

GOPIO

The Association of Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin



ANNUAL REPORT 2010-2011

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Notice of 13th Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 13th Annual General Meeting of the Association of Global Organization of the People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) will be held on Wednesday 30th March 2011, At 7.30 pm at Function Hall, Restaurant Asoka, Jalan Thamby Abdullah 1, Off Jalan Tun Sambanthan, 50470, Kuala Lumpur.

AGENDA

1. Welcome Address
2. To receive minutes of the 12th Annual General Meeting of GOPIO held on 25th April 2010.
3. President's Address
4. To receive and adopt
 - 4.1 Annual Report for the year 2010 – 2011
 - 4.2 Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2010
5. Other Matters

Annual Report for the period Jan 2010 to Mar 2011

The 13th annual term of GOPIO Malaysia beginning Jan 2010, 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. Publication – History of GOPIO

The recording of GOPIO's 20 years history is now an essential need. A special committee of GOPIO's seniors, academics and committee members have taken up this onerous task of compiling the 20 years journey since 1989 of GOPIO Malaysia and GOPIO International. This book is expected to be published by mid-2011.

2. GOPIO Shelter Home

This Shelter Home's managed jointly and with the sponsorship by the High Commission of India, completes the first anniversary on 15th March 2011 and as of to date the Shelter Home

has assisted and send to India 305 Indian workers. The Shelter Home Committee has put in immense work to provide boarding and documentations to assist the transition of the workers to India. The Committee wishes to put on record the full assistance given by the Immigration and Police department for executing the meticulous works of the documentations.

3. Council of GOPIO & PIO Sister Organizations

- 3.1 Meet with MOIA Secretary and India High Commissioner one of the main areas of interest of the Council is liaising with the government of India for the needs of the PIO community. In mid-November 2010 the High Commissioner of India and MOIA Secretary Mr.Didar Singh held a round table Forum with the PIO Sister Organizations. GOPIO highlighted some of the urgent needs of the community. GOPIO appealed that the Government of India address the recent slowdown in the processing of the PIO cards that the scholarship for the PIO Diaspora needs to be increased in number and an urgent resolution for the two month embargo for the tourist visas.
- 3.2 MOIA Secretary Mr.Didar Singh, inaugurated the GOPIO Academic Forum 1 held on 10th January 2011, in New Delhi, India. This Forum was jointly organized by GOPIO Malaysia and Organization for Diaspora Initiative (ODI) with nine participants from GOPIO Malaysia.
- 3.3 Post this Forum in New Delhi, GOPIO Malaysia and Secretary Mr.Didar Singh discussed again in the way forward on the matter of the PIO cards, scholarship and tourist visa. The Secretary was encouraging and requested GOPIO and PIO Sister Organizations to submit these needs in writing GOPIO and PIO Sister Organizations Annual Fellowship Dinner. The Council decided that the Fellowship Dinner will be held in mid-2011. This dinner will also recognize the achievers from among the civil society organization current and past leaders.

4. Prime Minister Dr.Manmohan Singh's Visit &Little India

GOPIO held 2 Forum to brief the small business owners and other PIO stakeholders in Brickfields, on the important of their participation in the major transition of the brickfields to a leading 'Little India' and a new Commercial Centre in Malaysia. The blueprint of the "Little India" and Brickfield indicated there will be a major transformation of this commercial area

and GOPIO has emphasized that the PIOs must retain their major stakeholder ship of Brickfields.

The visit of the Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and the inauguration of the revamped Little India, clearly laid the importance of the Little India and PIOs stake in it. GOPIO senior participated in the PM's dinner for the PIO community civil society organization's leaderships.

5. GOPIO Investment Conference in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

In mid-July 2010 GOPIO Malaysia organized and led a delegation of 40 PIO entrepreneurs to Colombo. This Sri Lanka Investment Conference was to tap the new investment opportunities made available for the PIOs. The farewell dinner in Colombo, for the Malaysian delegates was jointly hosted by GOPIO Sri Lanka. Two more similar programmes are needed to bring around good results.

