

## **GOPIO PREPARES FOR GOPIO CONVENTION 2013 – DETAILED PROGRAM ANNOUNCED**

GOPIO International plans to hold its annual executive and general council meetings, followed by its conference starting on January 5 afternoon and concluding on January 6 immediately preceding, and in conjunction with Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2013 events of January 7-9, 2013 in Kochi, Kerala, India.

### **GOPIO-KOCHI GEARS UP FOR GOPIO CONVENTION**

The arrangements for GOPIO Kochi Convention 2013 were discussed at a meeting of the members of Kochi Chapter on December 12th. GOPIO Executive Vice President Sunny Kulathakal and Convention Convener Ibrahim Khan briefed the progress of the arrangements to receive nearly 400 delegates from 60 countries for the Kochi Convention 2013.

## **GOPIO Convention 2013 – Kochi, India**

### **Detailed Program January 5 – 6, 2013**

### **GOPIO Meetings, Regional & Country Reports, Conference Program & Community Service Awards Banquet**

#### **5<sup>th</sup> January 2013 – GOPIO Meetings, Regional & Country Reports**

**Venue: The Presidency Hotel, Kochi**

**10:30am – 12:30pm GOPIO Executive Meeting**  
Chaired by Ashook Ramsaran, (President, GOPIO Int'l, USA)  
*(Not Open to the Public)*

**12:30pm – 1:30pm Lunch**

**1:30pm – 2:30pm Regional & Country Reports**

Chaired by Inder Singh (Chairman GOPIO Int'l, USA)  
*Open to the Public*  
Dr. Markandey Rai - Kenya  
Ved Prakash Goojha - France  
Deo Gosine - Trinidad & Tobago

Dr. Arnold Thomas – Caribbean  
Munish Gupta – Africa  
Dr. Sai Giridhar - Middle East  
Joshua Naor. President, Israel  
Umesh Chandra – Oceania (Fiji, Australia, N. Zealand)  
Rajindre Tewari – Europe  
Amb R. Dayakar – South Asia  
Dr Piyush Agrawal - North America  
Jay Bhandari – Virginia, USA  
Dr Sunny Wycliffe – Metro DC, USA  
Roy Bodjhwan – Netherlands  
Pradeep Kapoor - New Zealand  
Jean Ramsamy - Reunion Island  
Mrs. Lucky Singh - Australia  
Dr. Prabhu Kulkarni – Ireland  
Koshy Thomas - UK  
Mr. Radha Krishnan - Indian Organizations in the USA  
K. N. Gupta – Liaison with Government of India  
Harbachan Singh - Liaison to United Nations  
Sunny Kulathakal - GOPIO Council Reports  
Dr. Piyush Agrawal - GOPIO Chapter Developments

**2:30pm– 4:30pm**      **General Council Meeting**  
Chaired by Inder Singh (Chairman GOPIO Int’l, USA)  
*Open to the Public*

**6:00pm**                      **Reception/Dinner**  
**Venue: Dream Hotel, Kochi**

**6<sup>th</sup> January 2013 - – GOPIO Conference Program**  
**Venue: Crowne Plaza Hotel (near LeMeridian)**

9:00am                      **Registration**

**9:30am**                      **Inauguration**

- *Welcome:* Sunny Kulathakal (Executive Vice Pres, GOPIO Int’l, Bangalore)
- *Welcome:* P. C. Cyriac (President of GOPIO Chapter, Kochi, India))
- *Remarks by:* Inder Singh (Chairman GOPIO Int’l, USA)

- *Remarks by:* Ashook Ramsaran, (President, GOPIO Int'l, USA)
- *Inaugural Remarks by:* Former Gov M. M. Jacob (former Governor of Meghalaya & Arunachal Pradesh, India)
- *Book Release:* EDGE OF THE CLIFF by Anand Mullo (Historian, Mauritius)
- *Thanks:* Suman Kapoor (Chair, GOPIO's Women's Council, New Zealand)

