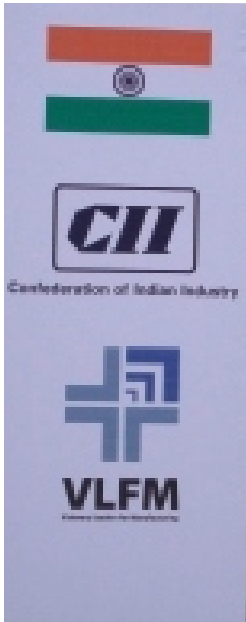




VLFM PROGRAMME GETS KICKED OFF



The Visionary Corporate Leaders for Manufacturing Programme under the VLFM umbrella being spearheaded by Confederation of Indian Industry was kicked off on Sep 23 at the CII Godrej Centre of Excellence. On this Sunday morning, the centre wore a festive look and reflected the innovative spirit of the programme designed under the guidance of Prof. Shoji Shiba. The programme was kicked off in

a rather unconventional manner with participants putting up a unique exhibition about their companies to bring together the opportunities and challenges facing their companies. Located just outside the unique and innovative class room this exhibition represents the issues to which solutions would be looked for in the class-room.

Ganesha and Sarswati invocations were performed to kick off the proceedings of the day. While speaking at the kick off ceremony Mr Sudhir Trehan, Chairman of one of the participating companies, Crompton Greaves Ltd, said "the companies participating in the VLFM Programme were already excellent and many were already global companies in their own right. Amongst these companies, Quality, Productivity and cost competitiveness are a given. The Industry expects to find solutions to the next set of challenges. We would like to hear something from participants which we have not thought of on new business strategies ". He further added that the VLFM Programme was aimed at putting India on the global manufacturing map.

Dr Surinder Kapur, Chairman of the CII Mission for Innovation in Manufacturing and Chairman and Managing Director, Sona Koyo while congratulating

the participants said "I congratulate you not because this programme is being kicked off today but because you are the chosen few. You have taken the first steps to becoming future CEOs of your companies. Your companies have spared you with very high expectations on performance for so much time .".

Prof Shoji Shiba, while explaining the objectives of Module 1 said "we need to remember that as leaders we don't have 10 sub ordinates but 20 pairs of eyes watching us. We need to become role models and lead by example". Prof Shiba also explained to the participants what kind of body language they should practice in order to come across as positive persons.

While some part of the day was devoted to theoretical inputs, the participants discussed their homework, drew learnings from the presentations made, learnt the basics of "Language of Report" and watched "Karate Kid".

Participants came forward to share physical exercises that reduce stress and help to keep us physically fit. The day ended with an informal "night session" with participants singing on the Karaoke and dancing. Prof Shiba also explained the importance of informal dinners and interactions in the life of CEOs. He specifically highlighted the importance of 'becoming' focused and building a competence to make impressive comments.

The VLFM Programme could not have been possible with out the unstinted support of the National Manufacturing Competitiveness Council, Government of India, Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India, Japan International Co operation Agency, Government of Japan, Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras over the last one year.

Glimpses of the Visit

