MOU between Retailers Association’s Skill Council of India (RASCI) & Service Skills Australia (SSA)

Retailers Association's Skill Council of India (RASCI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Service Skills Australia (SSA) - Australia's Industry Skills Council for service industries including retail on the 11th of April 2013 in Mumbai to collaborate in developing the skill ecosystem benefitting Australia and India, the 5th largest global retail destination.

During Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard's state visit to India last year, both the PMs had welcomed collaboration in key industry areas including retail, mining, agriculture, telecommunications and entertainment between Australian and Indian Skills Councils.

The MoU was signed by the Chairman of RASCI, Mr. Bijay Sahoo, and CEO of SSA, Ms. Jeanette Allen, in the presence of Steve Waters, Australian Consul-General to Mumbai, representative from National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and James Raphael, Vice President of RASCI.

(From L-R: Mr. Bijay Sahoo, Chairman, RASCI and Ms. Jeanette Allen, CEO, Service Skills Australia)
Australian Consul-General to Mumbai, Steve Waters, said "I welcome this cooperation between our two countries' retail skills councils. Such collaboration is of great benefit to both nations in building high quality, industry led trained workforces. This agreement is the testament of Australia India Education Council’s (AIEC) commitment to building strategic skills partnerships between India and Australia," said Mr. Waters.

"Today marks an exciting milestone in our partnership. Key areas of co-operation include creation of occupational standards, processes for affiliation of training partners, assessment, certification and stakeholder engagement," said Mr. Sahoo.

"This MoU expands existing cooperation between SSA and RASCI. It recognizes the value in industry engagement and in the development of work appropriate standards in the field of retail skills training" said Ms. Allen.

(From L-R: James Raphael, Vice President, RASCI; Bijay Sahoo, Chairman, RASCI; Ms. Jeanette Allen, CEO, Service Skills Australia; Steve Waters, Australian Consul-General, Mumbai; Mohan Reddy, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and Dr. Peter Nolan, Counsellor (Education & Research), Australian Education International (AEI) India)
The event was attended by the who’s who from the Indian Retail Industry like G R Venkatesh, Head - People Office, Retail Businesses, Future Group; Bidisha Banerjee, Senior Manager - Talent Design and Development, Future Value Retail; Arun Vishwanath, Human Resources & Organisational Learning, Infiniti Retail Ltd. (Croma); Ahtesham Siddiqui, Head HR, Trent Hypermarket Ltd and leaders from Retailers Association of India (RAI).

(From L-R: Ms. Vidhi Sahae, Policy Director - Australia India Education Council; Rosalie Staggard, President, Innovation & Business Skills Australia; G R Venkatesh, Head - People Office, Retail Businesses, Future Group; Ms. Bidisha Banerjee, Senior Manager - Talent Design and Development, Future Value Retail & Ahtesham Siddiqui, Head HR at Trent Hypermarket Ltd.)
There was a great deal of support from the Australian side with the presence of representatives from Australian Education International (AEI) India, Australia India Education Council (AIEC), Australian Trade Commission, Mumbai, and Innovation & Business Skills Australia.

(From R-L: Mohan Reddy, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC); Arun Vishwanath, Human Resources & Organisational Learning, Infiniti Retail Ltd. (Croma); James Raphael, Vice President, RASCI; Ms. Jeanette Allen, CEO, Service Skills Australia; R. Subramanian, Head – Services(HR & Operations), RASCI; Gautam Doshi, Head – Finance and Advocacy, RAI; Lawrence Fernandes, Director - Retail Learning, RAI & Prisoomit Nayak, Head – Affiliations(Partners & Industry), RASCI)

Leaders from Reliance Lifestyles Ltd., Reliance Footprint Ltd., Shoppers Stop Ltd., Aditya Birla Retail Ltd., Titan Industries Ltd., Infiniti Retail Ltd. (Croma), Mahindra Retail, ITC Retail, Mc Donalds India and Arvind Brands besides others have send in their goodwishes on this successful initiative which will further the symbiotic growth opportunity for the Indian retail ecosystem.
Excerpts from a few messages

“We are happy to be part of this historic occasion.”

Basab Banerjee  
Head - Standards and QA  
National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)

“This is wonderful news.”

Bijou Kurien  
President & CE  
Reliance Lifestyles Ltd.

“Congratulations on the signing and I wish RASCI all the best.”

Seema Arora Nambiar  
Sr. Director - People Resources  
McDonalds (West & South-India)

“I wish RASCI the very best for this milestone.”

Ramesh Mitragotri  
Chief People Officer  
Aditya Birla Retail Ltd.
“Very interesting and useful initiative for Retail People Development.”

V Nagaraj
Senior VP & Chief People Officer
Arvind Brands

“Congratulations.”

Govind Shrikhande
CEO & MD
Shoppers Stop

“I am sure the event went well and the engagement will be mutually beneficial.”

Priyanka Gidwani
Chief People Officer
Infinity Retail Ltd. (Croma)

“Congratulations & Good wishes to RASCI for taking this initiative further for a long term collaborative relationship.”

P K Anand
Chief People Officer
Trent Ltd.
“…share the highlights with us and also continue keeping us posted…”

Priya Mathilakath
Assistant Vice President - Human Resources
Mahindra Retail Pvt Ltd.

“All the best.”

Gopalakrishnan Sankar
Chief Executive
Reliance Footprint Ltd.

“Congratulations and all the very best for a successful event.”

Mukul Rastogi
Vice President(HR)
Lifestyle Retailing Business Division, ITC

“Congrats on this step.”

Kumar Rajagopalan
CEO
Retailer’s Association of India (RAI)