



# Indo-American Chamber of Commerce North India Council

## Glances of the year 2013

Indo-American Chamber of Commerce, NIC  
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The last year, IACC- NIC emerged as a truly vibrant Chamber thanks to the kind patronage and able guidance of its President Dr. Lalit Bhasin. Time and time again, he took personal initiative to help bring some excellent thought leaders as well new ideas that could be implemented towards the growth of our bilateral engagement and dialogue. He became instrumental in guiding the Secretariat to form some highly focused and sector specific Committees catering to the needs of the wide array of businesses that NIC's membership represents. Each Committee led by senior Industry leader became a confluence of some highly experienced and innovative minds representing Indo- US businesses. The Committees' pursuit was to generate a truly effective medium of economic cooperation as well as meaningful expansion in the focused segments with some very well-known figures involved in either leading or supporting them.

NIC organized a number of activities to help boost the Indo- US bilateral cooperation in critical sectors. In today's global environment, to effectively cater to the growing needs of its member companies that are involved in a number of international business and trade activities, NIC organized roundtables with Citi bank, one of US's largest financial intuitions, on topics such as **Regulatory Framework and Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA)** Guidelines for the Export and Import of Foreign exchange besides others. The members got a chance to meet and interact with experts from Citibank in close quarters at select roundtable.

The year also saw important interactions with US Embassy officials such as the one with **Ms. Julia Stanley, Minister Counselor for Consular Affairs, US Embassy** and select group meetings with US Embassy officials from Commercial, Economic and other important sections of the American Embassy. NIC proved instrumental in bringing the best of the Indian and US industry on the same platform with the US and Indian governments to hold important dialogue affecting our overall economic cooperation.



(L to R Mr. S K Sarkar, Ms Julia Stanley, Dr Lalit Bhasin)

Keeping up with its past trend, NIC organized some really important and niche programs in the Aviation and Aerospace segment also playing the host for the US- India Aviation Cooperation Program in India (US- India ACP), an understanding between our governments to promote our nations cooperation in this significant area of growth. The Seminar on **Opportunities and Challenges in the Aerospace Component Manufacturing and the BASA Regime** proved fundamental in helping the Indian component manufacturers and foreign OEMs to gain better clarity on the international safety and quality standards from key government regulators.



(L to R Dr Vivek Lal, Mr Arun Mishra, Dr Lalit Bhasin, DSRV Verma, Dr Arjun Singh)

To add an altogether different flavor to these activities was the Inauguration of the **6<sup>th</sup> International Festival of Cell phone Cinema** at the Marwah Studios under the aegis of NIC's Media and Entertainment Committee. The festival witnessed the upcoming area of cell phone cinema, fast catching up in today's world of modernity and digitization with a number of talented youth projecting their creativity and potential through this fresh medium.

(Dr Lalit Bhasin lighting the lamp)



NIC also supported some of the key efforts of other organizations such as ILFI’s Security Conclave focusing on Security, Intelligence and Technology also attended and addressed by some very important members from its Homeland Security Committee such as IBM.

The much active Women’s Committee held a talk on Robotic Surgery by Dr. Sudhir Srivastava, a world renowned surgeon and the only **Cardiothoracic Robotic surgeon** in India. It woke everyone to the use of Robotics in Healthcare and the future of Robotic Surgery in India.



The seminar **on Transfer Pricing** done in association with KPMG included a number of global experts from KPMG and government dignitaries from the Tax department to discuss on a number of TP related issues pertinent to the Indian climate. The Seminar was very well received by the Industry with both Indian and International players and their tax and financial heads in attendance.

NIC has always remained aligned with the efforts of the US Embassy and supported its initiatives such as the US- India Aviation Security Summit organized by the US Trade and Development Agency to foster our bilateral relationships in the critical are of Aviation security. With the US Government and Industry in full participation, this platform gave IACC members an excellent opportunity to interact and gain global exposure.

NIC also organized the seminar on **General Aviation: The Next Steps**, a one of a kind seminar specially tailored to suit the requirements of the fast catching up General Aviation industry in India. The Hon’ble Minister of Civil Aviation, Shri Ajit Singh Inaugurated the Seminar followed by a star studded line up of speakers including the Director General, DGCA, Senior Representative from Federal Aviation Administration, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, US Embassy and Industry stalwarts. NIC saw a packed Seminar till the end with some quality participation from Indian and US industries and other foreign OEMS

Dr Lalit Bhasin



Shri Ajit Singh



Ms C J Collins



Ms Judy Reinke



Mr. Arun Mishra



Dr Vivek Lall

NIC's Food and Agri Business Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. Gurnam Arora, Joint Managing Director of Kohinoor Foods Ltd. organized a seminar on **"Technology in Indian Food Processing Industry: Global Best Practices"** which covered some very important areas within the Indian food processing Industry and the places where US could pitch in for further advancements. It covered innovation in



technologies, best practices, food standards and regulations, cold chain management etc. The Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Food Processing Industries, Mr. Tariq Anwar addressed the Inaugural.



