

GOPIO

The Association of Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin



ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

GOPIO Malaysia Secretariat
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Notice of 19th Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 19th Annual General Meeting of the Association of Global Organisation of the People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) will be held on 17th June 2017 at 9.30 am at MJoy Convention Hall (1st Floor of MJoy Hotel), No. 245, Jalan Tun Sambanthan, Brickfields, 50470, Kuala Lumpur (beside Mangala Theebam).

AGENDA

1. President's Welcome Address
2. To note minutes of the 18th Annual General Meeting, held on 28th May 2016 at 2.30 pm at Grand Ballroom 3, Dorset Grand Subang, Subang Jaya, Selangor.
3. To receive and adopt:
 - 3.1 Annual Report for the year 2016/2017.
 - 3.2 Financial Report for the year ended 31st December 2016.
4. Other Matters

Annual Report for the Period June 2016 to May 2017

The 18th Annual Report of GOPIO Malaysia, beginning June 2016 was an active and challenging year for the Committee to sustain ongoing programmes and new projects. The main activities for the term are:

1. PBD 2017

14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas for 2017 was held in the Bangalore International Exhibition Centre, Karnataka, India, 7th to 9th January 2017. GOPIO Malaysia participated with 50 Delegates. This year the Convention witnessed the largest number of Delegates of 6,500 from large number of Countries and from India.

2. 14th Edition Conference/PIOs Dialogue with India

The tradition of GOPIO hosting the International Conference on PIOs Dialogue with India, was jointly hosted by GOPIO Malaysia and GOPIO Mauritius on 10th January 2017 in Bangalore. An important resolution of this Conference is the formation of the Council of GOPIO International and NGOs and that GOPIO Country Chapters will form their local country Councils. This new Council of GOPIO will have a major impact on the global PIO Community, with a much broader networking by GOPIO Country Chapters and the large number of PIO NGOs around the world.

3. Synergizing Tamil School Growth Programme

Synergizing Tamil School Growth Programme constitutes six autonomous Thrust Projects. Collectively these Projects will shift the current level of pupils' and schools' performances to an excellent level of 75% pass. The focus subjects are Bahasa Malaysia, Mathematics, English and Science.

The current Thrust Projects are,

- I. R & D Unit.
- II. Special modules for 10 Immersion Camps in 2017.
- III. Training Yoga Teachers for schools.
- IV. Conducting Yoga classes in schools.
- V. Reengineering Teachers' skills.
- VI. ICT classes in schools.

4. Yoga Teacher Training Programme

The pilot project for Yoga Teacher Training Certificate Course was held from October to December 2016. A total of 60 certified teachers went through this training. The High Commission of India provided the Yoga Master and the module. Certificates were issued by His Excellency T.S.Tirumurti, the High Commissioner of India. This Yoga Teachers Training Programme continues in 2017.

The second batch of Yoga Teachers training programmer started on 28 May 2017 at the Indian Cultural Centre in Brickfields. This is GOPIO's major collaboration with the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Indian Cultural Centre. The special Yoga teacher from India, Master Khemchand Gupta has designed a special curriculum for the trainees who will be provided with a recognition certificate by the High Commissioner of India. GOPIO's objective is to provide large number of trained Yoga teachers for school children.

5. Effective Parenting Programme (En Pillai En Poruppu)

There is a strong need to provide good counseling to both parents and children to enhance the child's academic performance. GOPIO has organized 6 weekend courses in major towns. Ms. Kalpana Devi Subramaniam is the programme coordinator and trainer.

A total of six counseling sessions were held and conducted during this period, spread from Johor Bahru to Penang. This programme is supported by SEDIC and for the period in review about 420 pupils attended the trainings. These programmes were also attended by parents.

6. GOPIO International Deepavali Carnival 2016

The GOPIO International Deepavali Carnival 2016 is a joint project of GOPIO, SS Smart Network and DP Ganaa Network, held from 20th to 28th October 2017 in Brickfields. 132 traders from India and Malaysia took part in this Deepavali trade fair. The Carnival received about 220,000 visitors spread through 9 days.

The GOPIO International Deepavali Carnival is a SMART Partnership project jointly with the private sector, SS Smart Network and DP Ganaa Network. Small start-up traders from Malaysia are partnered with traders from India. About 40% of the traders were from Malaysia. GOPIO objective is focus for equal numbers of local traders and encouraging small, new enterprises.

7. Council of GOPIO and NGOs - Malaysia Chapter

In Bangalore, India, on 10th January 2017 the GOPIO International Conference resolved the formation of the Council of GOPIO and NGOs and that further, GOPIO Country Chapters shall form the local Country Chapters of this Council.

