

Press Release For Immediate Release
Over 400 people at the January 30 2009 Indo American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston Awards Banquet that honored Judge Ed Emmett and Houston Mayor Bill White and the recipients of the 2008 IACCGH Annual Awards.

India's new Consul General to Houston, Sanjiv Arora is the Chief Guest

Photos by Bijay Dixit **IACCGH 2008 Awards-**
<http://www.flickr.com/gp/23470588@N04/BBau13>

Houston, TX: The Indo American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston (IACCGH) of Houston held its Annual Awards Banquet hosting a galaxy of business and community leaders and honoring the recipients of the 2008 IACCGH annual awards. The Banquet drew over 400 of Houston's business and political elite. The Chief Guest was the Honorable Sanjiv Arora Consul General of India. IACCGH member Sanjay Ram was the Master of Ceremonies for the event. IACCGH Advisor Dr Renu Khator, Chancellor, University of Houston System introduced the Chief Guest.

The Chamber's Executive Director , Jagdip Ahluwalia, opened the program by reminding everyone present that the Chamber was entering its tenth year and spoke of the reach of the Chamber through its Alliances: local, national and international. The presence of the leaders of all major area chambers of commerce and economic development agencies and a number of elected officials was a sign the Chamber was doing things right.

The Chamber's immediate past President, Dr Atul Varadhachary, delivered his annual report that highlighted the growth of the Chamber and the direction in which it is headed.

The Chamber's President Brij Kathuria talked of his team's vision for 2009 and presented the 2009 Executive team which includes Secretary Sudarshana(Mona) Parikh, Treasurer Jonathan Faulkner , Immediate Past President Dr Atul Varadhachary and Executive Director Jagdip Ahluwalia. The other members of the 2009 IACCGH board are Nitin Kapadia, Harish Katharani, Madhukar Prasad, Jaspreet(Rick) Pal, Vidhya Bhushan Verma, Somesh Singh, Ajit Thakur , Vidhya Bhushan Verma and Indira Vishnampet.

Master of Ceremonies Sanjay Ram highlighted the expected impact of the US-India Civil Nuclear Agreement and stressed the value of the Chamber, especially under the current economic conditions, in fostering business relationships between Houston and India as well as within the Greater Houston area.

Nobel Laureate Dr Robert Curl who had earlier been presented the 2008 IACCGH Pinnacle Award at a private ceremony was introduced and the days special Honorees Harris County Judge Ed Emmett and Houston Mayor Bill White were recognized for their extraordinary leadership during Hurricane IKE.

Judge Emmett commended the Chamber for its role facilitating the Harris County trade delegation and also commended county staff and volunteers for stepping up to help the region during and after Hurricane Ike. Mayor White spoke about the importance of India still projecting economic growth under the current global economic conditions.

Congressman Al Green addressed the group and commended the Chamber on the invaluable service it provided the community and promised to make what would be his third trip to India in the very near future. Other leaders present included Harris County Commissioner Sylvia Garcia, Port Commissioner

Jim Fonteno, several City of Houston council members and Indo-American elected officials – Sugar Land council member Tom Abraham, Piney Point councilman Randhir Sahni, Stafford councilman Ken Mathew, HCC Trustee Neeta Sane, Fort Bend ISD Chairperson Sonal Bhuchar and Judge Ravi Sandill.

Houston Business Journal Published John Beddow spoke about their publications media partnership with the Chamber. The Consul General of India Sanjiv Arora spoke about 5 areas of collaboration between the Consulate and the IACCGH.

The evenings highlight was the announcement of the recipients of the 2008 IACCGH annual awards. The Chamber presented a special award to Continental Airlines for their support of the community and the Chamber which was accepted by Jim Compton and Monisa Cline. IACCGH Advisor Paul Hamilton, former President of Shell Global Solutions received a special award for his vision and support

The Awards Committee Chair IACCGH Past President Dr Randhir P Sinha and the judges HE S M Gavai (now India's High Commissioner to Canada), Richard Huebner (President, Houston Minority Business Council) and Paul Hamilton (former President Shell Global Solutions) were introduced.

