One Day Workshop on Emerging Technology in Gem & Jewellery

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The Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council Southern Region organized the One-day Workshop on Emerging Technology in Gem & Jeweller y upon the request of the Director, Small Industries Service Institute, Govt of India, Ministry of SSI and Jewellery Manufacturers Association, Thrissur on the 16 th February 2006 in association with Indian Diamond Institute, Surat.

This was the first attempt by the Regional Office in conducting a "workshop" on manufacturing technology as part of their training programs in the South. The response was tremendous with 91 participants from all around Kerala participating in this workshop. Most of the participants were artisans, dealers, wholesalers and exporters from Thrissur, Kasarkod, Cochin and other surroundings villages.

Thrissur is one of the main manufacturing centers of plain gold jewellery in the South India. 70% of Kerala's jewellery is being manufactured at Thrissur. There are almost 30,000 artisans and families involved in this business. Though this is still a cottage industry, the manufacturing of traditional handmade jewellery up to 600 tonnes (approx) in a year is a tremendous achievement. Thrissur was in early 70's and 80' was famous for cutting and polishing diamonds. Most of the Mumbai traders used to have their sub-contracting done at Thrissur because of



the skilled labor they had in Thrissur. However recently because of the erratic supplies in rough diamonds and the major portion of the cut & polished diamonds not able to be marketed, this industry has slowly faded away.



Small Industries Service Institute, Govt of India under the Ministry of SSI have keen interest towards the development of this industry at Thrissur. Based on their study and with the help of the Jewellery Manufacturers Association, Thrissur they have applied for the "cluster" development program at Thrissur, which is in real progress.

To facilitate the new trends in manufacturing technology to their members and to upgrade the existing artisans into the modern techquies the One-day workshop was organized by the Council along with SSI, JMA.

Mr. Ruban Hobday, Director, GJEPC had the honor of inaugurating the workshop and delivering the inaugural address since Mr. T.O Sooraj, IAS, Director of Industries & Commerce, Govt. of Kerala was not able to attend the inaugural function. He informed the participants that Council would support SSI in all training requirements in future. Mr. Hobday requested the members to visit IIJS 2006, which he said would give them the latest information on machinery etc. Mr. PV Jose, Chief Patron, JMA, Mr. Rafi Antony, President, JMA spoke on the occasion. They requested the Council to support this industry in whatever capacity they can to improve/update their members with the latest happenings in this field. Mr. V.M. Mohanan Nambisan, Assistant Director, SISI who was the key person in organizing the workshop gave the welcome address.

Mr. Hitesh Verma, Sr. Gemologist, IDI- Surat handled technical session, which covered the following topics:

- Introduction to 4C's ie Carat, Cut, Colour & Clarity of Polished Diamonds
- Introduction to investment casting in Modern Jewellery making

• Introduction to Finishing techniques for jewellery and safety measures



Mr. Ruban Hobday made a presentation on "Export Awareness in Gem & Jewellery" to complete the technical session in the afternoon. The participants felt that it was really an eye opener for most of them to know the latest in casting jewellery and to know about the machinery application to their handmade jewellery production.

The regional office is planning to hold this workshop in other manufacturing centers in the South in future.

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