

SLIDE 1 – Module 3 Title

- Module 3 of the SSIO Orientation Programme is about the structure of the Sathya Sai International Organisation and will also look into the roles and responsibilities of office bearers.

SLIDE 2 – Module 3 General Outline

- *(Go through outline)*

SLIDE 3 – Title: The Structure of the SSIO

- We will begin by taking a closer look at the general structure of the Sathya Sai International Organisation.

SLIDE 4 – SSIO Organisation Chart

- Our dearest Swami is the foundation on which the entire SSIO is built. The SSIO is one, unified organisation that embraces all entities shown within this organisation chart.
- The Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation and the Prasanthi Council are the two apex bodies of the SSIO working together for the governance and the functioning of SSIO.
- The Prasanthi Council was established by Sathya Sai Baba in November 2004 and is the managing body of the SSIO. The Sri Sathya Sai World Foundation was established by Sathya Sai Baba in 2006 and deals with the financial and legal matters of the Organisation.
- For administrative purposes, the countries outside India are divided geographically into 12 zones plus UK, which may be further arranged into one or more regions or regional councils. The SSIO operates in countries around the world through a National Council or Coordinating Committee (in the case of Regional council), which is overseen by the Zone Chair and Central Coordinators appointed by the Prasanthi Council.

SLIDE 5 – SSIO International Committees & Taskforces

- Now let us take a deeper look at the aims, goals and objectives of the SSIO.
- International Committees have been established under the auspices of the Prasanthi Council to focus on specific areas identified by their names. These committees plan, coordinate, and lead specific areas of work of the SSIO and they provide guidance and assistance to the work done locally by Sathya Sai Centres around the world. They also serve members of Sathya Sai Centres, devotees and others around the world when they visit Prasanthi Nilayam for spiritual pilgrimages, retreats, conferences, etc.

- These International Committees receive valuable input from Sathya Sai Centres around the world of their experience in carrying out spiritual, educational, and service programmes in their respective countries. This mutual support ensures a coordinated and significant global effort in carrying out activities around the world in the name of Sathya Sai Baba.

SLIDES 6, 7, 8 & 9 – Additional Diagrams of SSIO at Different Levels

- *(Go through diagrams)*

SLIDE 10 – Title: The Roles of Office Bearers

- At this point we will focus at better understanding the roles of office bearers at different levels within the SSIO.

SLIDE 11 – Roles of Zone Chairs & Central Coordinators

- *(Go through slide)*
- *Other roles include:* To transmit to the Prasanthi Council periodic reports on the activities of the Sathya Sai Centres and Sathya Sai Groups and to ensure that the online Annual Survey conducted each year by the SSIO is completed accurately by the Presidents of the National Council and all Sathya Sai Centres and Sathya Sai Groups in all countries in the Zone by the date specified.

SLIDE 12 – Roles of National Councils / Coordinating Committees

- *(Go through slide)*
- *Other roles include:* Encourage and guide the establishment of new Sathya Sai Centres and Sathya Sai Groups.
- Be aware of and support, where requested, the work of the ISSE and Sathya Sai Schools in the country and keep the Zone Chair and Central Coordinator informed of the same.

SLIDE 13 – Role of Centre / Group Presidents

- *(More details can be given in local trainings)*

SLIDE 14 – Title: Sathya Sai Centres & Groups

- Now we shall move on to recalling the purpose of establishing Sathya Sai Centres & Groups around the globe.
- In the previous module we saw that the purpose of the SSIO is no other than to help humanity recognise and manifest its inherent divinity. The SSIO fosters human excellence and helps its members develop positive virtues and

good character, and of course spirituality is the core and heart of this Organisation that bears His name.

- We also saw how the inspiration of Sathya Sai Baba's example and message of love and service has resulted in the establishment of nearly 2,000 Sathya Sai Centres and Groups in over 120 countries throughout the world.

SLIDE 15 – Expansion is My Life

- An illustration of the purpose of Sai Centers and Groups can be seen through this question once asked to Sathya Sai *"Swami, how can we earn your grace?"* This was a question posed to Swami by a Sai Student during an interview in January 2011. Swami was delighted to hear this question and elaborated on how to win grace. He said, *"Look here, God is like a massive generating station, producing grace... it is not so easy to connect to God directly... that's why I have instituted Sai Centers. Sai Centers are like a distribution system, which is connected to Swami who is the generating station. To connect to the distribution system, one needs a home. The home should be well prepared. Spiritual discipline and practice is the wire that connects the person to the Sai center."*

SLIDE 16 – Expansion

- (Go through slide).
- Every Sathya Sai Centre around the world is an essential part of the SSIO and shares a single, yet dynamic vision with other Sathya Sai Centres around the world in serving the Sathya Sai Mission. Thus, whilst every Sathya Sai Centre serves the needs of its local community, it also maintains a global perspective of the work of the SSIO and participates in it.

SLIDE 17 – Sathya Sai Centres & Groups

- Let us now recall the difference between a Sathya Sai Centre and a Sathya Sai Group. As you may know, a Sathya Sai Centre must have at least nine members and must conduct the programme activities in at least two of the three "wings": devotion, education, and service. Otherwise, the designation "Sathya Sai Group" is used. So a Sathya Sai Group will have less than nine members, at least five, and may carry out activities in just one of the three wings, usually devotion.
- The Executive Board is responsible for all aspects of operating the Centre. The Executive Board consists of five officers (including the President, the Vice President, the Devotion Coordinator, the Service Coordinator, and the Education Coordinator). If there is a YA representative, then he/she is also part of the Executive Board. The same applies with the Treasurer (only Centers who are incorporated or own a building or land should need a Treasurer).

