

# UN Grants Special Consultative Status to KISS

In a major recognition, Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), Bhubaneswar has been accorded Special Consultative Status by the United Nations. The Special Consultative Status confers a host of privileges and facilities on an NGO, which are similar to those conferred to a member country by the UN. Induction of an NGO in this elite group follows a ratification process similar to membership of a new country in the UN. The United Nations Economic and Social Council (UN-ECOSOC) granted the prestigious recognition to KISS after concurrence by representatives of all the member countries. So far only six NGOs from India have got this recognition, this year KISS was added to the list. It is the first NGO from Odisha to get Special Consultative Status from the UN. A communication to this effect from the UN Headquarters was received by the KISS authorities on July 23, 2015. The KISS authorities had made a presentation for grant of Special Consultative Status at UN Headquarters, New York in front of the representatives of the all member countries of the UN in February 2014. Following detailed discussion, all representatives accorded their approval, except two countries who wanted more information. It took KISS authorities one year to satisfy the queries raised by these two countries. Subsequently, resolution to grant Special Consultative Status to KISS was adopted unanimously.

## The Recognition Process:

The visionary founder of KISS Prof.

Achyuta Samanta initiated the process for this prestigious recognition in 2009 and an application was submitted in the same year. The UN silently but thoroughly evaluated the activities, functioning and achievements of KISS during the period from 2009 to 2012. The observation phase was followed by detailed discussion on various activities of KISS. All the Committees of the UN were satisfied with the functioning of KISS. Different Committees recommended to the UN for grant of special status to KISS between 2012 and 2014. In 2014, in a session of the Heads of the Member States of the UN, the proposal for grant of special status to KISS received the final approval. Subsequently, KISS was accorded this recognition in a session of the General Assembly of the UN after approval of the UN Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki-moon. It may be mentioned here that thousands of NGOs from across the world apply for this coveted status. It is a long and complex process, but Prof. Samanta continued his effort with perseverance. KISS is the only NGO from India to receive this recognition from among several that had applied.

## Privileges to KISS

With this special status, KISS will have following special privileges:

- Providing expert information to UN-ECOSOC
- Receiving information about provisional agenda of the UN-ECOSOC
- Engage with the Secretary General of UN and place items of special interest in

the provisional agenda of the UN-ECOSOC

- Having access to the United Nations and attendance at its meetings, designate official representative to the United Nations Headquarters in New York, United Nations offices in Geneva and Vienna and participate in various events, conferences and activities of the United Nations
- Sitting as observer at public meetings of UN-ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies, General Assembly of UN, Human Rights Council and various other United Nations intergovernmental decision-making bodies
- Submitting written statements in areas of its competence and relevant to the work of UN-ECOSOC
- Making oral presentations at UN-ECOSOC
- Providing consultations to UN-ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies
- Using facilities of United Nations

KISS has been actively engaged in fulfilling the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) of the UN. The Special Consultative Status for KISS is a matter of great pride and glory not only for itself, but also for the entire tribal community of Odisha, the state of Odisha as well as the country.

KISS which had a humble beginning as a residential tribal school in 1993 in a rented house with only 125 students, is now the largest free residential tribal institute of the

world with 25,000 students providing education from KG to PG. Students of KISS have not only been achieving cent percent result in academics, but also bringing laurels for the state and the country in national and international level sports. A wave of happiness has swept the entire tribal community on the grant of this special recognition to KISS. The parents of the students of the institute speak aloud of their great satisfaction not only over their decision to send their children for studying here, but also on the institute getting recognition from UN and their children getting opportunity for participating in Olympic Games. While the students considered themselves fortunate to be studying here, parents felt extremely grateful to Shri Achyuta Samanta, whose single-handed effort has led to special recognition for the tribal community besides creating a level-playing field where their children can receive good education and lead a peaceful life. KISS getting special recognition from UN and its students making it to high quality international sports like the Olympic Games have amazed the intellectual mass who openly appreciate these achievements as a great glory not only for KISS, but also for the whole state of Odisha, as KISS is only the seventh NGO from India to receive such special recognition from the UN. Smt. Saswati Bal, President, KISS, expressed her great

pleasure and satisfaction over this success and conveyed her appreciation to the students and the staff of the institute. It is a great milestone in the history of KISS, said Shri R. N. Dash, Secretary, KISS. It could be achieved only due to vision of its founder, who ensures success of all works he undertakes through his tireless and selfless effort, he stated. Staff of the institute echoed the sentiment and said that they feel blessed to be associated with this globally recognized organization and its founder. KISS has become national and international asset and future generations would always be proud of it, opined Non-Resident Odias. Everyone should wholeheartedly contribute in helping it achieve even greater heights, they added.

