

IACCGH networking “works”!

The Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston networking reception and dinner was held on January 22nd at Narin’s Bombay Brasserie. More than 80 people attended the event where all attendees were given the opportunity to make one minute introduction about themselves and their business. Linda Toyota President of the Asian Chamber, Pete Garcia of US Mexico Chamber & Shri Iyer of TiE attended the event.

Pankaj Dhume, Vice-President, BMC Software, was elected by the Board of Directors to serve the Chamber as its President for the year 2013 and started his term on January 1, 2013. In his remarks about Chamber’s plans for the year he explained that the major focus of the IACCGH in 2013-2014 will be in the areas of Energy & Education. Houston is the energy capital of the world. With the shale gas find in the past couple of years, the US will become a net exporter of gas in the coming decade. India’s energy needs are increasing and we expect an energy pact between the two countries in the future. The IACCGH is interested in promoting an ecosystem that will be needed to facilitate the transfer of energy between the US & India over the next few years.

On the education front, it is a fact that US institutions are leading the world in quality of education. In India, as the agriculture industry has improved over the past few decades, there is a migration of hundreds of millions of people from rural to urban India in search of better opportunities. This has created the need for quality vocational training. Houston can play a big role in satisfying this need. Under Pankaj’s leadership the Chamber is exploring the right platform for an institution such as the Houston Community College (HCC) to fulfill the growing vocational training need in India.

The Chamber is very active and delivers rich and diverse programs to its members throughout the year. In brief, the plans for the year 2013 include:

- The IACCGH Distinguished Lecture Series.
- Focused educational programs and business development opportunities in diverse industry sectors such as Trade, Energy, Healthcare, Finance, Taxation, etc.
- Member networking events.
- Trade missions to explore business opportunities between US and India; and
- Young entrepreneurs and professional mentorship programs.

IACCGH Executive Director Jagdip Ahluwalia explained the Chamber will leverage the internet and electronic media with several webinars and video conferences during the year, starting with one in March focused on the impact of the 2013 Indian budget on US individuals and companies doing business with and in India.

Founded in 1999, The IACCGH is a non-profit organization based in Houston, Texas. The key objective of IACCGH is to strengthen the commercial ties between the United States and India and also promote trade within the Greater Houston area. With support from major corporations, business leaders, the Indian Consulate and various United States Federal & State agencies, the

IACCGH has become a significant resource for companies currently doing business or exploring trade opportunities - both in the United States and India.

A testimonial from Anita Shahani, Attorney who attended as a potential member sums up the evening's event and demonstrates how IACCGH's networking "works" ***"I recently moved to Houston and attended my first two Indo-American Chamber of Commerce events last week. Both were great events, but the Small Business Networking Reception was a particularly beneficial experience. I met several people interested in the services my business provides, and many that offered support for my business needs. I am excited about being a new member and the opportunities that membership provides."***