has a very good reputation for helping the poor.

During this visit, Ikram was able to make arrangements with the the Venu hospital for the setting up of cataracts camps in Amroha. He described this later as "the most satisfying part of my trip to India".

AIS will pay the hospital per camp and per patient. Their doctors will travel to Amroha to provide on-site examinations. Those who may be treated in Amroha will receive care immediately.

Those who require an operation will be taken by the Venu Hospital bus to the Venu hospital in New Delhi. They will be taken back to Amroha by the same bus when they are recovered and able to travel. AIS will monitor the progress of patients and the use of the service.

Mr Dheeraj, who is in charge of the camps of Venu hospital travelled to Amroha on 6th March to explore the possible location for the camps. The first camp is planned for the 26th March.

EDITOR'S NOTE

It's been an extremely productive time for the Amroha International Society and its members in the last quarter.

I was delighted by the progress made on several AIS projects during my visit to Amroha in December 2007.

In particular, we managed to arrange for a program of cataract camps run by the Venu Hospital in New Delhi. This will provide some much needed treatment for a common but debilitating condition in Amroha and for which there is no existing facility in Amroha at present.

Our scholarship program was also advanced through the cooperation of Mr PK Jain, Principal of the Hindu Degree College and Mr Sirajuddin Hashmi, owner of Hashmi Girls College. It was heartwarming to receive such an enthusiastic response to my speeches from students. We are currently in the process of selecting students for scholarships.

We invite all AIS members to become a sponsor of both education and health projects by filling out the Health and Education Donation Form. Both the cataract camps and the Scholarship Program are dependent upon your support.

The introduction of Paypal on the AIS website should make the payment of contributions to AIS projects much easier and more secure. I hope that AIS members will make use of it as the more of money we receive, the more we can achieve for the charity work mentioned in this newsletter.

I would like to thank Suhail Naqvi from New York for playing a key role in developing the website.

Congratulations to Riffi Naqvi for her latest painting exhibition. The photographs in this newsletter hope to pay some tribute to her great talent.

Ikram Naqvi

Paypal

We now have Paypal on the AIS website.

This system of secure credit card payment makes it much simpler for you to make donations to AIS charity projects.

Please visit the website:

www.amrohainternationalsociety.com

Health and Education donation form

There is now only one form to fill out to donate to Education and Health projects which is now available on the AIS website.

Your generosity will be appreciated.



All the monies you donate will be used for those you want to help without any deductions for administrative expenses.

TB project

The AIS TB project has unfortunately experienced a setback.

Local doctors in Amroha informed us that patients often stop taking the medication prescribed for treating TB. This was because patients sometimes begin to feel worse as a result of the medication working.

We were advised to hold TB treatment until an appropriate social network is developed. The social workers in the network will visit the patients to ensure that they are regularly taking their medication. We are currently in the process of contacting social workers in the Amroha area for this purpose.

Website Development

Making the website more interactive and interesting is in the pipe line.

Your suggestions are most welcome.

Member's Gallery

We encourage you to put your photographs on the AIS website under "Member's Gallery".



Photograph in Member's Directory

You are invited to add your photograph to your profile on the "Members Directory" so that fellow members can see you.

Hits on AIS Website

It is pleasing to see a high number of hits on the AIS website.

For the past year the daily hit rate has varied from 28 to 425. The other pleasing aspect is the geographic distribution, but it seems Canadians are the most frequent visitors!





Ikram Naqvi addresses colleges

In January 2008, Ikram Naqvi spoke to the students of two colleges in Amroha to promote the AIS Scholarship Program



In January 2008, Ikram Naqvi visited two colleges in Amroha to promote the AIS Scholarship Program.

I was delighted by the enthusiastic cooperation of Mr P K Jain, Principal of the Hindu Degree College and Mr Sirajuddin Hashmi, owner of Hashmi Girls College.

The response from students to my speech in which I explained the AIS Scholarship Program was encouraging. Quite a few students came to meet me and ask me questions after the talk.

As a result of these talks, we have received fifty Scholarship Applications from the Hindu Degree college and Hashmi Girls College. Fifteen possible candidates who meet the criteria have been identified, but at present the AIS



does not have sufficient funds to approve them. Therefore, there is a critical need for more funds for these scholarships to be awarded. Please make use of the new [Education and Health Donation form](#) if you would like to donate to the AIS Scholarship Program.

Story by Ikram Naqvi

The criteria used to select the students are the following:

1. The monthly income of the family of the recipients should not be more than Rs 10,000.00.
2. The students scores should be 60% or above.
3. The student is able to provide evidence of enrolment in a three to four year program.



The AIS Scholarship Program

The AIS helps underprivileged students by providing scholarships for education beyond high school and intermediate colleges. In May of 2006 we were able to initiate our scholarship program for the students of Amroha who intend to enroll in higher education programs.

