

# ASPIRE SkillsWorld™ 2010

1<sup>st</sup> July 2010, Gurgaon

Aspire™ hosted Aspire SkillsWorld™ 2010 on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July in Gurgaon. The third edition of Aspire SkillsWorld™ was dedicated to the spirit of mentoring while bridging the academia - industry divide. The event sponsored by Panasonic & supported by knowledge partners (Naukri.com, People Strong & EPSI) featured 3 sets of discussions:

The inaugural discussion highlighted What Employers Want in contrast to What Educators Want. The industry academia divide was evident in the panel discussion as was the leadership required to deliver What India wants. Speakers for this session (Academia) were Dr. Siddiq Wahid, (Vice Chancellor, Islamic University), Mark Parkinson, (Director, The Shri Ram Schools), Dr. Raj Singh, (Vice Chancellor, Amity University) & Dr. Sanjay Modi, (Senior Dean, Lovely Professional University) whereas Industry was represented by Sanjeev Bikhchandani, (CEO, Naukri.com), Pankaj Bansal, (CEO, People Strong), Arjun Balakrishnan, (Director, Panasonic) & Sandeep Dhar, (CEO, TESCO India). Sanjeev Bikhchandani (CEO, Naukri.com) talked about emerging sectors in India like BPO,

KPO, IT, Biotech, Retail etc. which require new skills set and our academia's readiness to adapt to this change will be the key. Dr. Raj Singh (VC, Amity University) suggested not to offer jobs unless candidates finished their ongoing course along with skills training programs. Pankaj Bansal (Founder and CEO, People Strong) argued that "Educators have different perception, our students have high aspirations and ground reality of Industries are entirely different". There was a near-consensus on the structural problem in our education system i.e. old curriculum, lack of skilled trainers and huge gap between industry and academia. Session was moderated by Amit Bhatia, Founder & CEO, Aspire.



The second session was a plenary session on "Eco-System & Entrepreneurship for Skills Development". Speaker of this session were Prof. S.S. Mantha, (Chairman, All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) & Dilip Chenoy, (CEO & MD, National Skills Development Corporation (NSDC). The Plenary session discussed the policy and Eco-System required for successful employability solutions. The session also explored the role of Entrepreneurship, both in Education & Skills Development, in meeting this challenge. Mr. Chinoy very lucidly gave the concept of 3P's (Pride, Passion & Professionalism) in the arena of building skills among the students. He feels very strongly that unless training organizations like Aspire come into frame of public-private partnership till then homogenous task of bridging the ever-increasing divide between existing skills and employability is incomplete. Mr. Mantha was in complete agreement with Mr. Chenoy and advocated Industry-Academia interaction for mass scale employability.



The final session was on "Mentorship for Excellence". In this session, Mr. Shiv Kherra, India's most famous motivation speaker was in conversation with Saina Nehwal, India's most famous sportswoman, Padma Shri, Arjuna Awardee & Aspire Brand Ambassador. The discussion was about the role of Mentorship in personal and professional success. Aspire also honoured Ms Saina Nehwal on her recent successes. She won India Open Grand Prix, Singapore Super Series & Indonesia Open in a row to become world # 2.

Aspire SkillsWorld 2010 was honored by Leading Educators and Employers, Vice Chancellors, Deans, Training & Placement Directors, Corporate Executives and Media.



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