

communityaffairs

GOPIO begins planning 20th anniversary convention

By A Staff Writer

The Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO International) and its chapters in the New York area launched efforts to organize its 20th anniversary convention. In a meeting June 5 at the World's Fair Marina Banquet Hall in Queens, organizers urged everyone to lend a hand to make the August program a success.

The chief guest was Indian Consul General Prabhu Dayal. "We encourage all of you to be part of this wonderful event at GOPIO's 20th Anniversary Convention, to know about it, its significance and how it matters to every one of us in the Indian Diaspora, to feel connected with a sense of belonging and to participate fully," said GOPIO Secretary General and Convention Convener Ashook Ramsaran in a release sent by the organization.



GOPIO 20th Anniversary Convention organizers at the launch June 5. From left, Arvind Panagariya, Ashook Ramsaran, Sangeeta Ahuja, Dr. Thomas Abraham, Consul General Prabhu Dayal and Lal Motwani.

Formed in August 1989, GOPIO has tried to reach out to diaspora communities around the globe. "In the last 20 years, there have been substantial improvements in civic and human rights violations, although we have seen violence against Indian students in Australia recently, which GOPIO has condemned and call upon

Australian Government to take immediate action," GOPIO Chairman Dr Thomas Abraham said.

The organization had made a substantial contribution to sensitize the Indian government on issues such as the PIO Card and Overseas Indian Citizenship and that the Government of India takes seriously GOPIO's sugges-

tions on various issues and common interest, Consul General Dayal said.

"NRIs and PIOs and particularly Indian Americans have contributed toward better relations with India and the countries they live in, as we saw the passage of U.S.-India Nuclear Deal through the US Congress with the Indian American community," said Dayal.

The Convention Team includes Co-conveners are Sangeeta Ahuja, Darshan Singh Bagga, Lal Motwani and Nohar Singh.

A panel discussion titled "India and the Global Economy: Prospects and Challenges for the UPA II" was held at the same event with speakers Arvind Panagariya, Professor of Economics, Jagdish Bhagwati Professor of Indian Political Economy, Columbia University School of International & Public Affairs, and Sreedhar Menon, Former Deputy President of American Express Bank Ltd. and

currently Chairman, Viteos Fund Services, Inc. It was moderated by Joydeep Mukherji, Former India Analyst and Currently Director, Latin American Sovereign Ratings, Standard & Poor's.

Mukherji estimated non-residents contributed between \$300 to \$500 billion to the global economy.

Panagariya speaking about post-election India's economy said expectations are high from the new government and sounded a positive note on the selection of some of the ministers in the Manmohan Singh government, particularly that of Kapil Sibal as Minister for Human Resources Development and Kamal Nath as Minister of Infrastructure.

He stressed Indian businesses should have recourse to steps similar to Chapter 11 in the U.S. Menon stressed New Delhi should put a high priority on developing a plan to protect the country from terrorism.

Emergency Medicine meet planned in Guwahati

By A Staff Writer

Emergency care experts and physicians from the United States and India are scheduled to meet at a three-day conference of the American Academy for Emergency Medicine in India (AAEMI) in Guwahati, Assam, in November.

Dr. Kumar Alagappan, president of the 7-year-old academy, briefing the media at the Indian Consulate in New York on June 3, said the AAEMI was interested in training emergency-care workers in Indian hospitals and institutionalizing emergency medicine in that country.

Alagappan is the associate professor of clinical emergency medicine in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the Long Island Jewish Medical Center and one of the leading emergency care physicians in the United States.

The conference, Emcon 2009, is co-sponsored by the Society of Emergency Medicine in India and Emergency Services of North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System in New York.

The first Emcon conference was held in Coimbatore, followed by Hyderabad, Pune, Mumbai, New Delhi, Chennai and Salem.

Some of the topics to be discussed at the conference include acute medicine, resuscitation, critical care, pre-hospital care, disaster management, trauma care, cardiology, respiratory illness, pediatric emergency, infec-



Areremath, Ajay Gondane, John McCabe, Andrew Sama, Krishan Kumar, Albert S. Kuperman and Kumar Alagappan at the media briefing at New India House June 3.

tions and education and training.

Others present at the briefing included Dr. Krishan Kumar, director of emergency medicine at Nassau University Medical Center and vice president of the academy; Dr. Ajay Gondane, deputy consul general of India in New York; Dr. Andrew Sama, professor and chairman of emergency medicine, North Shore Long Island Jewish Medical Center; Dr. John McCabe, professor AND chairman, Department of Emergency medicine, SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, N.Y.; and Dr. Albert S. Kuperman, associate dean, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, New York.

Six selected for TANA International Internship Program

By A Staff Writer

The Telugu Association of North America (TANA) has selected six scholars for the 2009 TANA International Internship Program.

Sahithi Aulaa of Chandler, Ariz.; Kirsten Seetha Bondalapati of Detroit; Puja Chebrolu of Columbus, Ga.; Lekhaj Daggubati of Marlboro, N.J.; Rekha Kambhampati of North Potomac, Md.; and Divya Yalamanchili of Dallas will travel to Hyderabad for their internships.



Divya Yalamanchili



Kirsten Seetha Bondalapati



Lekhaj Daggubati



Puja Chebrolu



Rekha Kambhampati



Sahithi Aulaa

The program will begin June 22 and will end July 31. An inauguration ceremony will be held in Hyderabad on June 19 with state Minister for Higher Education and NRI Affairs Sri. Sridhar Babu Duddilla as the chief guest.

The internship program is "designed to promote Telugu culture and bonds to Andhra Pradesh among younger generation of Americans of Telugu origin," Prasad Thotakura, TANA secretary and chairman of the internship program, was

quoted in a release. "This will provide the scholars the direct experience of living and working conditions during their internship period. All related expenses of these interns while they are in India will be borne by TANA."