GOPIO Malaysia invited PIO Sister Organisations on 17th May 2017 to discuss and resolve the formation of the Malaysia Chapter of the Council of GOPIO and PIO NGOs. This 1st meet of 18 PIO Organisations unanimously resolved the formation of the Malaysian Chapter of the Council. It was further agreed that the consenting first 30 NGO's will constitute the founding members of the Malaysian Chapter of the Council and that GOPIO will provide the Secretariat support.

8. Centre for Counseling for Stranded Indian Nationals (Shelter Home)

The Shelter Home project is now a stable Reach-out programme. The Shelter Home assists the stranded Indian Workers to return to their home in India. This reach out project is in collaboration with the High Commission of India to Malaysia. For the year in review about 680 Indian Nationals have successfully returned to India. Some of these returnees were medically handicapped.

9. Tertiary Education Awareness for Secondary Students in Orphanages and Low Income Families

Special Programmes were organised by GOPIO in Melaka, Johor Bahru, Petaling Jaya, Puchong and Port Dickson and the programme coordinator and trainer is Ms. Kalpana Devi Subramaniam. About 200 pupils attended the programme. Additionally, some of the parents from low income group also attended the counseling. GOPIO provides on-going support with subsequent one-to-one guidance and solutions. This programme is also supported by SEDIC.

10. GOPIO International Excellence Awards 2017

The GOPIO International Excellence Awards held is held once in two years. The 7th Excellence Awards celebration for outstanding Role Models was launched in February 2017 and is scheduled for Saturday 5th August 2017 at the Sime Darby Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur. About 800 plus guests participate in this Awards ceremony banquet.

11. Higher Education in India

In early April 2017 the government of Malaysia and government of India agreed and jointly signed an agreement for mutual recognition of Higher Education. This is an outcome of many years of lobbying for recognition of degrees in India to enable a large number of Malaysians to pursue higher studies .Both GOPIO and MAIUG have consistently lobbied for the recognition of University degrees from India.

In support of this new development for studies in India GOPIO has established two task groups. A Technical Task group will identify the institutes, courses and the fees that will be suitable and accommodative for Malaysian youth. The Promotion Task group take the responsibilities to create broad awareness and effective road shows.

GOPIO needs support of large number of coordinators to make this a successful project.

12. GOPIO Save A Heart Programme

GOPIO a nongovernmental Organization, in collaboration with Medi Assist and Tamil Malar are offering free cardiac and cardiac surgical services for Malaysian children aged 18 years and below. We would appreciate if you could kindly disseminate this information to the children and general public. (SAVE A HEART - Free Cardiac Services and Cardiac Surgical Services).

13. Welcome and Farewells to Individuals who have been a pillar of support to GOPIO and our activities.

Farewell Dinners

- I. Ms. Anuradha – former Counselor for Labour and Community Affairs, High Commission of India, Kuala Lumpur.
 - For her support and guidance to GOPIO Shelter Home in the management of stranded workers from India.

- II. Master Ajaya Kumar Sahoo – Yoga Master, Indian Cultural Centre, Kuala Lumpur.
 - A well-respected and loved Yoga teacher who jointly with GOPIO initiated the special classes for Yoga Teachers in September 2016.

Welcome Reception

- III. Mr Ayyanar, Director and Mr Gupta, Yoga Master are both of India Cultural Centre. They joined the ICC this year 2017.
- They are our anchor officers for culture and yoga activities in ICC.

14. GOPIO Communication with the people is through the broad use of social media, Tamil dailies and GOPIO portal, www.gopio.org.my

For this Report period GOPIO Publicity Committee released thirty (30) plus press releases and articles in the Tamil dailies, social media and GOPIO portal. This new enhanced communication to the public has enabled a broader awareness of GOPIO activities.

GOPIO is happy to record our special thanks to Tamil Malar and Makkal Osai. Both Tamil dailies are GOPIO's Collaborative Partners in many of GOPIO activities.

15. Community Programmes, Projects and Events supported by GOPIO

GOPIO provides strong support to sister organisations, especially for projects of mutual interest and synergizing activities. Some of these projects are,

- i. MAIUG Banquet 2017
- ii. IPTA Opportunity Awareness Campaign
- iii. Assistance for OCI/PIO Card applications was provided for 138 applicants. These were successful applicants and there are some others who did not succeed in their application for want of sufficient documents.

Conclusion

None of these activities are possible without the hearty support of volunteers. GOPIO Committee Members have consistently worked through for each programme, the policies, the road map and effective implementation. I thank the Committee for their contribution to all the programmes. GOPIO Secretariat is manned by one part-time officer and temporary student interns. Their work input is much valued by GOPIO.