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Hand in Hand Switzerland Association, a non-profit association was established in 2013 in Altendorf, Canton Schwyz, Switzerland. The Association’s main aim is to raise grants and funds, assist with managerial and technical support, and cultivate partnerships and alliances for the parent organization, Hand in Hand India. The association also facilitates cross-learning between the parent organization and donor community through a variety of avenues such as meetings, seminars, conferences, networking events and endeavors to promote the Hand in Hand India brand within the development sector at the global level.

Hand in Hand Switzerland Association supports and promotes Hand in Hand India’s vision, mission and goal.

**VISION**
Hand in Hand India envisions to alleviate poverty through job creation and integrated community development

**GOAL**
Hand in Hand India’s goal is to create 5 Million jobs by 2020

**MISSION**
To work for the economic and social empowerment of women, and thus of society, by creating enterprises and jobs. To follow this with an integrated development programme that creates sustainable communities

**LEADERSHIP**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**
President : Dr. Kalpana Sankar
Secretary : Mr. Amitava Tripathi
Treasurer : Dr. Natarajan Jeyaseelan

**MANAGEMENT TEAM:**
Managing Director: Mr. Arun Amirtham
PROBING VISIT

Following the decision to explore the opportunity of setting up a fund raising unit of Hand in Hand India in Europe, Mr. Sandip Mookerjee was deputed in March 2013 to visit Switzerland and conduct a probing visit. This was preceded by preliminary research at a local level wherein it was felt that the initial focus should be in the Geneva area due to the presence of UNO and its various bodies as well as a host of non-profit organizations. Mr. Mookerjee, the Chief Operating Officer of Hand in Hand India, was responsible for fund raising, partnerships, alliances and networking. Accompanying Mr. Mookerjee was Mr. Amitava Tripathi, a former Indian diplomat. Mr Tripathi, who was engaged by Hand in Hand India as "Advisor - Partnerships & Alliances" had served as India’s Ambassador to Switzerland from 2007-2009 apart from various other diplomatic assignments. During the probing visit from 18 to 21 March 2013, the team called upon numerous individuals, government bodies, prospective partners and donors, apart from the Indian diplomatic corps.

INDIAN DIPLOMATIC CORPS

Mr. Dilip Sinha, Permanent Representative of India to the Offices of UNO in Geneva: Valuable inputs with respect to the formalities, rules, regulations to be complied by Indian entities in Switzerland were discussed.

INDIAN COMMUNITY

- Conducted meetings with Mr. V. Narasimhan, the President of the Indian Association of Geneva, who offered valuable insights and support to set up the upcoming entity.

- Met up with Arun Amirtham, MD of “Swiss Mango” a local business house, based in Altendorf. He offered his support as well.

Other activities included scouting for office premises in Geneva. Premises were identified and visited by the team, along with local associates.
SETTING UP

Following submission of the report of the Probing Committee, consultations were held at local Indian level to find out about laws, regulations and procedures to be adhered to.

To facilitate, the team assisting **Dr Kalpana Sankar**, the Chairman & Managing Trustee – Hand in Hand India were:

- **Dr N. Jeyaseelan**
- **Mr L. Muralidharan**
- **Mr Sandip Mookerjee**
- **Mr Amitava Tripathi**

Extensive consultations were held with Indian lawyers and auditors, following which it was decided to establish the entity in Switzerland forthwith.

**Mr Arun Amirtham** of Altendorf was also engaged to support in setting up.

DRAFTING OF CONSTITUTION

A draft Constitution was developed and deliberations were held in Geneva on 23 June 2013 by the functionaries.

Based upon the discussions, it was decided to set up the entity under the name and style of “Hand in Hand Switzerland Association”.

With the signing of the Constitution on 23 June 2013, Hand in Hand Switzerland Association was founded as a politically neutral and non-denominational non-profit association.

The entity would be led by an Executive Committee comprising of:

- **Dr Kalpana Sankar** - President
- **Dr N. Jeyaseelan** - Treasurer
- **Mr Amitava Tripathi** - Secretary

The Executive Committee had its first meeting on 23 June 2013 during which crucial decisions for setting up the entity were arrived at.
FILING FOR REGISTRATION AND SETTING UP OF THE ASSOCIATION

The newly constituted Association initiated the process for filing for registration with the Swiss authorities.

Necessary documents were assimilated and a formal application was filed with the Handelsregister, Canton Schwyz.

Other activities were undertaken to set up the Association, such as developing the Action Plan, initiating activities towards gaining visibility, designing marketing collaterals, setting up the website and so on. Networking with local entities started in full earnest.

Mr. Arun Amirtham visited Chennai, India on 9 & 10 August 2013 and underwent an orientation of the activities, contribution as well as vision of Hand in Hand India. Meetings were held with senior officials of Hand in Hand India as well as with Dr. Jeyaseelan, the Treasurer of the Association. A field visit was also organized in which Mr. Amirtham got a view of activities from the ground level. Following the meetings as well as the field visit, Mr. Amirtham shared his strategy for the way forward with respect to Hand in Hand Switzerland Association.

During the concluding meeting, discussions were held with Dr. Kalpana Sankar as well as Mr. Narasimhan, one of the founding members of Hand in Hand Switzerland Association.
SPREADING THE WORD

In November 2013, an article as well as an insertion about Hand in Hand Switzerland Association were featured in the news bulletin of the Swiss India Chamber of Commerce. A few proposals were submitted.

EVENTS

Hand in Hand Switzerland Association at the India India Week, Basel
Hand in Hand Switzerland Association participated in the India India Festival, Basel from 16 - 19 October 2013. The unique five pillar integrated community development model of Hand in Hand India and group organizations was showcased at the festival’s bazaar stands as were products created by some of the beneficiaries of Hand in Hand India.

On Thursday, 5 December 2013, Hand in Hand Switzerland Association was pleased to host a Christmas Charity Dinner at the Renaissance Zurich Hotel. On the occasion, friends of Hand in Hand Switzerland were welcomed at the Renaissance Zurich Hotel to gain insights into the poverty alleviation efforts of Hand in Hand Switzerland Association and its parent organization, Hand in Hand India.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Executive Committee of Hand in Hand Switzerland Association met on 23/06/2013 and 23/12/2013.