

# Presidential Address

for 110th Mid-term Council Meeting  
18th February, 2012

Host – Rajkot Insurance Institute



Insurance Institute of India,  
'G' Block, Plot no. C-46,  
Bandra-Kurla Complex, Bandra (East),  
Mumbai – 400 051.

Dear Council Members, Members of the Administration Committee and Board of Education, Colleagues at the Institute and fellow Professionals,

Let me welcome you all to the 110<sup>th</sup> Mid-term Meeting of the Council of Insurance Institute of India held in this historical town of Rajkot where Mahatma Gandhi lived the early part of his life.

Let me also compliment Rajkot Insurance Institute, which was formed in 1977, and has entered its 35<sup>th</sup> year of existence in 2012, for hosting this Council Meeting. On behalf of Insurance Institute of India, I thank the President, Office bearers and all Members of Rajkot Insurance Institute for making all the wonderful arrangements to make this event a memorable experience for all of us.

For those who are not familiar with the history of the place, the princely state of Rajkot was founded on the banks of the Aaji River by Thakore Sahib Vibhoji Ajoji Jadeja in 1620. Rajkot was named after Raju Sandhi, his son and co-founder. Post independence, on 1st May, 1960, Rajkot was separated from Bombay and became part of the newly-formed state of Gujarat.

I am sure the organizers will show you parts of the city like the 'Gandhi Smriti' (Mahatma Gandhi's childhood residence), the Swaminarayan Temple, Shri Ramkrishna Ashram, the Rotary Dolls Museum, the Watson Museum, the Race course and the Lang Library. I do not know whether you will have the time to see the Aaji Dam made during British rule or other nearby places.

We had met earlier in Trivandrum on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2011 and I am happy to state that the Institutes matters are moving in the right direction.

If you have seen the Agenda of the 110<sup>th</sup> Council meeting sent to you, you will find that one of the items is to consider the Budget of the Institute for the financial year 2012-13. The Budget is more or less on the lines of the previous year and you would have noticed that income from Agent's pre-recruitment examination has reduced. We are nevertheless, continuing our efforts of reaching out to more and more people, building the III brand and improving the quality of our service

through academic seminars, knowledge management and information technology. As you can see, the budgeted expenses last year under most of the heads were also within the estimates and overall we are left with a surplus of more than 50%.

We are continuing our efforts of reforms on various fronts. Regarding curriculum, having completed conversion of our Licentiate books into the internationally accepted Self-Learning Methodology, we have now started conversion of some of the Associate level books.

We are stabilizing on the changes made in areas like question paper pattern, evaluation system as well as on-line and offline examination system. The idea of giving better value to our candidates through applications of information technology is slowly and steadily gathering popularity.

We have introduced the Credit Point System that would bring in a lot of choices for those who study our courses and enable them to design their academic studies in line with their job needs. Under the Credit Point System candidates are getting considerable relief as they will get credits for all the papers that they have passed till now. While their present credits are getting consolidated, we are ensuring that their present credits will be preserved for a five year period. Accordingly, the credit points acquired upto the November 2011 examination will be lapsing only if candidates do not clear the remaining papers and acquire the balance credits at or before the November 2016 examination.

We have extended financial and other support to the associated institutes for conducting Local, National and International Seminars. I am happy to know that some of the associated institutes have conducted Local Seminars. In this context, I would like to appreciate the Varanasi Insurance Institute for conducting a National seminar on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2011 on the topic "Insurance Industry in India Agenda for future". Indian Insurance Society has also conducted a National seminar on 03<sup>rd</sup> December 2011 on topic "Marine Insurance Cargo and Hull", Agra Insurance Institute has conducted a National seminar on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2011 on topic "Health Insurance", Lucknow Insurance Institute has conducted a

National seminar on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2011 on topic “Health Insurance”, Mysore Insurance Institute has conducted a National seminar on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2012 on topic “Decade of Liberalization in Insurance Sector”. Likewise that all Local Institutes should conduct seminars from a purely academic angle on generic topics. Care should be taken so that the topic is generic and not have special significance for any particular Insurance company and involve all insurance companies in such events. We are serving the Insurance Industry and our efforts should be in that directions.

The new website of III is operational with due linkages to bank gateways. Every member of Insurance Institute of India can now open his own account on the III website where he will be able to see his entire history of insurance academics with the Institute. He can verify the papers that he has passed and the credit points earned. He can find the details of the payments made and plan his academics properly. The Credit Point System has become operational on III’s website. Candidates can log on to their page and select the professional activity that he is planning to do in the next one year period. He can see the number of points that he is targeting to earn. Once the CPD activity is completed and the CPD administrator approves the same, his points get accumulated and displayed on the page.

Even though some of the local institutes have been conducting seminars, so far III has not been in the Seminar field. Recently, in November 2011, College of Insurance of III conducted a Seminar on IRDA’s directives to the insurance companies on “Economic Capital Requirement and Financial Condition Reporting” (ECR+FCR). The background was that many of the companies were not aware of the implementation level details of the subject even though the regulatory mandate was given. Speakers at the Seminar included Actuaries and Finance Professionals in the industry. Participants consisted of a good number of actuaries and insurance company employees working in actuarial, investment and underwriting departments.

A National Conference was conducted by the Institute on the theme ‘Back to the Basics’ in January 2012. It was special for the III because academicians and

professionals came together to discuss matters with a purely academic focus and no strings like product push or networking attached. We are also happy that Mr J. Hari Narayan, Chairman, IRDA gave the key note address and three Senior Thought Leaders of the earlier generation - Mr G.N. Bajpai, Mr H. Ansari and Mr N.N. Joshi made themselves available for the sessions on Life Insurance, General Insurance and Insurance Distribution respectively. The distinguished Panel included 13 industry experts consisting of Chief Executive Officers, and Senior Officers like Executive Directors and General Managers from Private and Public Sector Companies. The event was attended by around 250 delegates representing the entire industry including insurers, brokers, third party administrators, surveyors and senior agents. We could prove to the industry that such purely academic events can be conducted successfully. I am told that College of Insurance is planning to conduct another Seminar in March on an important and vital subject like 'Managing Natural Catastrophes'.

You all would appreciate the Institute's 'Reconnect Drive 2012" which is presently going on, in an endeavor to reach out to the dormant and unconnected members and connect them back to the Associated Institutes. Once complete, it is hoped that the Local Institutes will have at least double the number of active professionals available and interested in their activities.

There were two rounds of training conducted by the College of Insurance for Associated Institute Office Bearers and Trainers in the last couple of months, covering a lot many areas of management and some soft skills. This is a welcome change in the Institute's concern in empowering the Associated Institutes and making them more effective as hubs of learning.

It is hoped that this kind of sessions will be repeated and advanced modules of training are being worked upon by College of Insurance to Associated Institutes in the next few months. I hope that Associated Institutes will respond better to such stimuli from the Institute to activate their academic relevance to the country and establish themselves in their respective geographical territories as vibrant centers of insurance learning.

I once again extend our thanks to the Rajkot Insurance Institute for hosting this

seminar and the wonderful arrangements made. This kind of events cannot be done unless a large number of people both from the local institute and the Institute spend days of meticulous thought and labor. We may not know all their names and many of them may not be visible here on the stage. I thank them all. I welcome you all once again to the 110<sup>th</sup> Mid-term Meeting of the Council of Insurance Institute of India held in this historical town of Rajkot.

Thanking you and wishing you all – all the best !!