

# **SHREE VISA OSHWAL COMMUNITY**

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CHAIRMAN: MR. RASHMI B. SHAH

HON. SECRETARY: MR. VEERAL K. SHAH

Ref: 114/2012/RH

24<sup>th</sup> April 2012

Mr. Ratilal P. Chandaria  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
Institute of Jainology Ltd,  
UK.

Dear Ratilalbhai,

## **RE: REPORT ON DR HARSHAD SANGHRAJKA'S VISIT**

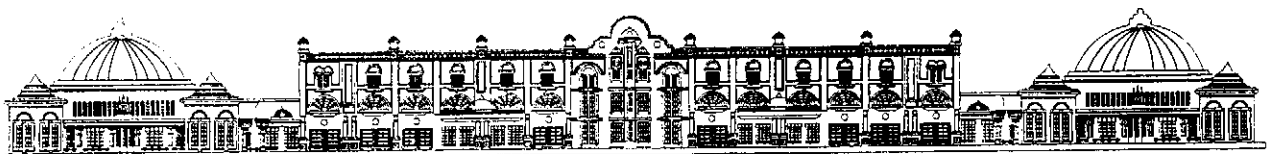
Thank you for your letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> March 2012 and for your kind words regarding the arrangements made for the visit of Dr Harshad N Sanghrajka. It was a pleasure to host Dr. Harshadbhai. The Managing Committee and the Religion Committee are very happy with the outcome of the visit.

We were all extremely happy when Harshadbhai agreed to come to Nairobi to conduct the FOUNDATION Course. We had witnessed his style of presentation during the Jain Convention in February, 2011 and the overwhelming feedback received from the audience of over 1,000 persons.

Those who worked with Harshadbhai had a learning experience. Preciseness in preparation; punctuality in all plans; preparedness and delivery with confidence are some of the qualities which we shall try and emulate in our future programmes.

This visit was historical because never in the past had any Jain Scholar delivered 4 sessions of 2 hours every day continuously for 13 days. On average, the benefit can be valued at 1200 plus man hours per day. Some people made 4 trips to the Oshwal Centre not to miss any sessions. Harshadbhai delivered lectures for nearly 8 hours each day. The happiness in the Jain community in Nairobi was beyond measure. 340 participants qualified for the IOJ Certificate after attending 7 or more sessions of the Course. This was a record in itself.

In addition to the Foundation Course sessions, an early morning session from 6:30am to 8:00am was held to deliver discourses on Tattvartha Sutra. Afternoon sessions from 3:00pm to 4:30pm were held to discuss various subjects in Gujarati, such as 12 Bhavanas, Punya Prakash nu Stavan, etc.



The age range of attendees was from 18 years to 90 years. Over 100 people were under the age of 45 which indicates that the younger generation has interest and inquisitiveness in learning about our religion.

Two extra sessions were held on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2012 to respond to nearly 100 questions which had been received in writing. On Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2012 special session on "Death" was organized. This final session was attended by over 550 people. This session created a lively debate on the subject and the Community would like a paper to be developed on the subject for the benefit of the members.

Not written feedbacks from the attendees were requested because of the daunting task of analysing so many forms. Instead we requested the audience to give verbal feedback after each session. The enthusiasm with which they all demanded regular repeats of such presentations has given our Committee the confidence of future support in all our religious events. In particular, 400 plus who attended the FOUNDATION Course have requested that such Courses be held regularly and the INTERMEDIATE Level Courses be developed and delivered in the year 2013. We shall keep in regular touch to fulfil this desire of the Community Members.

As additional credit to the event, people from Mombasa, Thika, Kisumu, Kampala and Eldoret also attended some sessions, some attended the full course, and left with a desire that their Sangh will contact IOJ for similar events at their Centers.

The Chairman, Managing Committee and Religious Committee members express their sincere gratitude to the Directors of Institute of Jainology for the sterling work they are doing in propagating JAIN Religion and Philosophy.

We express our sincere gratitude to Shree Harshadbhai and wish him all the success in his future ventures. Perhaps our appreciation will be expressed through our efforts to guide the Jain Community in the right direction for which he has laid a strong foundation.

With sattvik anumodanas and gratitude inexpressible, we remain,

Yours Sincerely,  
**FOR VISA OSHWAL COMMUNITY**



**VEERAL KIRIT SHAH**  
**SECRETARY VOC**