

Thomas Cook (India) Ltd.  
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## News Release

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### Thomas Cook India's Centre of Learning felicitates 250 Students at its Convocation Ceremony 2013-2014

**Mumbai, August 22, 2014:** Thomas Cook (India) Limited's education and training vertical, **Centre of Learning**, felicitated 250 students of the 2013-14 batch at its Convocation Ceremony held at the Indian Merchants Chamber, Mumbai today. The ceremony was graced by Mr. M K Sharma, Non-Executive Chairman, Thomas Cook (India) Ltd, the Chief Guest, who delivered the keynote address. Also present were **Ms. Hanneli Slabber, Country Manager India, South African Tourism**, the Guest of Honour and **Mr. Madhavan Menon, Managing Director, Thomas Cook (India) Ltd.**

The Centre of Learning Convocation Ceremony honoured students who had successfully completed the Travel Professional Program - a Post Graduate Course in Travel & Tourism Management, Certificate Course in World Tour Management, IATA. **Scholarship certificates and a special prize (of Thomas Cook India International & Domestic tour packages)** were awarded to top performers of Centre of Learning's Travel Professional Program - a Post Graduate course in Travel & Tourism Management.

Thomas Cook India's Centre of Learning has played a pioneering role in the education and training field with a focus on building a highly skilled resource human resource pool for the Travel & Tourism Industry. Centre of Learning was honoured with the prestigious "**South Asia Top Performing Authorized training Centre 2013**" for the second consecutive year for outstanding contribution towards helping human capital by reaching out to the next generation, by the internationally renowned IATA accreditation.

Commenting on the occasion, **Mr Madhavan Menon, Managing Director, Thomas Cook (India) Ltd**, said "It is certainly a proud moment for Thomas Cook India's Centre of Learning, as we felicitate 250 students graduating today. The Indian travel industry is seeing strong focus via impactful initiatives announced by Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi and reiterated via Budget 2014-15. This service intensive industry relies heavily on human capital and I am delighted to see delivery of our strategic intent of education and training in the tourism domain. Thomas Cook India's Centre of Learning offers a unique combination of travel academics and managerial courses, coupled with industry skills and hands on work experience to equip our students with a diverse portfolio of skill sets as future torch bearers of the Tourism Industry."

#### **About Centre of Learning:**

Centre of Learning is an initiative of Thomas Cook (India) Ltd. to develop talent for the organization as well as for the Industry. In the context of high growth and increasing customer expectations, talent management will be one of the important challenges to the Travel Industry. This relates to both the shortage of actual numbers and the desired capability levels from both a technical and managerial perspective. Thomas Cook - Centre of Learning has been set up with the objective of proactively facilitating the talent management in the travel industry and would strive to grow, harness and nurture the skill sets in the industry.

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**About Thomas Cook (India) Limited:**

Thomas Cook (India) Ltd (TCIL) is the leading integrated travel and travel related financial services company in the country offering a broad spectrum of services that include Foreign Exchange, Corporate Travel, MICE, Leisure Travel, Insurance, Visa & Passport services and E-Business. The company set up its first office in India in 1881.

TCIL's footprint currently extends to over 233 locations (including 18 airport counters) in 98 cities across India, Mauritius & Sri Lanka and is supported by a strong partner network of 111 Gold Circle Partners and 165 Preferred Sales Agents in over 136 cities across India.

ICRA has reaffirmed long term rating of 'ICRA AA-/ Stable' assigned to Thomas Cook (India) Ltd's non convertible debenture programme.

CRISIL has reaffirmed long term rating of CRISIL AA-/ stable outlook to the non convertible debenture programme and banking facilities and short term rating of CRISIL A1+ to TCIL's banking facilities.

Thomas Cook (India) Ltd has been voted **Best Tour Operator at the Lonely Planet Travel Awards 2013, Favourite Specialist Tour Operator at the Condé Nast Traveller Readers' Travel Awards 2013 & 2012 and Best Tour Operator - Outbound at the CNBC AWAAZ Travel Awards 2013.** In addition, TCIL has been chosen as the **Best Corporate Travel Management Company by World Travel Brands 2012**, and recognized as a "Consumer Superbrand" 2012-2013. At the **National Tourism Awards 2012-2013**, TCIL was the recipient of 3 prestigious awards. Thomas Cook India's Centre of Learning has received IATA accreditation as "Top 10 South Asia IATA Authorized Training Centers", 2013 & 2012.

For more information, please visit [www.thomascook.in](http://www.thomascook.in)

Thomas Cook (India) Limited is promoted by Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited through its wholly-owned subsidiary, Fairbridge Capital (Mauritius) Limited. Fairbridge is responsible for the execution of acquisition and investment opportunities in the Indian subcontinent on behalf of the Fairfax family of companies.

**About Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited:**

Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited is a Toronto-based financial services holding company with a global presence in insurance and reinsurance and a portfolio of assets in excess of \$38 billion invested worldwide. The Company, founded in 1985 by the present Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Prem Watsa, has over the past 25 years, demonstrated a strong financial track record to achieve an annual appreciation in Book Value per Share of 24.7% annually.

Fairfax has almost 20 general insurance subsidiaries and joint ventures globally, including ICICI Lombard (India).

Fairfax is engaged in long term investments from its own resources, with a focus to delivering long term capital appreciation through a flexible and value oriented approach.

Fairfax Financial Holdings through Thomas Cook (India) Ltd. owns 74.85% on a fully diluted basis of the IKYA Group, a provider of specialised Human Resource related Services and 41.90% of Sterling Holiday Resorts (India) Ltd, engaged in time share and resort business and holiday activities.

**About IKYA Group**

The IKYA Group, established in 2007, has over the last 6 years, evolved into a diversified provider of Business Services with interests in Human Resources (Recruitment & General Staffing), IT Staffing & Services, Facilities Management, Food & Hospitality services and Training & Skill Development through a combination of organic and inorganic methods. The Group operates out of 33 offices across 22 cities and employs 80,000 personnel.

**About Sterling Holiday Resorts (India) Limited:**

Sterling Holiday Resorts (India) Limited, a pioneer in vacation ownership and a leading leisure hospitality company in India, was incorporated in 1986 with the vision of delivering great holiday experiences to Indian families. Sterling Holidays' network includes 1512 rooms across 19 resorts in 16 scenic holiday destinations pan India. The company also has 15 additional sites where it plans to add new resorts in the coming years.

For more information visit: [www.sterlingholidays.com](http://www.sterlingholidays.com)

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