

## ISED Small Enterprise Observatory: Jubilee being kicked off



ISED Small Enterprises Observatory (ISED-SEO), the unique national level knowledge hub, housed at the Institute of Small Enterprises and Development (ISED), kicked off its China Jubilee Celebrations on Tuesday. Dr. Christie Fernandez, Chairman, Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC) inaugurated the celebrations. The speakers included, Dr. M. P. Sukumaran Nair, Chairman RIAB, P. V. Velayudhan, Director, MSME Development Institute, Dr. M. K. Sukumaran Nair, former Head, Department of Economics, Cochin University of Science and Technology.

The ISED Observatory is a unique knowledge hub on enterprise and entrepreneurship that provides a solid evidence base for policy and practice relating to enterprise development in the country, says ISED Director and Senior Fellow, Dr. P. M. Mathew.

'Enterprise Observatory' is a state-of-the-art concept at the international level today. However, the ISED Observatory is a peculiar platform tailored to the Indian conditions, says an ISED Press release. It provides a regular interface for enterprise promotion, through activities, such as national and regional reporting, a regular national communication programme having its spread in approximately twenty centres of the country, and advisory services for governments, financial institutions, and promotional agencies.

The Institute's Observatory, as a membership platform, brings together several related stake holders, including Government departments, financial institutions, business associations. Apart from this, programmes have been organised by this platform, regularly with the active partnership and involvement of these stake holders.

The ISED press note spells out a series of milestones and policy contributions of the Observatory. Among them, includes the Union Government's Scheme of *Udyog Aadhar*, originally mooted by the *Observatory*, and the Bio technology Programme for the MSME sector. Of late, the Institute was retained by the Government of India as Institutional Associate for drafting the National MSME Policy.

The Observatory, as a knowledge umbrella, brings together a series of related programmes: India MSME Communication Programme, India MSME Darshan, Regional Enterprise Development Audit (REDA) and India MSME Report. Under the REDA Project, the Institute works with a number of States including Kerala and Gujarat.

The event also marked the formal release of the Kerala Enterprise Development Report. The Observatory also plans a number of new initiatives during the Jubilee year in co-operation with Local governments, industry associations and financial institutions.

The Technical Session on 'evidence base for Enterprise, Entrepreneurship Development and Livelihood Promotion', brought together different perspectives on the subject. The speakers included, Dr. Mridul Eapen and Dr. Jayan Jose Thomas, Members, State Planning Board, Dr. M. P. Sukumaran Nair, Chairman, RIAB, and Mr. Jiji Mammen, CEO, MUDRA. Experts spoke on issues of Gender, Enterprise, Industry, Public Sector, Labour Market, Urban Development, and Rural Development, with focus on their data base.