



Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston Celebrates A Decade of Progress, Recognizes 10 Members for Service

HOUSTON – (October 13, 2009) – More than 400 Indo-Americans, dignitaries, corporate sponsors and honored guests gathered October 10 at “The Power of Ten” Gala at the Hilton Hotel on Post Oak to celebrate the tenth year anniversary of the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce of Greater Houston (IACCGH).

Since its inception 1999, IACCGH has been committed to facilitating commerce between the U.S. and India. The group offers networking, training, trade missions and mentoring to enable Indo-American businesses to succeed while providing access to the Indo-American market.

The theme of the evening, *The Power of Ten*, reinforced the extraordinary work of the founders, board members, advisors and chamber members in strengthening the commercial, cultural and educational bonds between the United States and India—the world’s two largest democratic nations.

The Chamber recognized the Founding President Dr Durga Agrawal and Founding Secretary Jagdip Ahluwalia for their vision and dedication that has contributed to the growth of the Chamber.

IACCGH Past Presidents Ashoke Nath, Deepa Thakur, Dr Randhir Sinha, Somesh Singh, Subroto Mukerji and Dr Atul Varadhachary were also honored at the event.

Ten prominent members of the Indo-American community were recognized for their pioneering efforts to enhance business and trade relationships between the U.S. and India. Winners included well-known Indo-business leaders such as

Vijay Goradia as well as hidden gems within the Indo community—jewelry designer, Sushma Grover. Honored were Ramesh Bhutada, Rajeev Gadgil, Thomas Abraham, Dr. Renu Kahtor, Haku and Roger Israni, Sushma(Suzanne) Grover, Gopal Savjani, Chitra Divakaruni, Vijay Goradia and Meena Datt.

“Our organization has grown from a few charter members in 1999 to several hundred members today,” said IACCGH president Brij Kathuria. “Our members include a large number of small businesses, professionals and consultants which are the backbone of our economy, as well as large corporations like BMC Software, Continental Airlines, Reliant Energy and Shell. The names and numbers speak of our success. But it’s not about the numbers—it’s about the impact we can make as a powerful and united front.”

During the awards, several key speakers representing multinational corporations, academia and the government, shared their views on the significance of bridging the two cultures by bringing resources and creating awareness (of India) among the Greater Houston Community. These speakers included: Indian Consul General Sanjiv Arora, Jay Guerrero, representing U.S. Sen John Cornyn; Consul General of India Sanjiv Arora; U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee; U.S. Rep. Pete Olson; Harris County Judge Ed Emmett; Dr. John Mendelsohn, President, The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center; Jason Few, president of Reliant Energy and senior vice president, retail, NRG; and Dr. Renu Khator, chancellor and president, University of Houston System.

The group also heard from founding secretary Ahluwalia who currently serves as executive director and Madhukar Prasad, the group’s incoming president.

The audience was entertained throughout the evening with thrilling dance numbers and illusion acts provided by J & D Entertainment and the Anjali Center of Performing Arts. The event was underwritten through the generous sponsorship of Reliant Energy.

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