In 2007, we provided two students - Samia Zakir and Khem Chand - with scholarships for university degrees.

At present we have funds for thirteen scholarships from twelve sponsors world wide. See the AIS website for more information on how you can help.



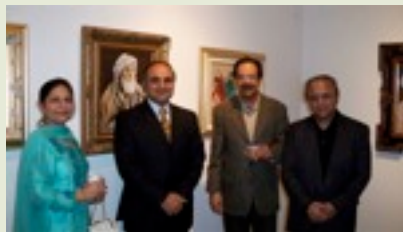
Art Exhibition of Riffi Ahmad

Riffi Ahmad exhibited her paintings at the South Asian Art Festival in Santa Monica California from 23 February to 1 March 2008

Riffi Ahmad (Mohalla Katkoi) exhibited a number of her paintings at the South Asian Art Festival in Santa Monica, California, USA, from 23 February to 1 March 2008.

Pakistan's Consul General, Mr Abn-e-Abbas inaugurated the exhibition, which was sponsored by FFEM Zambeel Gallery.

The exhibition attracted a large group of people from all walks of life including government officials, media, representatives of art organisations and art



(from left) Painting, Riffi Ahmad, Syed ibn-e-Abbas, Salman Ahmad and guest at exhibition, Painting

departments of local universities.

Riffi Ahmad is the owner operator of a Montessori School in San Diego, California, and an avid artist when time permits. She paints to escape to the past. Her preferred subject is "Life in the Homeland". She observes characters and

environments that best represent the homeland culture, and captures them on canvas with precision and flourish.

When asked why she dwells on memories of the land she left behind, her answer is very matter of fact: "Yes, I have left the land, but it has not left me, not yet anyways."

In 2001, she held an exhibition of 31 paintings in San Diego, California. It was followed by an exhibition in Los Angeles in 2002 to commemorate the memory of Allama Iqbal.

The same year, she was invited by the State Department of

the United States to to display her work in Washington D.C. at the residence of the American Ambassador Designate for Pakistan.

Story by Salman Ahmad.



Institute of International Law

Yasmin Naqvi spent a week in late October 2007 working as a report-writer for the Institute of International Law in Santiago, Chile.

Presidential Place



The Presidential Palace in Santiago, the capital city of Chile, famous for its dramatic scenes of the 11 September 1973 coup when General Augustus Pinochet stormed inside and arrested power for what would become 17 years of violent political repression, stands quiet and guarded these days.

From the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which now occupies the building that used to be the hotel where foreign journalists would reside, one has the exact perspective of the Palace as one sees in the photos of the coup. And it was here in this building, from this perspective, that the Institute of

Aboard Chilean navy vessel



International Law decided to hold its 2007 session.

The Institute of International Law (*Institut de Droit International*) is a private association composed of some of the most distinguished and important international lawyers in the world. It was founded in 1873 in Belgium by eleven international lawyers of renown who had decided to join together to create an institution independent of any governmental influence which would be able both to contribute to the development of international law and

Vineyard of Chile



act so that it might be implemented.

The Santiago Session was focused upon the legality of the use of force in international law. Other topics discussed included the fundamental rights of the person and the immunity from jurisdiction in International Law, and the principle of equivalence in private international law.

Listening to the esteemed members of the Institute (many of whose works I had been reading as textbooks in International Law or whose judgments laid down the principles in

Barrio Bellavista



many areas of International Law) debate issues such as whether a non-State actor (e.g. a terrorist group) could commit an 'armed attack' in the sense of the UN Charter, was fascinating and inspiring as well as somewhat surreal. However, I was not there merely to observe, but to help write the reports of these meetings so that a correct record could be made of the proceedings.

Somewhat symbolically, a reception was given one evening by the (democratically elected) President of

Statue of Virgin Mary



Chile, Mrs. Michelle Bachelet inside the Presidential Palace.

The Chilean navy also took us for a cruise on a naval ship down the coast from beautiful Valparaíso.

While Chile's dark past remains emblematic of the terror of military dictatorships, its present conveys a sense of cautious optimism and renewal and it was that feeling that I left with, along with copious notes, to resume my international law career back home in The Hague.

Story by Yasmin Naqvi

News from AIS members

Some AIS members have had life-changing experiences in the last quarter!

Wedding of Anand Raj and Prachi

Anand Raj from Austin, Texas, US, got married to Prachi in Amroha recently.

Congratulations to Anand and Prachi!



Zehra Naqvi achieves another Goal!



Zehra Naqvi-Ciscon, who was recently seen on the big screen in the Bollywood hit 'Goal', gave birth to a lovely boy Zac Julian Inam Ciscon on the 29th November 2007.

Congratulations to Scott and Zehra!

Shahwilayat Website

Congratulations to Mr Hasan Hadi Naqvi for creating a new website on the important Shahwilayat family.