### **10:00am -11:30am    Session I: *Diaspora Issues: Challenges & Opportunities***

- *Chair:* Sunny Kulathakal (Executive Vice Pres, GOPIO Int'l, Bangalore)
- *Co-Chair:* Ms. Lucky Singh (President, GOPIO Chapter Sydney, Australia)
- *Note-Taker:* Sarat Maharaj (GOPIO of Brisbane, Australia)
- *Lead Speaker:* Paresh Raghani (GOPIO Chapter of London, UK and Management Consultant)
- *Speaker:* Dr. Chandrashekar Bhat (Prof. at Tezpur University and Former Dir of Diaspora Studies, Hyderabad, India)
- *Speaker:* Prof Mohan Gautam (Co-Chair, GOPIO Academic Council, Netherlands)
- *Speaker:* Umesh Chandra (Int'l Coordinator, Oceania, Australia)
- *Speaker:* Anita Bhat (Youth Director, GOPIO Youth Council, USA)
- *Speaker:* Dr. Arnold Thomas (Int'l Coordinator, Caribbean, St. Vincent)
- *Speaker:* Dr. Isaac M. Nooranal (Chairman of Soukya, India)
- *Q/A:* Radha Krishnan (National Director, Liaison to US Indian Organizations, USA)
- *Thanks:* Jaswant Mody (Associate Secretary, GOPIO Int'l, USA)

11:30am -11:45am    Coffee/Tea Break

### **11:45am-1:30pm    Session II: *Freedom Movements in the Diaspora – Gadar & Others***

- *Chair:* Inder Singh (Chairman GOPIO Int'l, USA)
- *Co-Chair:* Dr. Neerja Arun (GOPIO Academic Council Co-Chair, and Coordinator cum Director, Gujarat Univ. International Program, Ahmedabad, India)
- *Lead Speaker:* Prof Harish Puri (Researcher, Historian, & Author of Books on Gadar Movement, India)

- *Speaker:* Dr Savitri Sawhney (Daughter of Gadar Hero Khankhoje, Author, India)
- *Speaker:* Manpreet Kaur Singh (Author, Journalist, Australia)
- *Speaker:* Sunny Wycliffe (Community Leader, GOPIO Metro DC, USA)
- *Q/A:* Ved Prakash Goojha (President of GOPIO France, France)
- *Conclusion:* Harbachan Singh (Director, Liaison to United Nations, USA)
- *Thanks:* Jay Bhandari (President, GOPIO of Virginia, USA)

1:30pm-2:30pm      **Lunch**

- *Introduction:* Kurian Abraham (GOPIO Chapter, Kochi, India)
- *Guest Speaker:* Ashok Rao (Chair, TiE Global, USA)
- *Thanks:* Issac John Pataniparambil (Chair, GOPIO Media Council, Dubai)

2:30pm-4:00pm      **Session III: *Economic Progress in the Diaspora: Making an Impact in Global Investments & Business Entrepreneurship***

- *Co-Chair:* Dr Thomas Abraham (Exec. Trustee, GOPIO Foundation & GOPIO Founding President, USA)
- *Co-Chair:* Rajindre Tewari (Int'l Coordinator, Europe, Netherlands)
- *Lead Speaker:* PNC Menon (Founder of Sobha Developers Limited, Oman)
- *Speaker:* Shri K. Mohandas (Former Sec of MOIA & Shipping, India)
- *Speaker:* Americai V. Narayanan (GOPIO Chapter of Chennai, India)
- *Speaker:* Dr. Muhammed Majeed (Founder, Sabinsa Corporation, USA)
- *Speaker:* T. Ramappa, Secretary, GOPIO-Bangalore and Chamber of Commerce
- *Q/A:* Prasad Yarlaggada (GOPIO of Australia Chapter)
- *Conclusion:* Arvind Sood (President, GOPIO Chapter of Central NJ, USA)
- *Thanks:* Deo Gosine (Co-Chair, GOPIO Business Council, Trinidad)

4:00pm-4:15pm Coffee/Tea Break

4:15pm-5:30pm **Session IV: *Economic Progress in the Diaspora:  
Investment in India; Creating India-Diaspora  
Science, Technology & Innovation Knowledge Network***

- *Chair:* Munish Gupta (Int'l Coordinator, Africa, India/USA)
- *Co-Chair:* Dr. Ramesh Caussy (Chair, GOPIO Science & Tech Council, France)
- *Lead Speaker:* Yousuf Ali (Managing Director of EMKE Group, Abu Dhabi)
- *Speaker:* J. Alexander (former Karnataka Tourism Minister, India)
- *Speaker:* Deepak Sharma (Kotak Mahindra Bank, India)
- *Speaker:* Nirankar Saxena (Senior Director, FICC, India)
- *Speaker:* Sujata Sudarshan (Director, CII & CEO of OIFC, India)
- *Q/A:* T.P, Ibrahim Khan (GOPIO of Kochi Chapter)
- *Conclusion:* Dr. Markandey Rai (GOPIO of Kenya, Africa)
- *Thanks:* Dr. Harish Srivastava (Senior Consultant, Rockland Hospitals Group, Delhi/Agra)

