CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH IN HUMAN UNITY (CIRHU)

To develop an International Research Centre such as CIRHU so that it may become one of the leading world centres for international research into what is probably the most crucial question of our times, whether and how humanity can attain the lofty goal of human unity and real and lasting peace, will take at least 10 years and, quite probably, the next 15 years. Further, this Centre has the high ambition of aiming beyond the mere question of humanity's survival and harmonious development to intensely explore the new field opened by Sri Aurobindo and The Mother who have foreseen a next step of Evolution into a New Species as the true destiny of our human race.

What is envisaged for the first 5 year period is to create the minimum basis for the full development of CIRHU in the future.

Aim

To create a new international Centre to be called Centre of International Research in Human Unity (CIRHU) which will focus on conducting and promoting research, training and exchanges programmes in the field of human unity, evolution, next species and in related themes of synthesis of knowledge and culture.

CIRHU aims at being interdisciplinary in the sense that its principal objects will be nurtured by whatever streams of knowledge will flow from research institutions in India and abroad as well as from the faculties of SAIIER.

Objectives

- Stimulate and promote research and the development of a new integral education for human unity at the local, national and international levels;
- Contribute to give a concrete shape to the ideal of human unity and related values in all fields of life as well as to a progressive synthetic organization of a spiritualized society;
- Promote a new understanding of human unity as a pre-condition for the next evolutionary step of humanity;
- Contribute to the development of a larger and deeper interdisciplinary theme of evolution.
- Seek international collaboration and promote the establishment of an assembly of scholars belonging to different countries and cultures, in order to conduct and encourage multisided research in the theme of human unity and in related themes of synthesis of knowledge and culture;
- Participate, in collaboration with the concerned Faculty, in the research process leading to the formation, in the township of Auroville, of cultural pavilions representing different cultures of the nations of the world with special emphasis on features that would transmit to the students, teachers and scholars, the unique qualities of these cultures in a living, creative and experiential manner;
- Contribute to the creation of an environment conducive to the progressive
development of a learning society – a place where teaching and learning is an integral part of everyone’s lives and undertakings and where schools may not exist anymore as separate entities;

- Study and experiment with the new possibilities that are emerging on the planet for creating an “ideal society” which rests on the integral development of each of its’ human parts;
- Pioneer new methods for creating and fostering peace and harmony that transcends race, class and nationality;
- Be a point of convergence for social researchers within Auroville and around the world who are studying the above themes.

Activities

In order to achieve the above-mentioned objectives the Centre proposes to conduct the following activities:

- Organize and coordinate exchange programmes conducted by the Faculties with outside organizations;
- Facilitate the coordination of research and training programmes conducted by the Faculties.
- Stimulate the development of experiential and experimental methods of research and training by the faculties as well as the elaboration of models that can be replicated in India and the world;
- Develop resource materials and educational tools pertaining to human unity, evolution and value-education that can be used in India and the world;
- Build up an appropriate data base for the elaboration of the above mentioned programmes, experiments and teaching/learning materials;
- Document, promote and disseminate the processes and results of research and experiments conducted at the Centre in Auroville, India and abroad;
- Conduct research and training research programs and studies in fostering trans-cultural communication, decision making and organization and conflict resolution;
- Research and experimentation with alternative economy;
- Research and experimentation with trans-cultural Research into establishing “ideal” human collective units – e.g. studies into the mechanics or structural conditions that promote resonance and alignment in the face of cultural diversity, studies into the formation of any collective entity (family, social groups, organizations) that share a common aspiration etc.;
- Evaluation of all the above mentioned research programs;
- Collaboration with other faculties in exchanging findings.

Programmes

In the first 5-year phase of development, in order to begin to establish the base needed for sustaining these activities, it is envisaged to initiate the following programmes:
Exchange Programme

The objectives of this programme are: exchange of students and academic staff, and guest lecturers, as also exchange of projects, joint curriculum development, preliminary and feasibility studies of common research activities, research collaboration, at the local, national and international levels, for the production and publishing of joint papers on applied research, conferences, seminars and workshops on new teaching/learning methods, analysis of common problems and proposal of possible solutions. A dialogue between specialists in all fields of knowledge will take place so that a synthesis of all these fields might be constantly developed and disseminated.

"No School" Programme

"No School" will cater to the needs of research in higher education in various fields where students are mature enough to conduct their education on their own. It will highlight the methodology — for the benefit of the students as well as the teachers — of self-education, free from all mechanical processes of schooling and prefixed curriculum, timetables and teacher-dominated classrooms. The aim of this programme is an integral development of the personality and its method consists in a "Free Progress" approach, which allows the students to discover and master knowledge from their own inner needs and aspirations.

