



INSTITUT
ET CENTRE
D'OPTOMÉTRIE
INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE
OF OPTOMETRY

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ICO and LCO renew MOU at SILMO 2014



Prema Chande and Claude Delhomme signing the MOU

Developments in the realm of education are a tradition at Lotus College of Optometry, India. At Silmo 2014, the Institut et Centre d'Optométrie (ICO), France and Lotus College of Optometry (LCO) once again reviewed and renewed the long standing Memorandum of Understanding that was signed between the two a few years ago to provide Master of Optometry in India for students from France and in future to facilitate a PhD program in France. The programme will be offered in collaboration with Chitkara University, India. Through their

collaborative efforts, these institutes hope to make available better prospects in the study of Optometry.

The MOU seeks to advance clinical optometry education with international exposure to students from both the countries and also lead to exchange of culture and learning from best practices in the field of Optometry. With the vision to empower the eye care fraternity, the three organizations that are already dedicatedly involved in promoting the Education industry have again reestablished their promises by signing the new MoU.

Dr. Preethi Pradhan, Dean, Chitkara School of Sciences, Chitkara University and Ms. Prema Chande, principal, Lotus College of Optometry, Mumbai together with nine budding optometrists (four from Chitkara and five from Lotus) also enthusiastically participated in the exchange programme on Optometric Education Fall 2014 theme: "French optics and optometry discovery" held simultaneously at Silmo. They were present in response to a special request from Claude Delhomme, Director, Institut et Centre d' Optometrie, France. Both Ms. Prema and Dr. Preethi presented papers at the Silmo Academy on 28 and 29 September while their students took part by way of poster presentations.

The Lotus College of Optometry (LCO) was set up by Late Mr. Naval P. Baliwalla as a unit of the Optometric Education Society, in the year 2000 and is reckoned as a legend in this field. The College was one of the first to establish a four year optometry program in Mumbai. The clinical training is supported by Lotus Eye Hospital, which has a state-of-art eye and vision care facility. With ISO 9001: 2008 certified quality management systems, the College is a member of the World Council of Optometry.

Institut Et Centre D' Optometrie (ICO) founded in 1917 in France is an established higher education

learning centre under contract with the National Education Board. The Institute which is a non-profit organisation with the objective of promoting the study of optometry has nearly 100 years' experience in Optics and Optometry training. ICO is a member of the World Council of Optometry and founder member of the European Academy of Optometry and Optics.

The third partner in this endeavour, Chitkara University is a leading non-profit private University, recognised by UGC and located 30 kms from Chandigarh. Established and managed by passionate academicians, the organisation since inception has been different from other educational institutes. Known for its strong academic heritage, highly committed faculty, extensive industry collaborations and strong campus recruitment, the institute in one of its kind, more so due to its strong global presence with international students, faculty exchange program, and cultural exchanges, including tie ups with French Universities already in place.

The alliance between the three is surely going to benefit the eye care industry as well as is envisioned to bring good quality eye care services by developing and producing high level eye care professionals, a community that is much needed in both the countries.



(LtoR) Claude Delhomme, Prema Chande and Preethi Pradhan are all smiles for the camera