6. Franchise Seven Eleven Retail Outlets

GOPIO coordinated a number of briefing sessions to encourage new PIO participants for the Seven Eleven franchise, with the support received from the franchiser Berjaya. Among the applicants were fresh graduates. 90 participants were briefed and 9, inclusive of 2 fresh graduates qualified and submitted applications direct to the franchiser.

7. GOPIO Education Council

- 7.1 GOPIO Education Council is a joint collaboration of GOPIO, Makkal Osai and Edu India, with the principal objective of guiding our youths to study in India, and further facilitate the Diaspora Scholarships offered by Government of India.
- 7.2 This Diaspora Scholarship is an outcome of GOPIO's long years of lobbying Government of India. This scholarship is now available for a broad range of professional courses in India, for the PIO Community.
- 7.3 Further, GOPIO and Tamil daily Makkal Osai, jointly offers scholar ship for total value of RM 450,000.00, spread for 30 candidate, for the Para Medical Diploma courses offered in Malaysia. GOPIO Education Council will continue to pursue more study scholarships for the youth.

8. GOPIO Academic Forum 1 & 2

- 8.1 GOPIO Malaysia and ODI are jointly spearheading a series of International Forums of academics, scholars and professional's to outline the roadmap for the PIOs and the Diaspora, for the next 5 years and for the next 10 years. The Academic Forum 1 was successfully concluded on 10th January 2011 in New Delhi.
- 8.2 This Forum was participated by 70 scholars and professionals. MOIA Secretary Mr.Didar Singh inaugurated the Forum and the Forum Chairman was the former High Commissioner to Malaysia, Mr.P.S.Sahai. Prof. Ajay Kumar Dubay, the founding chairman of the ODI, and the International Coordinator of GOPIO International Academic Sector, coordinated the participation of the speakers and their papers. Prof. Aruna Gobinath, Tan Sri Prof. Marimuthu and Mr.Gopalan presented papers, as representative of GOPIO Malaysia. Mr.Selvarajoo Sundaram Chaired, the Panel Session on Global Network of Indian Diasporas'. Mr James Naidu and Mr.M.Segaran, GOPIO Malaysia Committee Members participated in this forum 1.
- 8.3 Academic Forum 11 is scheduled on 2nd April 2011, at University Malaysia and it is jointly organized with the Department of Indian Studies, University Malaya. The next Forum 111 is to be firmed up in Queensland, Australia or Singapore.

9. GOPIO Portal and GOPIO Facebook

- 9.1 GOPIO Portal was extensively used to promote GOPIO International Awards 2010. The portal has been getting increasing number of hits from all around the world. Efforts are being taken to generate GOPIO's own contents for better information and readership, apart from global PIO news. Online membership features will also be added in coming months.
- 9.2 GOPIO Face book is increasingly gaining more membership with 2,381 Friends on GOPIO Malaysia Facebook Page and 203 Likes in GOPIO International Facebook page. Facebook was also extensively used to promote GOPIO International Award 2010, with positive reviews and comments received The Facebook has also received increasing participation from e-members in terms of discussion, information sharing and networking.

10. GOPIO International Entrepreneurs Excellence Award 2010

The major programme of GOPIO Malaysia for this term is the hosting of the third GOPIO International Entrepreneurs Excellence Awards 2010, held on 30th January, 2011, at Sime Darby Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur. We are glad to note that the event was participated by a broad spread of the community's entrepreneur leaders. For the first time the awardees included four leading PIO entrepreneurs from overseas.

The event was a memorable and rich programme of 2 special dynamic speakers, much admired successful entrepreneur's awardees and a gala musical extravaganza. This gala event was successfully organized and managed by the sole efforts of the GOPIO Committee and without incurring the expenses of an event manager. The Committee proved to be a team of true civil society organization volunteers.

11. Projects in work- in -progress

I am happy to note that the Committee continues to be active, with a number of sub committees, to implement additional programmes. Among others, 2 of the programmes in progress are,

- (i) GOPIO International Women Excellence Entrepreneurs Awards 2011 and
- (ii) Council of GOPIO PIO Sisters Organizations Fellowship Annual Dinner

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.