

## Vishwaneedam Center for Asian Blossoming

### The Outline of A Trust

#### Introduction and Invitation

There is an epochal need for people and scholars of Asia to come together and learn together. At present very few such spaces exist where people of Asia from diverse backgrounds and countries can come together and learn together. There are not many think tanks and centers of conjoint meditations and reflections where scholars and leaders of Asia can come together and learn together. Keeping this epochal need and challenge, some seeking souls and seed workers are trying to create Vishwaneedam Center for Asian Blossoming. We have registered this as a Public Trust in Pondicherry, India, and on behalf of this Trust nurture the following projects and activities in different institutions, universities in India, Asia and around the world.

### Asian Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS)

Some Asian countries such as India have Institutes of Advanced Studies such as the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies, Shimla, and the National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bangalore, where scholars from within the country come. These Institutes are mainly confined within India and their parallels in Institutes such as the Institute of Advanced Studies, Princeton, Institute of Advanced Studies, Berlin and Swedish Collegium of Advanced Studies in Social Sciences, Uppsala, have their own emphasis. In Asian Institute of Advanced Studies, we learn from their experiences as well as strive to make it a multi-dimensional open space involving not only the participation of academic scholars but also leaders from other domains of society such as voluntary action, business, and government. In the Asian Institute of Advanced Studies, we aim at having scholars, activists, leaders of business, government, NGOs, and social movements together who are working on creative projects for a selected period—from three months to a year. At present in no Institutes of Advanced Studies, one would find such a combination of fellows who come from such diverse backgrounds.

There are no Institutes of Advanced Studies at the Asian level where scholars from Asia can come together. Scholars of Asia are still bound to the Euro-American world and they meet only in the corridors of institutions and universities in this part of the world. Now it is urgent that people and scholars of Asia must meet in the soil of Asia and cultivate mutual learning and projects for a better Asia and the World. People of India and China, for example, would constitute one-third of humanity and there are very little people-to-people interaction among them. Asian Institute of Advanced Studies would be one such place where scholars from China and India as well as from Russia, Japan, Central Asia, South Asia, East Asia, and the Middle East can come together.

We conceive of this Institute as a long-term project involving our sadhana and struggle. We seek to find sponsorship for the project from multiple quarters—Foundations such as South Asia Foundation, Ford Foundation, Government and intergovernmental bodies, corporate houses, and creative educational foundations. We try to find land for this and build a beautiful meditative campus where fellows can live and work. We also find support for Fellowship for Asian Blossoming for presenting fellowship to fellows. This is tied to creating fellowship for free or subsidized education for students from Asian regions in each other's countries.

At AIAS, we plan to focus on work in the field of business, social entrepreneurship, NGOs and social movements, humanities and social sciences.

Fellows stay at the Institute but there is a program of interaction with the learning public as well as universities and centers of learning in the country

### Asian Forum for Social Theory

Asian Forum for Social Theory is a circle of dialogue, learning, and exploration which brings scholars from different regions and countries of Asia and around the world to address the challenges of creative theorizing on important issues in social, political, cultural, and civilizational theories. So far much of theorizing has been done within the framework of a dominant Eurocentrism. As a response to this, there has been some nativistic ethnocentric theorizing which claims a lot on behalf of one's tradition of thinking and practice. Asian Forum for Social Theory interrogates both Eurocentrism and nativism and seeks to create vibrant fields of dialogue and learning which becomes then the nurturant ground for creative theorizing. Some of us involved in this project have been organizing workshops on various aspects of this theme since 2004 beginning with a session on "Critical Theory and Asian Dialogues" at the World Congress of Sociology of in Beijing and continuing with several workshops and dialogues over the years including a session at First Asian Philosophy Congress in Delhi in March 2010. A book, Social Theory and Asian

Dialogues: Cultivating Planetary Conversations, edited by Ananta Kumar Giri has come out from Palgrave Macmillan.

### Gandhi-Gopabandhu Center for Chitta Ranjan Studies and Global Learning

Chitta Ranjan Das (1923-2011) was a creative thinker and scholar from Odisha who wrote on many aspects of human condition-philosophy, literature, sociology, psychology, among others. He had given himself to the cause of creative education devoting himself to the educational pathways of Sri Aurobindo, Gandhi, Tagore, Kristen Kold, and others. Das drew inspiration from Gandhi and Gopabandhu (an inspiring seeker, writer, and freedom fighter from Odisha), among others. In this Center, we would like to do research on several aspects of Chitta Ranjan's contributions to social criticism, poetics, ethics, political philosophy, and translation studies. We would also explore these themes from a comparative global perspective. On the eve of his upcoming birth centenary in 2023 we would like to collaborate with colleges and universities to open Chitta Ranjan Chair to explore these issues as well as hold workshops and seminars and publish works on the works of Chitta Ranjan as well as related global concerns. We plan to publish on Chitta Ranjan's contributions to the above themes during his birth centenary.

### Swadhyaya Sahachakra (Co-Learning Circles of Self and Mutual Studies)

Swadhyaya Sahachakra (Co-Learning Circles of Self and Mutual Studies) is an initiative of studying and learning together self, culture, societies and the world. Friends associated with this are eager to walk and meditate with the new horizons of thinking and new movements of social and cultural change at work in our contemporary world. We study seekers such as Sri Aurobindo, Gandhi, Chitta Ranjan Das (a seeker and creative thinker from Odisha), and many others from around the world. We also present our own writings and reflect upon our creativity together. We also invite seekers from different fields of life to share with us their lives, visions, sadhana and struggles for creating a world of beauty, dignity and dialogues. We meet every Sunday or sometimes Wednesday.

