

GOPIO

GOPIO CONFERENCE 2010

January 5-6, 2010, New Delhi, India



Organized by

**Global Organization of People
of Indian Origin
GOPIO International**

GOPIO International

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**Global Organization of People
Of Indian Origin
GOPIO International**

GOPIO CONFERENCE 2010

January 5-6, 2010, New Delhi, India
In Conjunction With



Pravasi Bhartiya Divas 2010

Program

Venue: The Habitat Centre, Lodi Estate, New Delhi 110021

Tuesday, January 5, 2010

- 4:00 PM **Executive Committee Meeting**
- 5:00 PM **GOPIO Country Reports**
- Lord Diljit Rana, President GOPIO International
- North America** Dr. Piyush Agrawal, Regional Vice President, GOPIO Intl
Dr Renuka Mishra (GOPIO Metro-DC, USA)
- Middle East** Sunny Kulathakal, Int'l Coordinator, GOPIO Intl
- Pacific/Oceania** Harish Bajaj, Regional Vice President, GOPIO Intl
- Europe** Raj Loomba, Regional Vice President, GOPIO Intl
- South Asia** K. N. Gupta, President GOPIO-India
- Kenya** Dr. Markandey Rai, Nairobi, Kenya
- Australia** Umesh Chandra, Australia
- Council Reports** Dr Mohan Gautam, Academic Council (Netherlands);
Munish Gupta, Media Council (India-USA);
Lady Shruti Rana, Women's Council (UK)
- 6:30 PM **Dinner (The Habitat Centre)**

Wednesday, January 6, 2010

- 8:45 AM **Registration**
- Site Registration Jaswant Mody (Co-Chair, GOPIO Cultural Council, USA)
- 9:00 AM **GOPIO Council Meeting**
- 10:15 AM **Tea Break**
- 10:30 AM **Conference Inauguration**
- Welcome address by Lord Diljit Rana, President GOPIO International
- Inauguration address by Shri Anand Sharma
Hon Minister of Commerce & Industries



11:00 AM

Session 1**India's Emerging Economy and The Diaspora**

- Chair:** Dr Thomas Abraham (Former Chairman, GOPIO International)
Co-Chair: Deo Gosine (Co-Chairman, GOPIO Business Council, Trinidad-USA)
Keynote Speaker: Lord Meghnad Desai (House of Lords, United Kingdom)
Speakers: Asha Luthra, Pres of Indo Canadian Chamber of Commerce (ICCC-Canada)
 Datuk Vinod Shekhar (Chairman, The Petra Group, Malaysia)
 Dr George Abraham (USA)
 Mahyendra Utchana (GOPIO Mauritius)
- Note of Thanks:** Sunny Kulathakal (UAE), Int'l Coordinator, Middle East, GOPIO Intl

12:30 PM

Lunch

1:30 PM

Session II:**Family Issues in the Global Indian Diaspora**

- Chair:** Lady Shruti Rana (UK), Chairperson GOPIO Women's Council
Co-Chair: Prof Chandershekhar Bhat (Hyderabad, India)
Keynote Speaker: Lord Navneet Dholakia (House of Lords, UK)
Speakers: Judge Ajit Swaran Singh (New Zealand)
 Raj Loomba, CBE (UK)
 Madhusudan Mehta (India), President NRI Parents Association
 Prof. Parmatma Saran (USA)
 Pavit Mattewal (Attorney, Punjab, India)
 Anil Malhotra (India)
- Note of Thanks:** Dr. Markandey Rai, Nairobi

3:00 PM

Tea Break

3:15 PM

Session III:**Enhancing Intra-Connectivity and Liaison with the Global Indian Diaspora**

- Chair:** Prof. Mohan Gautam (Netherlands), Chair GOPIO Academic Council
Co-Chair: Umesh Chandra (Australia)
Keynote Speaker: Lord Bhikhu Parekh (House of Lords, UK)
Speakers: Dr. Leela Sarup (India/Mauritius)
 Dr. Mani Bhaumik (USA)
 Prof. Ram Roy (California, USA)
 J. C. Sharma (former Secretary, MEA, India)
 Augustin Benoit (GOPIO France)
- Vote of Thanks:** Harish Bajaj, GOPIO Regional Vice President (New Zealand)

4:45 PM

Resolutions & Wrap-up

Chair: Dr. Piyush Agrawal (USA)

5:00 PM

CLOSING



Reception, Entertainment and Awards Banquet
7pm, January 6, 2010, The Ashok Hotel, New Delhi
GOPIO Community Service Awards Presentation Ceremony

