

# GOPIO

The Association of Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin



## ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018

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## Notice of 20<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Association of Global Organization of the People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) will be held on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2018, at 3.00 pm at Tan Sri Soma Hall, Wisma Tun Sambanthan, Jalan Sultan Sulaiman, 50000, Kuala Lumpur.

### AGENDA

1. President's Welcome Address
2. To receive minutes of the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of GOPIO held on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 9.30 am at MJoy Convention Hall, Brickfields, Kuala Lumpur.
3. To receive and adopt
  - 3.1 Annual Report for the year 2017 – 2018
  - 3.2 Annual Financial Report for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017.
4. Election of Office Bearers for the term 2018 – 2020.
5. Other Matters

### Annual Report for the period May 2017 to May 2018

The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual term of GOPIO Malaysia beginning May 2017, 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 as follows,

1. **GOPIO Malaysia at the ASEAN-INDIA Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas, Singapore.**

The ASEAN-INDIA Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was held on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018 at Marina Bay Sands in Singapore. The conference, which celebrates the achievements and contributions of the Indian diaspora, was held with an ASEAN theme this year, to mark 25 years of dialogue partnership between India and the regional bloc. Singapore, the ASEAN chair, hosted the three days International Conference.

GOPIO Malaysia led the largest delegation number of 75 delegates to this ASEAN INDIA Regional PBD in Singapore. About 25 youths from GOPIO Malaysia and was also hailed as the highest number of youth delegation as well.

GOPIO Malaysia President Mr. A Ravendiran Arjunan presented a paper on 'Being Overseas Indian in India and ASEAN'. The Malaysian Delegation also had a meeting session with Shrimati Shushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs, India during the

Conference. She commended well on the large and active participation of the GOPIO delegates for the Conference.

## **2. GOPIO Yoga teacher training course & train the trainer programme**

GOPIO is committed in taking this life revitalising phenomena of Yoga to as many people as possible in Malaysia, specifically to the primary school children. With the strong support of the Netaji Subash Chandra Bose Indian Cultural Centre, High Commission of India, the first series of the Train the Trainer (TOT) session was initiated in 2016 and since then 3 more series of the YOGA Teacher Training Programme has been completed generating about 80 Yoga teachers. Trainees are required to undergo 36 hours of training for a period of 9 weeks. This is a continuous effort and the 4<sup>th</sup> series to be initiated in August 2018

In May 2018, with financial assistance from SEDIC, we have initiated our first effort in training 100 primary school teachers to become Yoga teachers. Our target is to train 1000 teachers in the next 4 years. These teachers will then be the Yoga teachers for the school children in their respective schools.

## **3. Global Indian Community Organisation Working for Indian National in Distress ( PBD Panel Discussion IV )**

The panel discussion on the above matter was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2018 at the Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi. PIOs and NRIs from 11 countries (represented by one person from each country) participated in the discussion with the Minister of External Affairs, Shrimati Shushma Swaraj and her team from the Ministry of External Affairs. The countries are Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, UAE, UK and USA. Malaysia was represented by the President, Mr A Ravendiran Arjunan.

## **4. Shelter Home in Malaysia**

GOPIO Malaysia has been assisting the High Commission of India in running Shelter Homes for distressed Indian Nationals. As many Indian Nationals who seek employment in Malaysia undergo serious distressed situations, the shelter homes which I now grown into 3 home, provides the required comfort and counselling while the necessary documentations are prepared to send them back home. In 2017 the homes have collectively sheltered and assisted about 700 odd distressed Indian Nationals.

The issues affecting the Indian Nationals working in these countries varies. Though it mainly centered around the various employment and immigration related issues, but the main focused is on easing the distressed situations of the Indian Nationals. Malaysia discussed services that we do together with the High Commission of India in Malaysia in sheltering Indian Nationals who were distressed due to immigration matters, employers etc. The temporary shelter is provided while the necessary documentations or discussions are held with the employers (for amicable solutions) before sending them

back to India. Malaysia also discussed on issues on how to reduce the number of Illegal and misled Indian nationals in the Malaysia.

#### **5. GOPIO International Deepavali Carnival 2017**

The GOPIO International Deepavali Carnival is a trade fair to encourage and develop Malaysia SME level traders to participate. The Carnival is organized with cooperation of local event management team, SS Smart. The 2017 Carnival attracted about 100 booths both from Malaysia and India and attracted 100 booths from Malaysia and India. Around 80,000 visitors thronged the carnival with included entertainment and appearance of local artiste.

#### **6. Mutual Recognition/Accreditation of Degrees from Malaysia and India**

GOPIO Malaysia is keen to increase the number of Malaysian students taking up tertiary education skill-based training as the numbers has dwindled drastically over the years. The land mark visit and counter visit of the Prime Ministers of Malaysia and India, the Mutual Recognition/ Accreditation Degrees of 700 odd Universities under the purview of the respective qualifying agencies has been approved in the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2018. The effort materialized due to the intense lobbying for almost 3 years with the strong intervention and support of the then High Commissioner of India, Mr. Tirumurti and Mr. Chandrasekaran of Edu India Pvt Ltd. GOPIO has now embarked on a campaign to reach out to the PIOO youngsters of Malaysia to look at India for their tertiary and skill-based education.

#### **6. International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2016 & 2017**

International Day of Yoga, or commonly referred to as Yoga Day, is celebrated annually on 21 June since its inception in 2015. An international day of yoga was declared unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on 11 December 2014.

