Joint Statement on Scholarships for Wiki Conference India, 2016

Wikimedia India (WMIN) and Centre for Internet & Society – Access to Knowledge (CIS-A2K) would like to congratulate the entire organising team on the successful grant application process for organising Wiki Conference India 2016 (WCI 2016). This application brings to light the strength of the Wikimedia communities in India and also paves the way for future collaborative activities. We are sure that WCI 2016 is going to be a major success and will produce interesting outcomes, lasting impact and leaders who will represent Wikimedia communities in India at the global level.

In accordance to the spirit of WCI 2016 (arguably the largest Wikimedia communities related event to be held in India till date) WMIN and CIS-A2K strongly feel that all Indic Wikimedia communities need to be represented in the event. While some communities have dynamic leaders and enough community level activity to motivate the other committee members to utilise opportunities such as travel scholarships, participation in sessions, poster presentation, this cannot be said true for all Indic Wikimedia communities.

WMIN and CIS-A2K strongly feel that no Indian community should be left out from participating in WCI 2016 as this might be the biggest learning opportunity for Indian Wikimedians. If some communities have missed out on the opportunity of applying and securing scholarships, it points out that we need to support these communities more and not hold them responsible for not following the procedure or missing out on deadlines.

Such an effort to make WCI inclusive to all Indian language Wikimedia communities will stand as a testimonial for our organisational abilities and inclusive planning. These factors will definitely enhance our chances of hosting major global events and will not lead to any kind of dissent on the grounds of favour or bias.

Both WMIN and A2K would like to express their commitment towards making WCI 2016 a major success. Bringing all Indian Language Communities is the first step that will lead us towards a better understanding about the different communities, identifying and bridging the gaps in our Wikimedia projects, collaborative activities and a robust Wikimedia movement in India. We wish the organisers all the luck and would be privileged to assist/collaborate in any way that we can.

WMIN   CIS-A2K

2nd July, 2016.