Chief Guest: Honorable Vayalar Ravi, Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs
Guest of Honor: Honorable Dr Lenny Saith, Minister, Office of Prime Minister, Trinidad & Tobago
Event Coordinator: Munish Gupta, Chair, GOPIO Media Council
Welcome: K. N. Gupta, Convention Chair, New Delhi
Welcome: Lord Diljit Rana, President, GOPIO International, UK
Greetings: Inder Singh, Chairman, GOPIO International, USA
Emcee: Ashook Ramsaran, Executive Vice President, GOPIO Int'l (USA)

Presentation of GOPIO Community Service Awards

Book Releases at GOPIO 2010 Convention

"Colonial Emigration, 19th- 20th Centuries Proceedings - Volume-III" by Dr Leela Sarup

"The Indian Diaspora: Historical and Contemporary Context: Essays in Honour of Dr Chandrashekhhar Bhat" edited by Laxmi Narayan Kadekar, Ajaya Kumar Sahoo, Gauri Bhattacharya

"India, NRIs and the Law" by Anil Malhotra

"Top 25 Indian Luminaries In The World - Vol. III" by Dr Anand Raj Giri

Recognition of Sponsors:

Sponsor #1: Dr. Mani Bhaumik (USA)
Sponsor #2: Birjinder Sodhi (Germany)
Sponsor #3: Sharad Mehta (USA)

Note of Thanks: Munish Gupta (Chair, GOPIO Media Council)



Chief Guest: Hon. Vayalar Ravi is currently India's Union Cabinet Minister of Overseas India Affairs Minister and Parliamentary Affairs and a member of the Rajya Sabha. Min Ravi was born in the Alappuzha District in Kerala and was the Founder President of the Kerala Students' Union (KSU), the students' wing of Indian National Congress in Kerala. Ravi was elected to the 5th Lok Sabha in 1971 from Chirayinkil in Thiruvananthapuram district; he was re-elected to the 6th Lok Sabha in 1977, serving until 1979. He was elected to the Kerala Legislative Assembly in 1982, and he served as Home Minister of Kerala from 1982 to 1986. He was re-elected to the Kerala Legislative Assembly in 1987, serving until 1991. He was elected to the Rajya Sabha in July 1994 and again in April 2003. He became Union Cabinet Minister for Overseas Affairs on January 30, 2006, the position he currently holds.

Guest of Honor: Dr. Lenny K. Saith, Born in Trinidad of Indian PIO parents, is Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister of the Gov't of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. He is the most senior Cabinet Minister and normally acts as Prime Minister during absences of the Prime Minister as well as holding several key government decision making portfolios. He is the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, a sub-committee of the Cabinet that reviews all government initiatives that have policy or financial implications and makes an appropriate recommendation to Cabinet. Dr. Saith is an Engineer by profession and he possesses a B.Sc.Eng., an M.A.Sc. A Phd and a D.Eng. (Honoris Causa), from studies in India, the United Kingdom and Canada. He is fellow of the Assoc. of Professional Engineers of TnT and he contributed significantly to the development of the Point Lisas Industrial Estate which was the catalyst for the growth of the energy and energy based resource sector in TnT. Dr. Saith became actively involved in the political life of Trinidad and Tobago in 1987 when he was elected Chairman of the People's National Movement (P.N.M.), a position which he held until 1995. He is currently the Deputy Political Leader (Legislative) of the Party.





Salute to GOPIO Awardees

GOPIO Community Service Awards 2010

RECOGNITION FOR SERVICES TO THE DIASPORA

Rajendernath Ramnath (The Netherlands)

Rajendernath Ramnath was born in Suriname, son of indentured laborer from India. At the age of 24, Mr. Ramnath emigrated to The Netherlands in pursuit of higher education. He became actively involved in the local Hindustani community through various leadership roles and became instrumental in advancing the social, cultural and religious interests of all Indians living in the Netherlands. In 1977 Mr. Ramnath founded Stichting Federatie Eekta in The Netherlands, a very prominent and leading cultural foundation for the Hindus. In 1993, his efforts resulted in establishing OHM (Hindu Broadcasting Corporation) a public radio and broadcasting station to further the interest of the local Hindustani population. He became one of the first founders of a local primary school in The Hague which emphasised Hindu values and teachings. He is president of a leading Indian based educational organization which has 5 schools in the Netherlands with more than 1200 students and 130 staff members.