The awards were presented by Judge Emmett & Consul General Arora to -

Woman Entrepreneur of the Year - Dr Yasmin Wadia –

Dr. Yasmin Wadia is the Founder, Chairman and CEO of Laser Tissue Welding, Inc., located in Humble, Texas. Her company was founded in September 2004, to commercialize sutureless laser assisted tissue welding, for human clinical use, using human serum albumin based biomaterials for hemostasis and surgical repair of visceral organs. She is the inventor of the biomaterial D'Albumin™ and the surgical technique. Dr. Wadia is trained as a general and cardio-thoracic surgeon and has extensive research experience.

Young Entrepreneur of the Year - Vibhu Sharma

Having moved to Houston in 1998 after he finished graduate studies in chemical engineering from Iowa State University, Vibhu Sharma in partnership with Bharat Kamdar created Ingenious Inc in March 06, 2000. Today, they have 5 cutting edge products, over 150 clients, over 100 employees, offices in 4 countries, and own considerable real estate and other assets. Since 2001, the revenue growth has been 5000 percent.

Entrepreneur of the Year - Atul Vir

Vir decided to make a new start in the U.S. in 1991. He set up an office in Houston importing and marketing energy efficient appliances. Equator's products include combo washer-dryers, dishwashers, refrigerators and ironing cabinets.

Under Vir's leadership, Equator has been three times in the Houston 100 Fastest Growing Companies. Wells Fargo Bank twice selected him as the Entrepreneur of the Year. Vir's latest business is to open an art gallery in Houston, called Shangri-La, that is promoting contemporary art and music from Asia.

Community Service - Bangar Reddy

Bangar has over 14 years of experience as a professional in I. T. Industry serving in various positions as Consultant, Manager, CEO and President. Bangar has served the ICC for over 8 years as Volunteer, Secretary and has just finished his term as president. He has played a prominent role in the construction of Sri Ashtalakshmi Temple.

In his concluding remarks Jagdip spoke about the legacy of the Chamber's efforts towards economic empowerment of the community and to foster business growth leveraging the India advantage.

Established in 1999 Indo American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston (IACCGH) is a non-profit organization. The main objectives of IACCGH are to enhance the Indo-American entrepreneurial spirit in the greater Houston area and promote US-India trade. Information on the Chamber is available at www.iaccgh.com

For more information please contact Mr. Jagdip Ahluwalia at 832-746-8372 or email at Jagdip@iaccgh.com



IACCGH Immediate Past President Dr Atul Varadhachary presents Honoree Houston Mayor with his award for extraordinary leadership



IACCGH President Brij Kathuria presents Honoree Harris County Judge Ed Emmett with his award for extraordinary leadership



IACCGH Board members : Standing (L to R) Harish Katharani, Madhukar Prasad, Vidhya Bhushan Verma, Nitin Kapadia, Dr Atul Varadhachary Seated (L to R) Brij Kathuria (President), Indira Vishnampet , Mona Parikh (Secretary), Jagdip Ahluwalia(Executive Director)



Indian Consul General Sanjiv Arora



2008 IACCGH Woman Entrepreneur of the Year Dr Yasmin Wadia with Harris County Judge Ed Emmett and Consul General Sanjiv Arora



2008 IACCGH Young Entrepreneur of the Year Vibhu Sharma with Harris County Judge Ed Emmett and Consul General Sanjiv Arora



2008 IACCGH Entrepreneur of the Year Atul Vir with Harris County Judge Ed Emmett and Consul General Sanjiv Arora



2008 IACCGH Award for Community Service recipient Bangar Reddy with Harris County Judge Ed Emmett and Consul General Sanjiv Arora



Harris County Judge Ed Emmett and Consul General Sanjiv Arora presented a special 2008 IACCGH Award to Continental Airlines which was accepted by Jim Compton and Monisa Cline.



Harris County Judge Ed Emmett and Consul General Sanjiv Arora presented a special 2008 IACCGH Award to Paul Hamilton, former President of Shell Global Solutions

Pictures by Bijay Dixit (Unique Photo Images)