



FICCI E-NEWS

VOL. 2 | APRIL 2021

"BE SEEN & BE HEARD"

FICCI CARES PROGRAM

As we move forward into 2021, we again find ourselves facing another surge of Covid-19 cases. What we have learned is that this epidemic does not discriminate and has affected everyone, including members of our community. While the vaccines are only now being administered to the public, there is still a long way to go before more vaccines can arrive and doses are administered.

While we wait to all get vaccinated our Chamber has created the FICCI Cares program. A crowdsourced resource center to help the entire community with the resources and information needed to stay ahead of this virus. We have created 5 chat groups on the mobile messaging app Telegram. Here are the groups and its details:

• **FICCI Wellness and Health Chat** - This group will provide as much help to everyone on how to stay healthy and will provide information on protocols needed to combat the pandemic.

• **FICCI Covid Resources Chat** - this group will be a compilation of resources. Members will not be able to post here. This will be a read only quick reference guide to urgent resources that one may need.

• **FICCI Active Cases Chat** - This chat is to be joined if you or your family member has or had become positive for Covid and can provide real help and advice to those who have newly been infected. FICCI Internment and Prayers Chat - This group will be composed of volunteers who can help families who will need help when it comes to internment and prayers.

• **FICCI Vaccines Chat** - This group is to be joined for anyone who wish to know more and who wish to have access to Covid 19 Vaccines.

If you're not yet part of any of these chat groups please reach out to any of the board members so we may send you the link to join. Stay safe and healthy.

by: VP Manesh Sujanan



The FICCI Board of Directors warmly welcomed H.E. Amb. Shambhu S. Kumaran, and some of the members of his very dynamic team L-R Ms. Vishwanjali Gaikwad (Second Secretary, PIC & Education), Mr. Nishikant Singh (First Secretary), and Mr. Harish Dafauti (Second Secretary, Consulate) at a dinner hosted in their honor.

"It's All About Relations."

In just 11 months, what Indian Ambassador to the Philippines His Excellency Shambhu S. Kumaran is nothing short of phenomenal. Diving right into the key factor in developing further ties between the two vibrant democracies of India and the Philippines, the Ambassador identified that "it is all about relations, there should be a clear understanding of this relationship on both sides, whether political, economic, military, cultural, and trade, they are all part of the overall relationship."

While he assumed his position from his previous posting in Morocco, he noted his predecessors efforts in saying that he was fortunate that a lot of spade work has been done before, and as such this makes it easier to build from them, move forward in continuing programs and initiating new ones. "What we do is analyze each area to develop, what are the needs, then we identify our partners in the Philippines, either at the government level or with the private sector, and among others, we look at the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce Inc. as one of them. At the government side, I am fortunate to have already meetings with your Department of Transportation and Department of Agriculture."

He also cited the need for more business groups to be talking to one another, saying "the Embassy can also help local businessmen here who are looking at opportunities in India, or vice versa, Indian business groups who are planning to invest in the Philippines."

He aims in bringing the best of India to develop a truly meaningful relationship with the country. He intends to do this drawing lines between the different areas and identifying responsibilities.

He says that the Philippines has the combination of being an extraordinarily beautiful country in its natural aspect coupled with Filipinos being very welcoming of foreigners.



He has also explored some of the islands here such as by going diving in the beautiful Apo reef during his down time.

Aside from this, his bucket list consists of climbing a volcano, playing Golf at the course in Tagaytay Highlands, visiting as many islands as possible, particularly that of Coron in Palawan, seeing famous waterfall while enjoying these activities with his son whom he would like to see playing basketball alongside FICCI President Mike Advani.

Truly we are fortunate that H.E. Amb. Kumaran has been posted here, as from what we see he is a true mover and doer, right from the start of his posting. Taking up from the Ambassador's request, Pres. Mike is definitely looking forward to the FICCI cooperating with him and his office both on and off court.

LOOKING BACK

March 1, 2021
MOA signing for Moderna vaccine
FICCI and ICSTI signed a MOA regarding the Moderna vaccine.

March 17, 2021
Townhall Meeting for AZ Donors
Go Negosyo organized a townhall meeting for AstraZenica donors which the board attended representing FICCI.