Reacting on the receipt of this special recognition from the UN, Prof. Achyuta Samanta, the founder of KIIT & KISS said, "KISS has been able to achieve these two pinnacles of success- first, a student getting selected to play in Olympic Games for 2016 and 2020; and the second, receipt of special recognition and status from the UN- because of the good wishes of all well-wishers and the blessings of the Almighty. It won't be an exaggeration to say that there can't be any higher recognition for KISS." Prof. Samanta profusely thanked everyone connected with KIIT & KISS directly or indirectly. He also asserted that this is a great glory not only for Odisha and its people, but also for the whole country.

## Success Till Date Since Inception

**1993** • KISS started as a Residential Tribal School with only 125 children in a rented house.

**1999** • Smt. Maneka Gandhi, Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India paid a surprise visit to the School. Subsequently, student strength increased to 250 and education facility extended upto Class X.

**2002** • KISS created ripples in academic community by achieving cent percent result in Class X examination against state average of only 60 to 70 percent. This performance has been repeated every year till date.

**2005** • Student strength increased to 1500  
• Manoj Kumar Garada, a KISS student, was selected to participate in the National Children's Science Congress (NCSC) in Hyderabad. After this success, students from the Institute have been regularly selected for this prestigious national-level meet every year.

**2006** • Student strength increased to 3000  
• Late Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, the (then) President of India visited KISS for an interaction session with the students.

**2007** • Student strength increased to 5000  
• Boys Rugby Team of KISS, representing India, became World Champion by defeating South Africa in the final of U-14 Rugby World Cup played in London, U.K.

**2008** • Student strength increased to 7000  
• KISS achieved cent percent result in 12th Board examination. Students of the institute have repeated this feat every year since then.

**2009** • Student strength increased to 10,000  
**2010** • Student strength increased to 12,000  
• Rt. Hon. Sir Anerood Jugnauth, His Excellency the (then) President of Mauritius visited KISS.

• Bhagyalaxmi Barik, a KISS girl, participated in the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou, China as a member of Indian Rugby contingent.

**2011** • Student strength increased to 15000  
• Hon'ble Shri Jhala Nath Khanal, the (then)

Prime Minister of Nepal visited KISS.

• Boys Rugby Team of KISS, representing India, won U-13 International Rugby Tournament in Manchester, U.K.

**2012** • Student strength increased to 20000  
• His Excellency Lyonchhen Jigmi Y. Thinley, (then) Prime Minister of Bhutan visited KISS.

**2013** • Student strength increased to 22,500  
• Laxman Hembram, a student of the Institute, represented India in the Malala Day United Nations Youth Assembly at the UN Headquarters, New York.

• Ganeswar Miniaki, a KISS student, cleared CAT, one of the most rigorous entrance tests in the country, and joined IIM, Tiruchirappalli.

• Alekha Murmu, a student of KISS, participated in 'Global Walk 2013' in South Korea.

• H.E. Mr. Rajkeswur Purryag, the (then) President of Mauritius visited KISS.

• KISS represented Asia in live discussion over video conferencing with UN Secretary-General Mr. Ban Ki-moon on the occasion of the

International Youth Day - 2013.

**2014** • KISS girls, representing India, won Touraid U-13 International Rugby Tournament in London, U.K.

• Manjula Raita, a Saura girl, became the first Law Graduate from the community and brought pride for KISS.

• Budai Sisa became the first girl from Bonda community to pass Diploma in Engineering.

**2015** • Student strength increased to 25,000  
• Kailash Juang became the first from the primitive Juang community to pursue B.Tech. course.

• Ranjit Nayak, a KISS archer, has been selected to play for the country in 2016 Rio Olympics.

• First batch of KISS students passed M.B.B.S. from Kalinga Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS), KIIT University. Five percent seats in all professional courses of KIIT University are reserved for deserving KISS students for free.

• UN grants Special Consultative Status to KISS, regarded as ultimate global recognition for any NGO.