5:30pm-5:45pm **Session V: Conclusion & Wrap-Up**

- *Speaker:* Ashook Ramsaran, (President, GOPIO Int'l, USA)
- *Supported by:* Dr. Piyush Agrawal (Senior Vice Pres, GOPIO Int'l, USA)
- *Note Taker:* Shyam Das (GOPIO, Australia)
- *Thanks:* Netram Rambudhan (Treasurer, GOPIO Int'l, USA)

5:45pm-6:00pm **Session VI: Resolutions**

- *Chair:* Dr Thomas Abraham (Exec. Trustee, GOPIO Foundation & GOPIO Founding President, USA)
- *Research:* Dr. Piyush Agrawal (Senior Vice Pres, GOPIO Int'l, USA)
- *Co-Chair:* Amb. R. Dayakar (Int'l Coordinator, South Asia, India)
- *Thanks:* K. N. Gupta (Director, Liaison to Gov't of India, India)

## **6<sup>th</sup> January 2013 - – GOPIO Community Service Awards Banquet**

**Venue: The Crowne Plaza Hotel, Kochi**

7:00pm                      **Reception**  
8:00pm                      **CSA Banquet**

### **Honored Guests**

His Excellency H. R. Bhardwaj, Governor of Karnataka and Kerala  
Hon. Vayalar Ravi, Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA)  
Hon. Oommen Chandy, Chief Minister of Kerala  
Lord Bhikhu Parekh, House of Lords, London

## **7<sup>th</sup> January 2013 - – GOPIO Wrap-up Meeting**

**Venue: The Presidency Hotel, Kochi**

9:00am                      **Breakfast**

10:00am– 11:00am      **GOPIO Executive & Council Meeting**  
Co-Chaired by Inder Singh (Chairman GOPIO Int’l, USA)  
Co-Chaired by Ashook Ramsaran, (President, GOPIO Int’l, USA)  
    o Finalize Resolutions; Assessment; Planning

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

If you like to volunteer in the convention committee, please contact Convention 2013 (Kochi).

### **CONTACT**

For more information on GOPIO Kochi Convention, contact Convention 2013 (Kochi) Chairman, Mr. Sunny Kulathakal at [Kulathakal@yahoo.com](mailto:Kulathakal@yahoo.com) at +91-9845756692 (India Mobile). or Convention 2013 (Kochi) Convener, Mr. T.P. Ibrahim Khan at [tpmkhan@gmail.com](mailto:tpmkhan@gmail.com).

### **REGISTRATION**

Registration to attend the GOPIO Conference and the CSA banquet is **FREE** for all GOPIO delegates and all others. However, pre-registration is needed. Contact Thomas Abraham, Joint Secretary, GOPIO-Kochi, E-mail: [gopiokochi@gmail.com](mailto:gopiokochi@gmail.com).

## HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Special rate of Rs. 4,000 for double room plus taxes for GOPIO delegates at Presidency Hotel. Make your reservation at Presidency Hotel (Near Ernakulam Town, near North Train Station), Kochi, Tel: +91-484-2394300, E-mail: [presid@vsnl.com](mailto:presid@vsnl.com). Contact: Mr. Nibu Mathew at +91-9746471257. Transportation will be provided from Hotel Presidency to Dream Hotel for Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> evening dinner and to Crown Plaza Hotel for GOPIO Conference and Banquet on Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>. Since it is PBD Hotel, there will be transportation from Presidency Hotel to Le Meridian Convention Center on Jan. 7, 8 and 9.

## GOPIO ARRANGES KERALA TOURS FOR GOPIO AND PBD2013 DELEGATES

GOPIO is collaborating with reputable tour and hospitality groups in Kerala to provide optional tours at discounted rates for delegates attending GOPIO and PBD2013 events in Kochi. These tours are designed to be made in advance of GOPIO and PBD2013. It could be done after PBD starting Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>. See more details below.

## RESERVE KERALA TRIP WITH THE FOLLOWING TRAVEL GROUP

Mystical Holidays Pvt. Ltd., No.4/593-D, Ground Floor, Marottichodu, Edappally P.O., Kochi 682024, Tel: 091-484-4061516, or contact Mr. Noble Jose at +91 9446361516, e-mail: [noble@mystikalindia.com](mailto:noble@mystikalindia.com).