March 27, 2021
FICCI Shradhanjali / Tribute for the late President Arjan Gurnamal
The board of directors organized a community-wide event in honor of past-president Dada Arjan.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Join in as Prof. Andy runs through case studies of how businesses have transformed during the COVID pandemic.
- His discussions about how family corporations, and other businesses need to enhance and improve themselves to keep up with the pandemic provide great insight.
- He is a great resource person for entrepreneurs as he constantly updates himself with various compliance and HR issues.
- The general membership together with the members of their family are encouraged to attend this event on **May 8, 2021**.

PIVOT. TRANSFORM TO PERFORM.
LEARN HOW TO PIVOT YOUR BUSINESS THROUGH COVID-19

By Prof. **Angelo M. Andy J. Peralta, ERD**

A Chamber General Membership Meeting
May 8, 2021
4:00pm | Via Zoom

- ✓ Professor, Master of Entrepreneurship, Ateneo Graduate School of Business
- ✓ Over 15 years of experience in management education
- ✓ Over 30 years in entrepreneurship

NOW YOU KNOW

There's Light At The End, At Last

by Manesh Sujanan, VP Pharmaceuticals

Following more than a year after the world was shut down by the Covid-19 pandemic we now find ourselves asking when will this end? This same question was asked throughout our history when millions died during the plagues that ravaged our civilizations. But after each devastating plague, we came out more knowledgeable and optimistic on how to fend off the next epidemic. Thanks to the advancements in science and technology we have a better understanding of how our bodies function and how to fight the constant threat of disease.

The invention of the vaccine is one of the single greatest advancements in human history. Thanks to the very first vaccine, smallpox is eradicated. Since then, countless other vaccines have been created to protect us from a host of deadly diseases and keeping widespread pandemics at bay. Over the years vaccines have saved billions of lives, drastically reduced the infant mortality rate, increase overall life expectancy, and ensured a healthier and productive population. The importance of vaccines cannot be understated, especially now as we experience our first modern pandemic.

Today, there are more than 115 Covid-19 vaccine candidates, with 8 already in wide use. Three of which are being manufactured in India. For the world to move forward we will need vaccines, 14 billion doses for every man, woman, and child on earth. It will have to have a high degree of safety and an efficacy rate of at least 70 percent to stop the spread and create herd immunity.

Your Chamber has been actively working with GoNegosyo and suppliers to get access to those vaccines. We have signed supply deals to procure vaccines from AstraZeneca, Moderna, Novavax, and Bharat Biotech. While worldwide supply constraints and other technicalities has limited our access, rest assured

that our partners are working hard to get us our allocations. As more vaccine candidates become available, we will work to get you access to those as well.

We come back to the question, will this pandemic end? As the vaccines start becoming available there is now a light at the end of this dark tunnel.

Getting vaccinated not only protects you but the people around you. Along with continued adherence to local health guidelines will help mitigate the spread. Let us continue to be patient, do our part, and work together as a community to stay safe.



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

A STORY OF THREE GENERATIONS WORKING TOGETHER

It certainly was not part of New Creation Manufacturing founder Hiro Daryanani's thinking when he started the company way back in 1959 that he will end up running the business with his son and grandsons 60 years after.

But that is the reality now for the company with his son Anil, as a Director and his son Ravi, as a Director who oversees the day to day operations, and Chand as Sales & Marketing Director for Canadian Manufacturing, one of the many subsidiary companies that emerged from the shadow of the parent company from while Hiro remains President.

This alone can differentiate New Creation Manufacturing, presently the country's biggest manufacturer of bedsheets, comforters, pillow cases, towels, the initial product line of the company 60 years ago, from a lot of other companies, something that the patriarch and wife Gopi, who used to take care of all the journals and ledgers of the company in its early years to help her husband grow the business, certainly take pride in today.

Guided by its vision to become the country's leading manufacturer of high quality of bed linens in the country and be best in both product and services' point of view, now a reality, the company as part of its continuous growth over the years have even started its own initiatives towards the environment, the community, and the industry itself.

Early on, we already recognized the need for our company to be responsible in the way we conduct our business," said Ravi.

"We have launched diverse initiatives like tying up with the Haribon Foundation through our Get A Sheet, Adopt A Tree campaign, earlier through the I'm Cotton movement to encourage responsible cotton sourcing worldwide and help communities achieve sustainable living. We also support The Better Cotton Initiative to make global cotton production better for the people who produce it, better for the environment it grows in, and better for the sector's future." This from his son Chand.