Datuk Vinod Sekhar (Malaysia)



Born in Malaysia, Datuk Vinod B. Sekhar is the President and Chief Executive of Petra Group in Malaysia. His father, Tan Sri Dr. Balachandra Chakkingal Sekhar, was the pioneer of 'green rubber' technology in Malaysia. Datuk Vinod also strives to create a healthy atmosphere for his compatriots and compassion for humanity by substantially reducing the detrimental effects of scrapped rubbers. Besides being among the most successful PIOs in Malaysia, he is the leading philanthropist in the Southeast region. Age 41, he is the only PIO in the world whose group's 60% of earnings goes to charity and engagement in uplifting the underprivileged sections of the society, educationally, financially and medically. His magnanimity is also manifest in the scholarships which he provides to over ten thousand needy students across the globe. He has been conferred with a number of prestigious awards for his work on green technology and other philanthropic accomplishments.

Lachmandas Pagarani (Dubai, UAE)

Based in Dubai, UAE, Mr Lachmandas K Pagarani is a scion with a big heart. He is the Chairman of the Almaya Group, an organisation employing over 3,000 people and overseeing operations across UK, Europe, Middle East and Asia, he has managed to include his philanthropic ambitions and align them to the commercial ones. As his Group of Companies have flourished, he has ensured that the well-being of the under-privileged has not been neglected. With school for children, health clinics, a hospital and housing for the homeless, he has played a pivotal role in uplifting the plight of many in India. Mr Pagarani actively participates in solving humanitarian problems facing NRIs in his community. The recipient of several notable awards for achievement, he is an exemplary businessman with tremendous humility, but his commitment to give back to the community overshadows everything else, proving that to give is a bigger gift than receiving.





Dr. Prabhakar (Kerala, India)

Dr. Prabhakar sacrificed a comfortable job and life in USA and returned to his native Indian village to serve the poorest of rural women. A colleague of Dr. Muhammad Yunus, the Nobel Laureate, Dr. Prabhakar embarked for the last 13 years upon the alleviation of poverty among poor rural women by replicating the Grameen Banking System of Bangladesh with relevant and appropriate modifications. He is committed to the socio-economic empowerment of the poorest of rural women by providing collateral-free micro-credit for economically viable and environmentally sustainable income generating activities. He has devised and implemented innovative ventures and schemes, such as Areca nut leaves products for environmental protection from the plastic pollution, Coconut Parlors to encourage the coconut farmers, Production units of Swadeshi indigenous soap and detergents that are free from chemicals, etc. To meet the demands of the modern era of information technology, a Rural BPO (Business Process Outsourcing) Center is being implemented for the empowerment of girls living in rural areas.

Ramesh Gupta (USA)

Ramesh Gupta is well known for his passion to help people in need. He touched many lives including aiding several victims of family violence hailing from both sides of Indo-Pak border. During his tenure as President of India Association, he made relentless efforts to unite the Indian American community and built India Association in to an organization widely recognized throughout the United States as one of the most powerful groups in the country. He was instrumental in raising large sums of money to help the victims of natural disaster in India and the United States and for the families of fallen soldiers during Kargil War. In order to educate politically and serve the economical interests of the community, he founded Indo-American Political and Economic Forum which became a very strong voice of DFW India community. "I was immensely impressed by Ramesh Gupta's selfless service to the community", said Hon. Abid Hussain, India Ambassador to the United States. Similar sentiments were echoed by several other senior diplomats and prominent community leaders.



Dr Jagat Motwani (USA)



Dr. Jagat Motwani has been serving the Indian community in the USA for over thirty years. He was member of the executive committee of the Federation of Indian Associations which started India Day parade to celebrate India's Independence in New York city. He was one of the pioneers when the National Federation of Indian American Associations, the umbrella body of Indian organizations in America, was formed. In 1989, he became co-convenor of the First Convention of People of Indian Origin. He became the first Secretary General of Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO), then International Co-ordinator and recently as Chairman of the GOPIO Academic Council from which he retired in August, 2009. Dr. Jagat Motwani edited and compiled "Global Migration of Indians" and "Global Indian Diaspora: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" for GOPIO. These two books are major contribution to the literature on Indian diaspora and GOPIO thankfully acknowledges valuable contributions of Dr. Motwani. He also wrote several other books on the Indian Diaspora and a contributor to many publications.