**Mr. Asit Tripathy, Mr. Gurnam Arora, Mr Tariq Anwar, Dr Lalit Bhasin, Mr. Gokul Patnaik and Mr. Greg O' Connor**

**Mr Tariq Anwar with Dr Lalit Bhasin**

To give a different tone to the activities, NIC organized a **Tennis Tournament** allowing its members to bond with each other and invited Embassy against a relaxed and sports. The tournament not just also some healthy interactions To do the special honor of giving Bhasin invited Mr. Vinod Rai, General of India taking the event higher.



dignitaries from the US healthy backdrop of facilitated the game but between the participants. away the prizes, Dr. Lalit Comptroller and Auditor profile a few notches

**Mr. Vinod Rai and Dr Lalit Bhasin with winners**

The Training and Certification program on Transfer of Technology and Intellectual Property Rights in Aerospace and Aviation Industry was a very niche workshop especially organized for both Indian as well as foreign companies active in the field of aviation and aerospace in our country who often dealt with the very important issue of technology transfers and IPR. The Workshop conducted by expert gave an inside view into the whole gamut of technology transfers and IPR protection.

Adding a little spice to the happenings by NIC's Fashion and Lifestyle Committee fine jewelry and food and drinks at the glittering evening was thoroughly enjoyed members as well as US Embassy officials.



was the Jewelry Show organized displaying a splendid cocktail of American Embassy club. The by guests that included our

**Mrs Aruna Sethi and Mrs Ann Mustard welcoming members and guests**

NIC also saw a very successful culmination of its annual social evening, the



**Mr. Michael Pelletier**

**Fellowship Night** that felicitated all its past presidents for the exemplary leadership and guidance provided by them time and time again. To add to the fun quotient was the globally renowned Indian stand comedian "Papa CJ", with one of his exceptional stand up acts on our crossover cultural dynamics, entertaining a gathering of almost 150-200 guests and dignitaries.



**Mr. Asoke K Laha presenting memento to Mr. John M McCaslin**



**NIC Past Presidents**



**Dr Vivek Lall presenting  
Memento to  
Mr. George Sibley**



**Mrs & Dr Bhasin  
presenting memento  
to Papa CJ**

NIC also recognized the great importance of Industrial Safety applicable to a number of Industries across verticals and organized an interactive Session on **“Occupational Safety & Health (OSH) Standards in Industries”** at the Regional Labor Institute in Faridabad. The Session had the important presence of Dr Anup Chandra Pandey, Joint Sectary, Ministry of Labor & Employment besides other dignitaries in an attempt to educate the industry on the Safety and Health Standards of our country. In October 2013, NIC also organized a special visit for the Safety Professionals Delegation from the US under the auspices of People to People Ambassador Programs, to visit an under construction Delhi Metro Tunnelling site.



**Delegates**



**Mr. George Sibley addressing the participants**

The biggest achievement to NIC and IACC as a whole came from our participation in the **US India Aviation Summit in Washington D. C** organized by the U.S. Trade and Development Agency (USTDA), in cooperation with the Government of India and the U.S.-India Aviation Cooperation Program (ACP), addressed and attended by the top notch dignitaries from US and Indian governments. With a government to government Summit of such high standing, it was exceptionally prestigious when our Regional President, Dr. Lalit Bhasin received an invitation from the Indian authorities to be a part of the delegation of the Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation, Mr. Ajit Singh and to also moderate one of the technical sessions during the Summit.



**Dr Lalit Bhasin**



**Dr Vivek Lall**



**Mr. Atul Sharma**





**Captain Karan Singh**



**Mr. Yash Kansal**



**Mr. Ajay Kumar**

He led a high profile delegation of IACC members to participate in the Summit and represent IACC including well known industry leaders such as Dr. Vivek Lall, Chairman, NIC's Committee on Aerospace and Defense and President and CEO, New Venture Reliance Industries Ltd., Mr. Atul Sharma, Past Regional President and Managing Partner, Link Legal India Law Services, Mr. Ravi Menon, Executive Director, Air Works India Engineering Pvt. Ltd., Wg Cdr B S Singh Deo, Managing Director, Bell Helicopter India Operations; Air Marshal (Retd) Mr Ajit Bhavnani, Chief Strategist, Mesco Aerospace & Ex- Senior Advisor, Aerospace and Defense at TATA Group and Captain Karan Singh, Vice President, Business Aircraft Operators Association (BAOA). The Summit had the presence of all the relevant authorities and Industry from India and the US involved in Aviation with high profile leaders from both the sides forming an important part of the proceedings. Key IACC delegation members including Dr. Vivek Lall, Mr. Atul Sharma and Mr. Ravi Menon participated in the deliberations as important speakers during various Sessions. Due to its excellent efforts in gathering the best of the leaders from India, IACC was able to attract some excellent visibility and branding in the US at this high profile event.

