

GOPIO

The Association of Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin



ANNUAL REPORT 2014-2015

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Notice of 17th Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 17th Annual General Meeting of the Association of Global Organization of the People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) will be held on Saturday 23th May 2015, at 9.30 am at Utara 2, Level 2, and Crystal Crown Hotel Petaling Jaya.

AGENDA

1. Chairman's Welcome Address
2. President's Welcome Address
3. To receive minutes of the 16th Annual General Meeting of GOPIO held on 6th April 2014.
4. To receive and adopt
 - 3.1 Annual Report for the year 2014 – 2015
 - 3.2 Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2014.
5. Nepal Earthquake Rebuilding Aid Programme
6. Other Matters

Annual Report for the period March 2014 to May 2015

The 17th Annual Report term of GOPIO Malaysia beginning March 2014, was an active year for the Committee to sustain the ongoing programmes and new projects. For GOPIO the year was a challenge in voluntary service. Best of our efforts were put in to provide satisfactory services.

The main activities for the term are,

1. The 3rd PIO Fest 2014

The PIO International Festival 2014 was held in mid-April in Shah Alam. The PIO Fest was organized by GOPIO jointly with the Midlands Sri Maha Mariyamman Devasthanam.

The 3rd PIOfest was successfully organized with the support of Astro Vanavil, Makkal Osai, LPDM, MAIUG, MHDM, Super Alai Osai Orchestra, My Tamil Channel, Asthana Arts, Vitees and others. The PIOfest was also supported by the Indian Culture Centre and the High Commission of India.

The PIOfest festival was inaugurated by the High Commissioner of India to Malaysia HE Shri T.S. Thirumurti.

Various cultural, traditional and historical events were presented at the PIOfest2014. Traditional games, folk dances, traditional musical instrumental performances, outdoor and indoor games, fun games, bazaar, cultural competitions and consultations.

A special component of the PIO fest was the exhibition of the Malaysian PIO's history, culture and heritage covering from the Bujang Valley era 600AD, Malacca Cities, 1490 AD, to present day culture and life style.

PIOfest 2014 created an avenue for our younger generation PIOs to understand, appreciate, acknowledge and practice the valuable cultural elements of our community and great achievements of our ancestors.

The PIOfest 2014 attracted participants from Sri Lanka, Singapore, India and Mauritius.

2. PBD 2015 and 13th PIO's Dialogue with India

GOPIO Malaysia led a group of 20 members and 50 friends of GOPIO for the Conference in Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat, India, from 7-9th January 2015.

This PBD 2015 included, a plenary session for GOPIO INTERNATIONAL to raise PIO's matters. This session was well attended by GOPIO International Country Chapters and the discussions were simulative.

On 10th January 2015, GOPIO International 13th annual Conference 'PIO Dialogue with India' was held in Ahmadabad, Gujarat. The Conference was hosted by GOPIO Malaysia and GOPIO Mauritius. 150 GOPIO members attended the Conference. The delegates from Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Reunion Islands, Guadeloupe, South Africa, Singapore, USA and Malaysia attended.

An important aspect of this Conference is the joint participation of GOPIO East and GOPIO West with the objective of consolidating the two GOPIO groups.

3. Doing Business with India Conference

GOPIO Malaysia with support of the Indian High Commission and The Industries and Investment Department of The Government of Tamil Nadu organized the 2 day Conference in Crystal Crown Hotel, Petaling Jaya. About 180 delegates attended the 2 day programme. The Conference was officiated by the High Commissioner of India to Malaysia HE Shri T.S. Thirumurti.

The Tamil Nadu Government's Industry Secretary Shri S. Shankar, IAS presented his paper on the Tamil Nadu Global Investors Meet which will be held in September 2015 at the Chennai Trade Centre.

4. Dialogue with the Government of Tamil Nadu

A group of three Committee members and two members perused the objective of the Conference "Doing Business with India" by visiting the single window "Guidance Bureau of Industries and Investment" of the Government of Tamil Nadu. This and subsequent visits and dialogues with the Government of Tamil Nadu was successful and has triggered a few investment opportunities in Tamil Nadu for PIO's from Malaysia and other countries.

5. Meeting with the MOIA Minister

The Chairman and President of GOPIO Malaysia and also representing GOPIO International, held a meeting with the Honorable Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs Smt. Sushma Swaraj. The honorable Minister agreed to follow up on GOPIO's request for regularizing the outstanding PIO University, a smoother mechanism for the process of PIO Cards, increase in the numbers of PIO scholarships for university courses and high skill training for practicing professionals and management personnel.

6. PIO / OCI Card

117 people approach GOPIO Malaysia to assist them to apply for the PIO and CCI Cards. 93 people have received their cards and the rest are in process.

7. Shelter Home

The Shelter Home is an ongoing program, to facilitate stranded Indian workers for their return to India. This program is sponsored by the Government of India facilitated by GOPIO Malaysia. A total of 150 Indian workers who took residence in the Shelter Home managed by GOPIO were assisted to return to India in this period. Further, 300 external staying workers including 12 women, were facilitated on the request of the High Commission of India.

The Shelter Home Committee wishes to put on record the full assistance and support given by the Immigration and Police Departments for executing the meticulous works of the documentation that is essential prior to the workers departure to India.

Conclusion

GOPIO Malaysia would like to thank all members, volunteers and silent supporters who assisted in various ways to ensure the success of the activities of GOPIO Malaysia. We continue to seek support from all, to make GOPIO Malaysia an organization that continuously meets its formation.