### PROGRAMME 1: 5 NIGHTS & 6 DAYS

### KOCHI-PERIYAR-KOVALAM-TRIVANDRUM- ALAPPUZHA-KOCHI

- 31<sup>ST</sup> DEC KOCHI – PERIYAR
- 1<sup>ST</sup> JAN - PERIYAR
- 2<sup>ND</sup> JAN - PERIYAR – TRIVANDRUM (KOVALM IS SOLD OUT)
- 3<sup>RD</sup> JAN - TRIVANDRUM
- 4<sup>TH</sup> JAN - KOVALAM – HOUSEBOAT
- 5<sup>TH</sup> JAN - HOUSEBOAT – KOCHI

#### Hotels Considered

<i>Days</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Hotels</i>	<i>Room</i>
DAY 01	31-Dec	MONDAY	PERIYAR	WILD CORRIDOR	Double
DAY 02	1-Jan	TUESDAY	PERIYAR	WILD CORRIDOR	Double
DAY 03	2-Jan	WEDNESDAY	TRIVANDRUM	UDAY SUITES	Double
DAY 04	3-Jan	THURSDAY	TRIVANDRUM	UDAY SUITES	Double
DAY 05	4-Jan	FRIDAY	ALLEPPEY	PREMIUM H/B	Double
DAY 06	5-Jan	SATURDAY	KOCHI	DEPARTURE TO GOPIO MEETING	

The same tour can be done from Jan.10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>.



**COST PER PERSON = Rs.34900.00/ US\$ 672.00**

Price is based on 4-Star hotels shown or similar and on minimum 16 passengers traveling together.

**Package Includes:**

- Accommodation on twin sharing basis.
- Breakfast in all hotels
- Full board on the houseboat
- Chauffeur driven A/C coach for transfers as per program
- Chauffeurs allowance
- English Speaking Guide at Kochi and Trivandrum
- Supplement for New years eve function with dinner
- Entrances to all sightseeing places
- Kathakali at Kochi
- Kalari Payattu at Thekkady
- Spice Plantation at Thekkady
- Elephant Safari at Thekkady
- All taxes



**PROGRAMME 2: 5 NIGHTS & 6 DAYS**

**KOCHI-ALAPPUZHA- HOUSEBOAT-PERiyAR-MUNNAR-KOCHI**

- 31<sup>ST</sup> DEC KOCHI – KUMARAKOM -ALAPPUZHA
- 1<sup>ST</sup> JAN ALAPPUZHA – houseboat day cruise
- 2<sup>ND</sup> JAN ALLEPPEY - PERIYAR



- 3<sup>RD</sup> JAN PERIYAR
- 4<sup>TH</sup> JAN PERIYAR – MUNNAR
- 5<sup>TH</sup> JAN MUNNAR – KOCHI

#### Hotels Considered

<i>Days</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Hotels</i>
DAY 01	31-Dec	MONDAY	ALAPPUZHA	LEMON TREE
DAY 02	1-Jan	TUESDAY	HOUSEBOAT	LEMON TREE
DAY 03	2-Jan	WEDNESDAY	PERIYAR	WILD CORRIDOR
DAY 04	3-Jan	THURSDAY	PERIYAR	WILD CORRIDOR
DAY 05	4-Jan	FRIDAY	MUNNAR	MOUNTAIN TRAIL
DAY 06	5-Jan	SATURDAY	KOCHI	DEPARTURE TO GOPIO MEETING

The same tour can be done from Jan.10<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **COST PER PERSON = Rs.41950.00/ USD 808.00**

Price is based on 4-Star hotels shown or similar and on minimum 14 passengers traveling together.

#### **Package Includes:**

- Accommodation on twin sharing basis.
- Breakfast in all hotels
- HOUSE BOAT DAY CRUISE AT ALLEPPEY WITH LUNCH & TEA / COFFEE ONLY
- Chauffeur driven A/C coach for transfers as per programme
- Chauffeurs allowance
- English Speaking Guide at Munnar
- Supplement for New years eve function with dinner
- Entrances to all sightseeing places
- Kathakali at Kochi
- Kalari Payattu at Thekkady
- Spice Plantation at Thekkady
- Elephant Safari at Thekkady
- All taxes

#### **Packages do no include:**

- Airfare/ train fare/ bus fare other than what is mentioned
- VISA cost
- Camera/ Video fees
- Any expense of personal nature
- Tips, porterages, etc
- Health/Travel insurance.
- Anything not mentioned ABOVE