Issac John (Dubai)

Issac John, Chair of Gulf Arts and Literary Academy (GALA), is one of the leading journalists and economists of the Middle East. A veteran of many breaking news stories and invigorating analysis pieces, Issac, he is currently the Business Editor of Khaleej Times. He has been in the UAE's mainstream journalism for nearly 30 years -- 9 years with Gulf News, 2 years with Emirates News, 1 year with a business magazine UAE Digest, and 18 years with Khaleej Times. Issac has won 3 pan-Arab media awards and several other accolades during his illustrious career. These include the Pan Arab Media Quality Award (March 2005) from e-TQM University, Dubai; DSS Award for Best Creative Writing in English (October 2005) from Dubai Economic Development Department; Arab IPR Award (December 2005) from Business Software Alliance; Award of Appreciation from Dubai Electricity and Water Authority, 2006; KC Varghese Foundation Media Award (2007); Elemec Award for Best Journalist (2007); Pravasi Ratna Award for Journalism (2007), and Award of Appreciation from UAE Ministry of Finance and Industry (2007). He won the Best Media Personality 2008 Award from the New Jersey-based World Malayalee Council at its annual global conference held in Abu Dhabi in January, 2009.





The GOPIO Team

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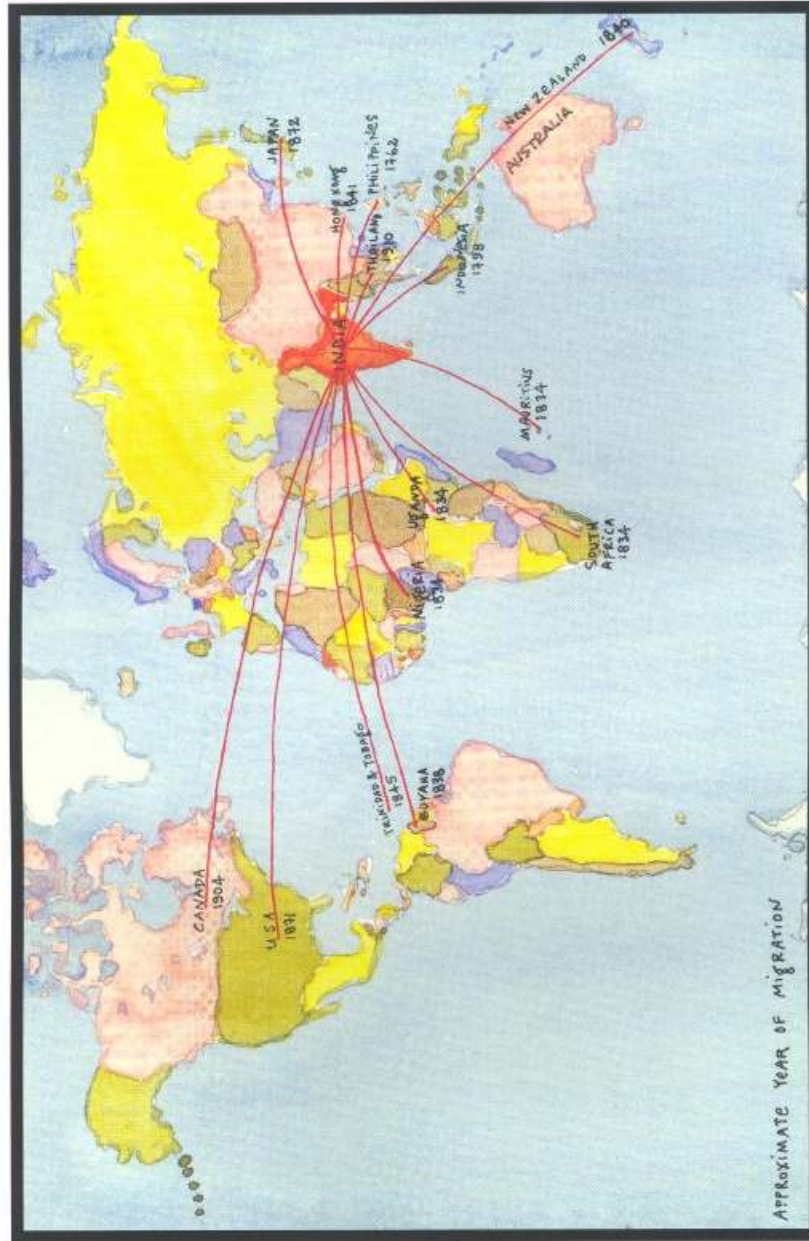
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Indian Migration Map (Courtesy of Dr Jagat Motwani)



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