

ModBox premiere held at Moravian Institute

By OUR STAFF
REPORTER

DEHRADUN, 19 Feb: Moravian Institute witnessed on Saturday a public performance of ModBox, the world's first. Sumit Agarwal and Paul Perkins, former Boxing Australia National Coach, congratulated Moravian Institute for a spectacular performance. The audience was overwhelmed by the show of talent by the students and coaches, within barely three weeks of intensive training delivered by Perkins.

Agarwal is CEO of TANJUN Associate LLP, an organisation dedicated to skill development since 2008, the India initiative being known as 'Kangaroo BoxInd'.

ModBox is supported by the Australian Government's aid programme through the Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade (DFAT) within its Asia Sports Partnerships (ASP) initiative in collaboration with SEDA-India (Sports Education Development Australia) based on research conducted by the University of Canberra.

Paul Perkins introduced each aspect of the Public Performance: Warming Up, Skills Demonstration, and One-on-One Performance. Perkins also explained the purpose of the special gloves and protective vests that had been specially developed for ModBox. He demonstrated a very interesting



aspect of ModBox as each ModBoxer evaluated the performance of her "opponent", actually a peer, to provide feedback for improvement.

Moravian Institute coaches, Raju Thapa and Namsinrai Kamei, led 21 senior girls of Moravian Institute in delivering the Public Performance. One of the girls, Reema Rana, shared her thoughts on the programme with the audience.

The audience noted the girls' confidence, creativity in performance, display of skills,

and respect for each other. Another important feature of Modbox that the girls demonstrated was teamwork and cooperation - a great contrast to conventional boxing, which is competitive and individualistic.

On the occasion, Col HRS Rana, Commanding officer of Eco Task Force, 127 Inf Bn [TA] Garhwal Rifles, encouraged the girls to take the programme forward. On Republic Day (which also happens to be Australia Day) Moravian Institute

girls had planted saplings under the Eco Task Force.

Guests present on the occasion were Reena Jaggi, Principal of Greenfield School, and others from Germany and North America, as well as Uttarakhand state boxers also trained as community coaches under 'Kangaroo BoxInd'.

In his concluding remarks, Moravian Institute Director, Rev Kundan, thanked Paul Perkins for not only training the coaches but also connecting Moravian Institute to Prof Allen Hahn,

Perkins' PhD supervisor at the University Canberra. Prof Hahn has Moravian ancestors and, unbeknownst to him, his relatives in Germany had been supporting Moravian Institute for many years. Prof Hahn is one of the world's leading sports scientists. He was instrumental in Australia's women's coxless pairs winning the gold medal at the 1996 Olympics. Paul Perkins expressed the hope that Prof Hahn would be able to accompany him when he returns to Dehradun later in 2017.