Please visit www.shahwilayat.tribalpages.com

Ph.D in International Law

Congratulations to Yasmin, daughter of Ikram and Jane Naqvi of Hobart, Australia, for obtaining her Ph.D. in International Law from the Graduate Institute of

International Studies, Geneva.



Yasmin currently works in the Chambers of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague.

If you have news you want to share with the AIS community, make sure you let us know so we can include it in our next newsletter.

Photos by Suhail Naqvi

All of these pictures were taken at San Elliyo Lagoon in San Diego, California.

These birds share the same habitat that offers seemingly meager resources. However, they do not compete with each other for food. Look at their bills (beaks in common language). Each of these birds has a highly specialized bill. The avocet finds its food by sweeping side-ways in shallow water. The Marbled Godwit finds its prey buried deep into the soft mud. The shoveler has a bill that is much similar to that of ducks except that it is bigger, almost like a "shovel". The egret has a sharp and strong bill, effective in catching small fish.

American Avocet



Marbled Godwit



Snowy Egret

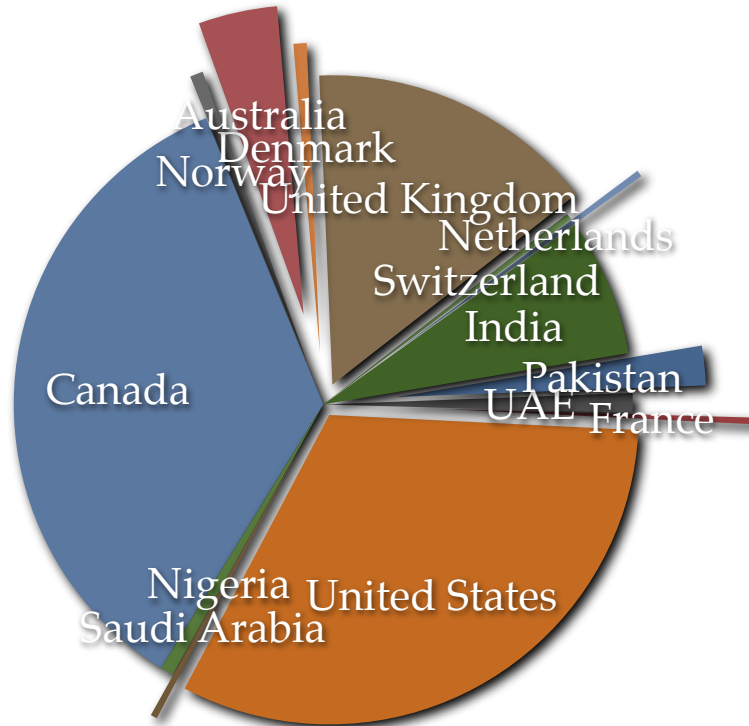


North American Shoveler



Where are AIS members?

This pie chart gives an indication of the distribution of AIS members in the 14 countries in which they find themselves living at present



- | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|-----------|------------------|
| ● India | ● Pakistan | ● UAE | ● France |
| ● United States | ● Saudi Arabia | ● Nigeria | ● Canada |
| ● Norway | ● Australia | ● Denmark | ● United Kingdom |
| ● Switzerland | ● Netherlands | | |

Contact

You can [email](#) your suggestions and comments about the AIS to the Co-ordinator, Ikram Naqvi, using the [mail option on the AIS website](#).

Amroha International Society
www.amrohainternationalsociety.com/



AMROHA INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY (AIS)

www.amrohainternationalsociety.com

DONATION FORM FOR EDUCATION AND HEALTH PROJECTS

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____ Telephone
number: _____ E-mail address: _____

This is an excellent opportunity to give recognition to a loved one or an elder. Scholarship and health donations can be named donations such as:

Farheen Zehra Scholarship for Women's Education or

Seth Leharchand Welfare Fund for Health

Please indicate the name of a scholarship and/or the name of the health program below.

Name of scholarship _____

Name of health program _____

DONATE A DOLLAR A DAY!

Suggested donations are:

US \$ 250.00

AU \$ 300.00

Canadian \$ 260.00

Pounds Sterling 130.00

Indian Rupees (INR) 10,000.00

DONATION METHODS

1. Money can be sent by Pay Pal accessible from the website www.amrohainternationalsociety.com

2. Money can be wired to the assigned account for AIS at the Commonwealth Bank, Kingston, Tasmania, Australia. Bank Account number (BSB- 067105-10253899).
(Swift code CTBAAU2S)

3. Money orders/checks payable to 'Amroha International Society' can be sent to:
Mr. Ikram Naqvi, 295 Tinderbox Road, Tinderbox, Tasmania 7054, Australia

For further information contact Mr. Ikram Naqvi

Telephone Number +61-3-62-294342

E-mail ikenaqvi@yahoo.co.uk

DATE _____