



Press Release

Future Sharp Skills Ltd. to skill and provide sustainable livelihood to five lakh youth of West Bengal by '2022'

- *Future Sharp Skills Ltd expects to train one lakh people in four years and five lakh people in ten years*
- *Future Sharp Skills Ltd. to launch 40 multi skill development and knowledge hubs across Bengal in 70 trades together with National Skill Development Corporation*
- *The project 'Future Sharp' is in sync with the Bengal Chief Minister's mission of providing employment to ten lakh people in the next few years*
- *Future Skill Academy to provide an end- to- end solution from skill development to employment*

Kolkata, 20th July, 2012: Future Group and National Skill Development Corporation have strategically tied up to form Future Sharp Skills Limited, to train and provide sustainable livelihood to 5 lakh youth of West Bengal by 2022. Future Skills Limited has aggressive plans to launch 40 training hubs in the near future. The immediate beneficiaries of this skill mission would be standard XII pass outs and graduates of small towns, semi-urban cities who will get training opportunities and be able to earn themselves a livelihood via a regular job. The 'Mission Skill Project' has been programmed with accordance to the Unique Apprentice Model, wherein a student can learn and earn simultaneously. With an objective of providing sustainable livelihood, this project with its tag line 'Life Ban Jaaye' is expected to touch many lives and act as a catalyst to boost growth in the economy.

Future Sharp will offer several short and long-term programmes certified by the Industry specific sector skill council. All the courses are structured with a three months classroom followed by on the job assignments. The initial programmes will be on Retail, Hospitality and Information Technology Enabled Services (ITES). Each batch will have maximum of twenty five to twenty eight students to provide the perfect teacher student ratio for maximum direct one to one interface on a daily basis.

Expressing his view on this association **Mr. Goutam Roy, COO, Future Sharp Skills Ltd** said, "We are happy to be partnering NSDC's mission of making India globally competitive in every sector. This is a revolutionary project and we are confident that the 'first-time-entrepreneurs' and skilled workforce will provide sustainable and gainful livelihood. Corporate like Titan, Spencer, Emami, Speciality Group of Restaurants, Sodexo and Future Group have already confirmed to recruit our students and we expect a good response from other corporate houses as well."

Initially, the knowledge hubs would broadly cover areas like, Rajarhat, Behala, Gariahata, South Dinajpur, Murshidabad, Burdawan, Bankura and Hooghly, Darjeeling, Purulia, Howrah, Durgapur, Sealdah, North Dinajpur, Malda, Birbhum and Cooch Behar and will spread across the state to reach out to maximum students. Course content to be updated on a regular basis with strategic inputs from The George Telegraph Training Institute for automobile and American Hotel & Lodging Educational Institute Association for hospitality

Expressing his view on this association with NSDC, **Mr. Muralidhar Rao, CEO, Future Sharp Skills Ltd. and Future Learning** said, "We are always inclined towards developing and ringing in changes to affect lives. By implementing and setting up Knowledge centres, it gives us immense pleasure to provide such a platform to provide desired perquisite skill to hundreds of individuals and sparking a new trend where you complete your training and you get rewarded with a job."



About Future Sharp Skills Ltd.

India is one of the fastest growing economies with the second largest labour force in the world. But India faces a severe deficit of skilled and employable manpower. To bridge this widening gap, Future Sharp Skills Ltd. [FFSL] (Future Group) provides skill based training leading to gainful employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for generating a sustainable livelihood to millions of Indians.

About Future Group

Future Group is among India's leading business houses with multiple businesses spanning across the consumption space. The group operates some of India's leading retail chains like Big Bazaar, Food Bazaar, Central, Home Town and eZone and also has allied businesses in consumer finance, life and non-life insurance, logistics infrastructure and supply chain and brand and IPR development. The group operates around 16 million square feet of retail space in over 85 cities and towns and 60 rural locations across India. The group's retail formats connect over 220 million customers to over 30,000 small, medium and large enterprises that supply products and services to its retail chains. Future Group believes in developing strong insights on Indian consumers and building businesses based on Indian ideas, as espoused in the group's core value of 'Indianness.' The group's corporate credo is, 'Rewrite rules, Retain values.'

About National Skill Development Corporation, India

The National Skill Development Corporation India (NSDC) is a one of its kind, Public Private Partnership in India. It aims to promote skill development by catalyzing creation of large, quality, for-profit vocational institutions. It provides funding to build scalable, for-profit vocational training initiatives. Its mandate is also to enable support systems such as quality assurance, information systems and train the trainer academies either directly or through partnerships. NSDC is a Ministry of Finance, Government of India enterprise.

Vision

The NSDC was set up as part of a national skill development mission to fulfil the growing need in India for skilled manpower across sectors and narrow the existing gap between the demand and supply of skills.

The Finance Minister announced the formation of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) in his Budget Speech (2008-09):

"...There is a compelling need to launch a world class skill development programme in Mission mode that will address the challenge of imparting the skills required by a growing economy. Both the structure and the leadership of the Mission must be such that the programme can be scaled up quickly to cover the whole country."

Objective

To contribute significantly (about 30 per cent) to the overall target of skilling / up skilling 500 million people in India by 2022, mainly by fostering private sector initiatives in skill development programmes and providing funding.