- The Executive Board is responsible for all aspects of operating the Centre. Decisions in a Center should be made by consensus. If a consensus is not achieved, the President makes the final decision.

SLIDE 18 – Quote: My desire is...

- (Read quote)

SLIDE 19 – Quote: You must work joyfully...

- (Read quote)

SLIDE 20 – Title: The Three Wings

- Over the next slides, we will dive into the three wings through which the Sathya Sai Centres & Groups conduct their activities.

SLIDE 21 – The Three Wings

- The main activities of a Sathya Sai Center take place under three Wings which as you know are Devotion, Education, and Service. These correspond to the three main paths to self-realisation: the path of devotion (*bhakti*), the path of spiritual wisdom (*jnana*), and the path of renunciation of the fruit of action (*karma*).
- There is another analogy that is very beautiful and powerful. It reflects the harmony that exists between each of these 'paths'. On the 28th of March in 1968, Swami gave a discourse and described the following analogy.
- When you consider a clock, there are three hands on it. One is a second hand, another is a minute-hand and the third one is the hour-hand. The second-hand travels very fast, moving round the 12 numbers in 60 seconds, while, during this time, the minute hand moves through only the little mark or division. After the minute-hand travels through sixty divisions, the hour hand moves through one hour. Sixty seconds make one minute and sixty minutes make one hour.
- The second-hand represents *Karma Yoga* or the path of action. We are acting constantly and it is easy to do a good deed and make service the mark of our daily actions. The minute-hand is *Bhakti Yoga* or the path of devotion. When one engages in good deeds, one develops good and noble thoughts - offering to fruits of our actions to the Lord. The hour-hand is the *Jnana Yoga* or the path of wisdom. When one is saturated with good and noble thoughts, one gets an insight and we illuminate our intellect.
- So, all the three: action, devotion and knowledge are a must. One cannot move without the other and one loses meaning without the other! Swami further adds that because the second-hand and the minute-hand travel

relatively fast, we are able to see their motion. The hour-hand travels slowly, we are not able to see its movement. But as long as we do good and get good feelings, we should know that we are progressing.

SLIDE 22 – Devotional Wing

- In further modules of this Orientation Programme, we will look into greater depth at each of the three wings however at this point we are just going to have a brief overview of all three and their activities.
- *(Go through slide).*
- Swami says: *"Devotion has been defined as supreme single-pointed intense attachment to the Lord. It is the easiest way to win His Grace and to realize that He is, in fact, everything. Devotion is the easiest and most effective path, for it is a spiritual discipline of the heart."*

SLIDE 23 – Educational Wing

- *(Go through slide)*
- The Education Coordinator has responsibility for the Centre's Sai Spiritual Education (SSE) program. It was one of the first major initiatives taken up by Swami on a large scale in December 1967. Known in the past as Bal Vikas *(which literally means the blossoming of the child)*.
- Specify that Study Circles under Education wing now since last 2017 guidelines.

SLIDE 24 – Service Wing

- As we know, Sathya Sai has demonstrated how to render selfless service through His own personal example. He has repeatedly said that the highest spiritual discipline is selfless service.
- The Service Coordinator has responsibility for the various activities undertaken by the Center, including the determination that there is a need for the service, that there is sufficient interest among members, and that appropriate resources are available.

SLIDE 25 – Title: Ladies & Young Adults Programme

- In this section, we will take a brief look at the ladies section and young adults programme within the Sathya Sai Centres & Groups.

SLIDE 26 – Ladies Section & Young Adults Programme

- *(Go through slide)*

SLIDE 27 – Title: Special Units & Committees

- Now let us just go through other special units and committees within the SSIO framework.

SLIDE 28 – Special Units & Committees

- *(Go through slide)*

SLIDE 29 – Sathya Sai Institutions Serving the Community

- *(Go through slide)*

SLIDE 30 – Sathya Sai Education in Human Values (SSEHV)

- *(Go through slide)*
- The application of the five human values can vary widely in its situational and social contexts. For example, the human values may be applied to promote spiritual awareness in adolescents, to help in dynamic parenting and to increase awareness of social and ethical issues in corporate institutions, businesses and professional practices. The principles of SSEHV have been applied with great success in government and private schools, various community programmes, in the rehabilitation of 'at risk youth', empowerment of women and single parents, and in enhancing environmental awareness and social conscience.

SLIDE 31 – Institutes of Sathya Sai Education (ISSEs)

- *(Go through slide)*
- ISSEs work under the direct oversight of the Education Committee of the SSIO and maintain a good working relationship with the Sathya Sai Organisations in their respective countries. The functions and governance of Sathya Sai Schools and ISSEs are guided by a comprehensive set of educational guidelines approved by the SSIO.

SLIDE 32 – Sathya Sai Schools

- *(Go through slide)*

SLIDE 33 – Quote: Above all a leader should be a servant...

- *(Read quote)*

SLIDE 34 – Quote: Do not doubt your destiny...

- Coming to an end of Module 3, I would like to recall what we actually started Module 2 with in our last Webinar.
- As Swami reminded His students when they saw the leaf fall in His crown of hair, He said: *"It's not the leaf, YOU are the fortunate one!"*
- So once again, let us always remember how blessed we are to know Him and to be in His fold, having Him as our guide, companion and inspiration. We are indeed very fortunate that Sathya Sai has lent His name to the SSIO and guides its work. As members we are extremely blessed to be part of this global Organisation and to have the opportunity to conduct our lives following the teachings of Sathya Sai Baba.