

**Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation
Entrepreneurship Fellowship
UW Madison School of Business**

Thanks to generous gifts from Fairway Independent Mortgage Corporation, Cascade Asset Management, and the UW Center for International Business Education and Research (CIBER), a total of 10 University of Wisconsin MBA students were recently able to visit and experience several distinct regions within India. The two-week tour began in Delhi, which is near the legendary Taj Mahal. From there, it turned south to allow the students to meet with several businesses and local entrepreneurs in Bangalore, a thriving city of young professionals and high-tech companies. A few days later, the tour group took a train across the uniquely Indian landscape to the more southeastern region of Chennai, where the fisherman and their villages were still recovering from the tsunami that struck the Indian Ocean area just weeks before our arrival.

The trip required a great deal of acclimation for most of us. Travel in the U.S. can not be compared to that in India where the infrastructure is a bit unpredictable and driving norms are less rigid. Communications, phone lines, and internet connections are not as readily available as they are in the U.S., and the food is much spicier than traditional American fare. Most of us had never been to a foreign country outside of Canada or Western Europe. As a result, India presented a powerful experience for those of us who were experiencing so much for the first time.

The stately Taj Mahal does, indeed, rise from the ground to meet the crisp blue sky, as one would expect in laying eyes upon one of the Seven Wonders. The temples, adorned with sacred imagery, permitted a glimpse into the rich cultures and traditions throughout Indian history. The people with whom we met treated us to tremendous hospitality through not only sharing their business successes but also through sharing their heritage and country with us.

We are grateful to Fairway Independent Mortgage for giving each of us the ability to spend two weeks exploring such an amazing country. I am looking forward to returning to the region in the future, and hope that everyone, someday, has the fortune to visit India.

Thank you- Wisconsin MBA's