It is therefore envisaged to develop a programme that will provide a psychological, spiritual and material environment in which the students will have the possibility to choose whatever studies they want to engage in out of the wealth of knowledge that will be made available by CIRHU and the other Faculties. Similarly, depending upon their availability and the needs of the students, the teachers will be free to organise their research and the transmission of the results of this research to the students in a way that is individually suited to them.

In order to initiate the programme it is envisaged that the coordination of the first phase will be taken up by the Exchange Programme team.

Production of Teaching and Learning Materials for Outreach

The objective of this programme is to conduct research and training programmes for creating resource and teaching/learning materials for promoting and communicating to the larger public, in Auroville as well as in India and abroad, the major themes of CIRHU — Human Unity, Evolution of Human Species, Synthesis of Knowledge and Culture — with a special focus on Indian Culture.

These materials will be in the form of research papers, monographs, books, exhibitions, slide-shows, video films, games, CD, CD-ROMs, etc to be used by teachers, researchers and students in Auroville, India and the world.
Centre of Research on Future Society and Human Unity

So far, despite numerous attempts, humanity has not been able to establish a harmonious and ideal society. As the emphasis in Auroville is on collective realization one of its focus is precisely on the problems of collectivity. The aim of this faculty therefore is, by approaching human evolution from its sociological and psychological standpoint, to examine the new possibilities which are opened to us in order to elaborate a sociology which will rest on the integral development of a new humanity governed by the Supramental which, Mother said, “is capable of governing material things for everyone in a much truer, happier and more beneficial way than any material power”. This implies a conscious “transformation” of the different parts of our nature. Thus shall we perhaps find a new dimension to the caturvarna of ancient India, i.e. the four orders of society: the men of knowledge, the men of power, the producers and support of society, and its servants. Since we are not to repeat what has been done in the past, this also implies a “futuristic” approach to two important aspects of human life which are not dealt with in the other faculties: economy and polity.

The purpose of this Centre is to carry out studies, research and experiments with the aim of discovering the conditions that help to foster a harmonious and ideal society in the face of social diversity.

In the first 5-year phase of development, in order to begin to establish the base needed for sustaining these activities, it is envisaged to initiate the following programmes:

*Development of Research Programmes in the following fields:*

It is proposed to conduct research and training programmes which consist in:

- Organizing studies by visiting anthropologists and sociologies to record, document and publish an oral history of building communities in Auroville;
- Implementing, documenting and evaluating experiments that are underway in Auroville in the fields of economy and polity;
- Conducting training courses in various tools and processes to promote trans-cultural communication to Aurovilians and researchers from India and abroad;
- Compiling and publishing literature that examines the following themes: Society and unity, stages of social development, utopias — old and new, future of social development — advent and development of Spiritual age, studies of various economic approaches — advantages and disadvantages of each, studies of different social organization models and polity and what a synthesis of these would look like.
What are we expecting through the SAIIER development Proposal in the next 5 years?

1. Construction program
   - **Hostel for trainees.** This accommodation facility will host approx. 50 youth and/or trainees who will be students or volunteers in Auroville as well as select groups of trainees for educational/experiential programmes organized under the various faculties of SAIIER or other Auroville organisations. It will enhance Auroville’s capacity to host and receive young people on low budgets to study and contribute to Auroville. It will also help to further increase specific training programmes in Auroville. Accommodation will provide single, double and dormitory style living with shared common facilities and will be located in the administrative zone near the town hall annex and proposed multi-media centre.
     
     **Budget:** 80.19 lakh rupees. Construction team – Kolam. Construction due to commence as soon as funds are sanctioned.
   
   - **VIP and standard accommodation:** This facility will host approx 10 VIP’s and approx. 30 guests in standard accommodation (up to double occupancy). There will also be a meeting and conference room facility. It will enhance Auroville’s capacity to receive and host visiting teachers, lecturers and researchers. It will be located adjacent to the hostel and share infrastructure.
     
     **Budget:** 79.69 lakh rupees. Construction team – Kolam. Construction due to commence in the second year (later part of 2003 – 2004)
   
   - **Training centre:** This facility will be for offering training programs for teacher trainees. It will have conference rooms and meeting spaces. Offices for CIRHU staff can also be housed in the centre along with the SAIIER administration. It will be located adjacent to the town hall annex.
     
     **Budget:** 55.34 lakh rupees. Construction team, Kolam. Construction due to commence 2005

2. **Equipment:** A total budget of 86 lakh will be for purchasing equipment over the 5 years to furnish the accommodation facilities and the training centre including officie requirements for CIRHU.

3. **Research programs:** A specific amount for research programs for CIRHU has not yet been determined however funds will be available for research activities.