## **Objectives of Vishwaneedam Center for Asian Blossoming**

- 1. To build and nurture Asian Institutes of Advanced Study and Asian Forum for Social Theory in collaboration with different institutions and universities around the world;**
- 2. To carry out workshops, seminars, FDP and conferences on cross-cultural, philosophical, and social issues;**
- 3. To publish Asian Journal of Social Theory;**
- 4. To provide fellowships and scholarships to students and scholars to do study and research**
- 5. To present Confucius-Buddha-Gandhi award for outstanding contributions to social theorizing and social sciences in Asia**

### **Executive Co-Nurturers**

**Professor Ananta Kumar Giri, Madras Institute of Development Studies,  
Chennai (Executive Trustee)**

**Randhir Kumar Gautam, Assistant Professor, Gandhian School of  
Democracy and Socialism, ITM University  
Gwalior**

## Co-Nurturers

Professor Subhash Sharma, Director, Indus Business Academy, Bangalore

Professor John Robert Clammer, Jindal Global University, Sonapat

Dr. A. Osman Farah, Aalborg University, Denmark

Professor Boike Rehbein, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany

Professor Soraj Hongladarom, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand

Dr. Gianluigi Segalerba, Eminent philosopher, Italy

Dr. Pratima Soni, Faculty of Law, India

Interested Friends are most cordially invited to become a member of this by sending their latest CV with an annual membership fee of Rs 2000 and Life Membership Fee of Rs 20, 000 to the following Accounts of the Trust. For students and the unemployed, annual membership is Rs 1, 000. For institutional members, the following are the membership fees

**Government Institutions: Life Membership: Rs 30, 000**

**Annual Membership: Rs 5, 000**

**Private Institutions: Life Membership: Rs 50, 000**

**Annual Membership: Rs. 8, 000**

**Account Number: 35937203940**

**Name: Vishwaneedam Center for Asian Blossoming Swift  
Code:**

**SBIN0013361**

**Address: (13361)-SME Branch, State Bank of India, Adyar  
2nd Floor, 5 First Cross Street**

**Katurba Nagar, Adyar, Chennai-600020 India  
Contribution for Income Tax Exemption**

***You are invited to make donations to our Trust which is tax exempt.***

***Exemption u/s 80G granted w.e.f. 12-11-2014 onwards vide CIT, Pondicherry***

***C. No. 9165E (1704) CIT /PDY/2014-15 dt. 12-11-14. This year Government of India has extended the time of donation for tax exemption till July 31, 2022.***

***Your contribution would help us.***

We request the above support and we are grateful to you for sharing with us more support if it is convenient for you. But in case you have less financial means and you want to be a member, we can also consider inviting you as an Honorary Member. Pl do write to us.

Friends are also invited to make donations to the Trust and it has tax exemption status we would provide you with an appropriate receipt. Please send your bio note and photo to Professor Ananta Kumar Giri at [aumkrishna@gmail.com](mailto:aumkrishna@gmail.com) and to Mr. Randhir Kumar Gautam at [gautamrandhir964@gmail.com](mailto:gautamrandhir964@gmail.com).

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youtube- <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4n-wioiQMEV7Rqz7C8XKA/videos>

website- <http://vishwaneedam.org/>

## About our Executive co-nurturers –

### Prof Anand kumar Giri – Education

Ph.D in Anthropology from The Johns Hopkins University in October 1994 on the ecumenical movement in the U.S. called Habitat for Humanity. The title of my thesis is, In the Margins of Shacks: The Vision and Practice of Habitat for Humanity.

M.A. in Anthropology from The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, U.S.A. in 1989 with concentration on: Anthropology of Post industrial Societies, Ethnographic Perspectives on American Culture and Comparative Social Movements

M.A. in Sociology from Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, India with a Gold Medal (1986)

### Current Work

Ananta Kumar Giri is a professor at Madras Institute of Development Studies (MIDS), Chennai, India, and the author and editor of more than two dozen books in English and Odia including The Calling of Global Responsibility: New Initiatives in Justice, Dialogues and Planetary Realizations (forthcoming).

Randhir Kumar Gautam - Randhir Gautam has completed his post-graduation in Sociology from Jamia Millia Islamia New Delhi. He is pursuing PhD from Guru Nanak Dev University (Amritsar). He is an Assistant Professor at Gandhian School of Democracy and Socialism, ITM University Gwalior MP. He was also the former Head of School of Humanities and Social Sciences of Raffles University. He has teaching experience of more than 7years he has worked with Sharda University Noida UP. He has mentored hundreds of civil service aspirants several of whom have been successful. Besides this he has worked with many NGOs and made many projects. He was a chief program coordinator in Delhi chapter of RAYS Global Foundation, USA which is a global non-profit organization. Currently he is an executive co- Nurturer of Vishwaneedam Centre for Asian Blossoming (Public Trust & Intellectual Think Tank) Chennai, India and Swadhayaya Sahachakra (Co- learning Circles of Self and Mutual Studies. He got selected in the first batch of UGC Master Trainers Training Programme for Community Based Participatory Research under Unnat Bharat Abhiyan. He is national Secretary of task force of Society for communal Harmony. He has been part of various social movements in India.