IACC- NIC also supported the **2<sup>nd</sup> India Construction World Leadership Summit** in New Delhi which saw the convergence of Indian and global leaders from the Infrastructure and Construction domain. The Summit had some key policy makers from Indian government shedding light on important aspects related to the

sector. Mr. Anil Swarup, Additional Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat elaborated on the Government's plans on Investment for Infrastructure & Construction sector including an overview on Cabinet Committee on Investment (CCI). The Summit also included a dedicated Session on 12<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan by Mr. Gajendra Haldea, Member, Planning Commission.



#### **Dr Lalit Bhasin addressing the Sumit**



Keeping the tone high, NIC and PHDCCI organized an interactive session on **"The Practice of Personal Financial Planning and Development"**. Under the prestigious auspices of People to People Ambassador Programs, USA, Mr. Richard Salem, Past President, Financial Planning Association along with a 17 member team exchanged ideas with IACC members on various issues related to Personal Financial Planning. IACC became a strong enabler in helping the delegation meet and interact with their Indian counterparts consisting of professionals and experts from the financial sector.

The Seminar on **Global Mobility of Employees** organized in association with KPMG was a very contemporary seminar focusing on the key issues related to employee transfer faced by a number of MNCs and Corporate Houses. Addressed by the Central Provident Fund Commissioner from government of India and KPMG experts, it gave an in-depth solution to various implications related to the global movement of employees and its associated challenges to an attentive audience from MNCs, corporates and professionals.



Finally, the successful execution and culmination of all these activities led to the **flagship Indo- US Resurgence Summit** revolving around the theme of Innovation. Mr. Kapil Sibal, Union Minister for Communications & IT and Law & Justice, addressed an audience of 200- 250 dignitaries and guests at the Inaugural. The year's theme "A Search for Innovative Strategies" was crafted to channel the Indo-US partnership dialogue in a new direction keeping in mind the geopolitical conditions in both the democracies. The day was packed with some highly gripping technical Sessions such as Building the Aerospace and Security Ecosystem in India, Resurrecting Indo-US Services and Trade: An Innovative Approach, Panel on Indo-US Relations: The Unfinished Agenda and Digitization in the Media and Entertainment Industry and the Menace of Piracy retaining the audience right till the end of the proceedings. It also received the presence of some top notch officials from the US Embassy, Industry and diplomats.



**Mr. Kapil Sibal delivering the Inaugural Address**

NIC hopes to retain the same vibrancy in times to come with the support of its outstanding leaders like Dr. Lalit Bhasin and its dedicated secretariat to truly emerge as “THE” platform for Indo- US cooperation and meaningfully involve its members in the process. The upcoming year is packed with some niche initiatives proposed to help the Chamber gain an edge over its contemporaries along with a dash of social and fun activities to help members interact in a more relaxed and fun set up.

### **Inaugural Session**



**Dr Lalit Bhasin delivering the introductory remarks**



**Mr. Chella K Srinivasan delivering Welcome Remarks**



**Mr. John M McCaslin addressing the Summit**

**On the dias : Mr. Asoke K Laha, Mr. Raman Roy, Dr Lalit Bhasin, Mr. Kapil Sibal, Mr. Chella K Srinivasan  
Dr Raghupati Singhania, Dr Vivek Lall and Mr. Pratyush Kumar**



## Session 1 on Building The Aerospace & Security Eco System in India



L to R - Mr. S L Deshmukh, Mr. Amber Dubey, Mr. Nalin Jain, Mr Nikhil Khanna, Dr Vivek Lall, Mr Pratyush Kumar, Mr. Ajay Kumar, Mr. Dhiraj Mathur and Mr. Piyush Gupta

## Session 2 Resurrecting Indo- US Services and Trade: An Innovative Approach



L to R –Mr. Shahid Khan, Mr. Jaswinder S Ahuja, Dr Lalit Mansingh, Dr Prasad Medury, Mr. Som Mittal and Mr. Aseem Chawla

### Session 3 INDO-US RELATIONS: THE UNFINISHED AGENDA



L to Mr. Yash Kansal, Mr. Ronen Sen, Mr. Raman Roy, Mr. George Sibley and Dr Manoj Joshi

### Session 4 Media & Entertainment: Digitization in the Media and Entertainment Industry and the Menace of Piracy



L to R – Mr. Ashok Tyagi, Mr. Stephen Mithias, Ms Loveleen Tandan; Mr. Sandeep Marwah, Dr Lalit Bhasin; Ms Sohaila Kapur and Mr. Bhuvan Lall



Participants at the summit