

GOPIO

The Association of Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin



ANNUAL REPORT 2009-2010

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Notice of 12th Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 12th Annual General Meeting of the Association of Global Organization of the People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) will be held on Sunday 25th April 2010, At 10.30 am at Function Hall, Restaurant Asoka, Jalan Thamby Abdullah 1, Off Jalan Tun Sambanthan, 50470, Kuala Lumpur.

AGENDA

1. Chairman's Welcome Address
2. To receive minutes of the 10th Annual General Meeting of GOPIO held on 28th Feb 2009.
3. President's Address
4. To receive and adopt
 - 4.1 Annual Report for the year 2009 – 2010
 - 4.2 Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2009
5. Election of office bearers for the year 2010-12
6. Speech by the new President
7. Other Matters

Annual Report for the period Jan 2009 to Mar 2010

The 12th annual term of GOPIO Malaysia beginning Jan 2009, was an active year for the Committee to sustain the ongoing programmes and new projects. For the Committee the year was a challenge and experimentation in voluntary community service. Best of our efforts were put in to provide the service satisfactory.

The main activities for the term are as follows,

1. 7th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas for the period Jan 2009 to Mar 2010

GOPIO Malaysia has since the first PBD 2003 in New Delhi has encouraged and facilitated the participation of Malaysians in this annual programme by the government of India for the global PIOs and NRIs. Malaysian participation has picked up very good momentum and GOPIO congratulates the 250 plus delegates to the PBD 2009 held in Chennai from the 7-9th Jan 2009.

We are happy to report that for the first time Malaysian, PIO political leaders from both coalition parties BN and PR participated. Many more PIO entrepreneurs must continue to participate in this annual event to establish business network. This PBD is an outcome of the lobbying with the then Prime Minister of India His Excellency Vajpayee in 1999-2001. The request was for India to provide an annual programme for the congregation of PIO Diaspora and India for discussion, networking for mutual growth.

2. GOPIO Conference “PIO’s Dialogue with India”

The 7th PIO’s Dialogue with India was held on the 10th Jan 2009 in Chennai. About 215 delegates from various PIO countries attended out of which 31 delegates were from Malaysia. MOIA Minister Shri Vayalar Ravi led the joint inaugural programme as the Chief Guest. PIO political leaders from Malaysia, Mauritius and Sri Lanka participated in this joint effort.

The conference resolved that GOPIO International shall initiate new engagements with International Institutions for the benefits of the PIOs globally. The GOPIO International President, Mr PP. Devaraj shall initiate dialogues with the Commonwealth Secretariat and identify mutual areas of benefit.

Pakatan Rakyat leaders, led by Prof P.Ramasamy, Deputy Chief Minister, and Penang participated and spoke in the conference along with other political leaders from India, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, and South Africa.

Malaysian artist, Ms. Kanmani Manikam, performed the Auspicious Samarpanam Bharatanatyam for the inaugural of the Conference.

3. India Tour

After the Dialogue with India a group of 22 delegates went on a 7 day tour to various temple and historical places in South India. The first two days was to the famous Thirupathi Temple. The subsequent 3 days was a historical tour which took the delegates to Mysore and Tippu Sultan’s palaces. The cool weather of South India during the period was very encouraging indeed.

4. Assistance to stranded Indian Nationals

Quite a number of Indian workers get stranded in Malaysia for various reasons. With a strong intention to assist this stranded Indians, GOPIO initiated a reach-out programme to assist the deserving ones.

Over a period of two years, since November 2007, about 100 stranded Indian Nationals were assisted by GOPIO upon the request of the High Commission of India. These stranded workers were given temporary shelter at various business Centres owned by our members before sending them back to India.

5. GOPIO Shelter Home

In recognition of the efforts and capacity of GOPIO to handle the stranded Indian nationals, the High Commission of India approved for the establishment of an official shelter home to be coordinated by GOPIO. Situated in Taman Putri, Puchong the shelter home operations were initiated on the 10th March 2010. To date more than 30 workers have been facilitated by the centre.

6. Business Seminar

An informative seminar on the availability and procedures involved in obtaining funds from the government, various agencies, and other sources was organized on the 20th July 2009 at Midah Hotel, KL. There were speakers from SMIDEC, MATRADE, and MITC. About 20 business person participated in the seminar.

7. Fund Raising for Sri Lanka War Refugees

A dinner was held on the 14 Aug 2009 at the NUPW Plantation House, PJ to raise fund to aid the war affected children of the Sri Lankan War. A total of 47 tables were taken up. The War Refugee Fund Committee has jointly agreed with GOPIO Sri Lanka and High Commission of Sri Lanka to place the Fund in an Education Fund to be based in Sri Lanka. The legal process for the Trust Board and Trust Account is expected to be completed by mid-2010.

8. Study Tour to Jaffna War Refugee Camp

The President together with other members of the Fund Committee visited Colombo on 17th October 2009 and held discussion for the Trust Board. Further they made a study tour to assess the conditions as well as the progress of the war refugees at the war camps in Jaffna, Sri Lanka. Being Deepavali season, food goodies were distributed to the refugee children.

9. New Year Party 2010

Breaking away from the tradition of having party to welcome the New Year in the eve of the New Year, this time around the New Year party was held on the 2nd Jan 2010. About 400 guests were present. Guests were treated with performances from local artist and special

performance by Manoharan a veteran singer from Sri Lanka famous for his song "Chinna Mameeya".

10. Valentine Eve Dinner & Dance

GOPIO Malaysia gave moral support to KGRS Creations, which took great effort to organize Valentine Eve Dinner & Dance on the 13th Feb 2010 (eve of Valentine's Day). The dinner was unique and was first of its kind.

11. PIO Card

In the past two years, a total of 20 applications for the PIO card were processed through GOPIO. This is an ongoing process.

12. Briefing of GOPIO and PIO card

A briefing on GOPIO and PIO card was held for the Gabungan Persatuan-Persatuan India Negeri Sembilan (consisting of 24 associations Negeri Sembilan) on the 14th Mar 2010. About 100 members of the Gabungan were present.

Conclusion

GOPIO Malaysia would like once again thank all the members, volunteers, and silent supporters who assisted in various ways in ensuring success of the programmes of GOPIO Malaysia. We seek support from all to make GOPIO an organization that continuously meets its formation objectives and meaningful organization for the PIO community.