

From our Chief Executive



Lt. General Arjun Ray, PVSM, VSM (Retd.)

**Dear Friends,**

One of the most misunderstood words in education is ‘international education.’ It means different things to different people. There is even greater confusion in the minds of parents when every city and town has schools that call themselves ‘international.’ The challenge is even more. International schools may not be international, whilst national schools may be promoting international education. We, therefore, need to be clear on the meaning of ‘international.’ This understanding will give clarity to teachers on how to make Indus students world citizens.

The first key notion to remember is that acceptance of international-mindedness does not mean abandoning of national-mindedness. We live in two worlds, the world we were born in, and the present world where we live. **Localism** thus becomes a reference point for us to understand other cultures. At Indus we achieve this through the study of values in contemporary cultures, community service and Indian-ness.

The second mark of internationalism is the desire and ability to espouse **universal values** in a world driven by market forces. These are values which are acceptable to all cultures such as truth, love, empathy, discipline, freedom from want and fear, peace and democracy. Values can’t be inherited or taught in classrooms, they have to be experienced. Schools provide these opportunities by role-model teachers and community service. Since values are acquired early in life, generally by the age of nine, teachers should work out age-appropriate rules of conduct in sync with the school’s core values.

The third attribute in international education is **learning to live with others**, and not mere acceptance or tolerance of different views. Given the diverse world we live in, it is more important to focus on the

similarities than lose our happiness over how we are different. Such an approach enables the understanding that although we may be different the other person may be right.

The fourth mark of international education is encouraging students and teachers to address **global issues** that affect the security of the world. These could range from climate change to health, to poverty, to terrorism, to religious fundamentalism, to conflict. Activism on social issues and global challenges is an ideal opportunity to practice student voice in this regard.

With Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arjun Ray". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Lieutenant General Arjun Ray, PVSM, VSM (Retd.)  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Indus Trust.