It was a privilege when the High Commission of India invited GOPIO to co-organize the International Day of Yoga for 2016 & 2017. In 2016 the IDY was organized in collaboration of the Klang Municipality and HYO Port Klang which attracted 500 odd Yoga enthusiasts. In 2017 the IDY was organized with the support of the Atma Shiva Asharem on 18th June 2017 at Wisma Ng Teng Chin in Klang. . About 500 Yoga enthusiasts took part in the event officiated by the High Commissioner of India, His Excellency T.S. Thirumurti.

#### **7. GOPIO International Excellence Awards 2017**

The 7<sup>th</sup> GOPIO International Excellence Awards is held on Saturday August 5<sup>th</sup> 2017 at the Sime Darby Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur.

The GOPIO International Excellence Awardees are from all sectors of the PIO Community. They are the individuals who have professionally developed their passion for success in their own field. They are professionals who have clarity in their passion for succeeding. They are lions in their own field of service.

Past biennial GOPIO International Excellence Awards were held in 2006, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2013 and 2015 to recognize Role Model PIOs both from Malaysia and Overseas. Celebrating success brings more success.

## **8. Role Models Are the Lions of Leadership**

To nurture success on a continuous run, Role Models needs to be showcased to the Community and celebrated. And further, this celebration is an affirmative statement for the next generation. It is GOPIO's vision that a culture of celebrating Role Models will ensure a larger number of the Community, in particular the Youth, who will arise with the passion to be in the forefront of their individual callings. Our desire is that our Youth will arise, awake and achieve success and have the passion to be the best.

Professionals in the field of medicine, engineering, law, management, finance and academics have succeeded in transiting from their specialized professional service providers, to decidedly successful entrepreneurs. We celebrate their success and encourage many more such transitions.

## **9. GOPIO International Youth Conference Kuala Lumpur 2017**

The GOPIO International Youth Conference (GIYC) was successfully held for three days and two nights at the Port Dickson Golf and Country Club. GOPIO's objective is to promote the interests and aspirations of People of Indian Origins (PIOs) from around the world. The main aim of GIYC is to create network among young PIOs from various countries and to interact and continue the objectives of GOPIO, mainly in areas of education, business, technology and socio-culture.

Nineteen oversea Youth Delegates participated in this Conference along with thirty-one from Malaysia. Singapore provided the largest overseas participation with eight Youth Delegates, followed by five from India, three from South Africa, two from Myanmar and one from Mauritius. Unfortunately, confirmed youth representatives from Australia, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh were unable to attend the GIYC at the last hour due to unforeseen circumstances. The Youth Delegates were mostly pre-university students, undergraduate and fresh graduates between the ages of 17 and 25.

The Deputy High Commissioner of India to Malaysia, H.E. Nikhilesh Chandragiri graced the Conference on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December.

The GIYC not only provided for an exciting and invaluable networking opportunity with Indian Origin youths from South Africa, Mauritius, India, Myanmar, Singapore and Malaysia, but also provided an invaluable platform to identify, nurture and groom Diaspora leaders for the future.

## **10. Welcome Dinner for H.E Mr. Mridul Kumar, High Commissioner of India**

With the departure of the longest serving High Commissioner of India to Malaysia, H.E Mr. Tirumurti, about 40 NGOs of the GOPIO & PIO NGOs Council welcomed the new High Commissioner of India, H.E Mr. Mridul Kumar via a grand reception at the Siva Subramaniam Temple Hall, Sunway on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2018. Mr. Mridul Kumar said that he is keen work with the community to the very best possible for the benefit of PIOs in Malaysia. He urged all work with his closely for collective and mutual growth.

## **11. Council of GOPIO and NGOs**

As resolve the GOPIO International Conference in Bengaluru on the 10<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017, The Malaysian Chapter of GOPIO and PIO NGOs Council was established and eventually officially launched on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017. The objective is to be able to function collectively in reaching out to the PIO community and at the same be one voice in addressing issues that affects the PIO community. 52 NGOs organization registered and was accorded founding membership in the council.

## **12. Collaborative Community Development Projects**

### **I. IPTA My First Choice**

GOPIO has been very supportive on this project in collaboration with the Concern University Malaya Indian Graduates (CUMIG). It is a nationwide effort. The objective is to motivate and guide SPM & STPM school leaders in their application for placement in the Government funded Higher Learning Institutes in Malaysia. We want the community to fully make use of the educational opportunities that are available in government sectors ranging from International Day of Yoga (IDY) - 2019 @ skill-based certificate, Diploma and degree level. The fee structures in these institutes are minimal and the course structure are of good quality. This will enable the community to avoid getting into private institutions with a PTPTN loan, thus being in debt upon graduation. The effort reduces the debt level amongst the young graduates in the community.

### **II. Overseas Citizens of India (OCI)**

The OCI card is result of intense lobbying of GOPIO in the in the late eighties. Since the inception the number of cards issued for Malaysian PIOs stands at about only 40,000. Availability of relevant documents has in many cases hindered the issuance of the card. GOPIO is continuing to have dialogues with India to ease the document requirements so that more PIOs can qualify. GOPIO has been taking effort to encourage the public to apply for the card. It is the fervent hope of GOPIO, that at least 50 % of the PIO community of Malaysia are OCI card holders.

## **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.