Among others, the company has expanded into other lines with its different brands and subsidiaries that include among others Canadian, Boutique, Lifestyle, Modern Linens, King Fisher, Hello Dolly, and Dream Home, responding quickly to their customers; needs and wants, at the same time introducing innovations in their product lines through trade shows held regularly. One of the early tie-ups for them was with Walt Disney.



As one of its oldest members in the organization, Hiro was also asked on how the Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce Inc. { FICCI } has performed its role for the local Filipino-Indian community, his reply, "it is hard to capture 60 years of FICCI in a few words, it certainly has done a lot for our business community in different areas and has enhanced the lives of and benefited its members and their families'. From being a seed when first planted, it has grown into a grown tree giving fruits to its members, thanks to the past presidents and the sitting president who have responded to the needs of its members even beyond just business."

And the fact is FICCI and New Creation Manufacturing have grown together, and it will not come as a surprise to see a third generation member becoming also becoming President or a senior officer of FICCI.

We are pleased to welcome the following new members to the Chamber:

- Mr. Gaurav Mishra - COO ASC & Site Head ASCP, Sun Life Financial Asia Services Limited. SLFAS is a company existing under the laws of Hong Kong and operates as the Regional Operating Headquarters in the Philippines.
- Mr. Lal Gowrani - Vice President, Branded Lifestyle Inc. BLI is a Philippine based company which through the years has set the pace for the eyewear market trend in the country.
- Mr. Prashant Laugani - Country Manager, Cibes Lift Philippines Inc. that does wholesale of machinery equipment and the equipment supplies and other services.
- Mr. Animesh Jain - Director, R.M. Chemicals South East Asia Inc. - manufacturer of detergent powders for supply in the Philippines. The company has manufacturing presence in India, Sri Lanka and Nepal already.
- Mr. Atul Dushyant Lall - Regional Head, VFS Services Philippines Private Inc. - a pioneer in visa processing and consular service outsourcing for government mission globally.
- Ms. Anupam Ahuja - Individual Member under AG & P. She is the Senior Vice President for Strategic Services.

Congratulations and warm welcome to new members on behalf of Board and entire membership. We are optimistic that as our Chamber grows, we can successfully survive the challenges that our businesses are currently experiencing, with the help of mutual cooperation and shared wisdom of members from diverse fields.

AND THEY SAID... Congratulations to the board on the first issue of the FICCI e-newsletter!

- Very nice!!! - Ravi Samtani
- Great initiative, well done and congratulations. - Sunder Hemandas
- Nice Initiative! You may want to consider adding more photos to the newsletter especially for the activities. - FICCI Member (Anonymous)

APRIL BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS:

- 1 - John Echazur; Standard Insurance Co.
- 2 - Manohar Khemani; Provincial Member 3 - Kaushal Shetty; ECU Worldwide Philippines, Inc.
- 3 - Haresh Sadhwani; Penline Stationary Inc.
- 4 - Nari Assandas; Singh Kumar; Technopaq Inc..
- 5 - Balwant Singh Kumar;
- 6 - Naresh Budhrani; Individual Member
- 6 - Naresh Mirani - VP for Events; Mirage International Corp.
- 6 - Sunder Gopaladas; Past President
- 7 - Nareena Mirchandani; Ramesh Trading Corp.
- 10 - Prem Gupta; Yarn Plus Inc.
- 10 - Ramesh Durgani; Past President
- 13 - Nari Budhrani; Powertrip Inc.
- 15 - Chandru Mahitani; Sprint International Inc.
- 19 - Mahesh Mirpuri - Mulsan's Trading Inc.
- 21 - Sam Tamon; Windflight Express Total Logistics Inc.
- 23 - Roshan Mirani; Mirage International Inc.
- 23 - Mike Utamchandani; Shining Star Apparel Mfg. Co.
- 25 - Subramanyam Sreenivasaloh; AscentHR Inc.
- 26 - Naresh Daswani; World Wide Apparel Mfg. Co.
- 30 - Gautham Dadlani; Shivoham Corp.

EDITORIAL TEAM:

Mike Advani; Editor-in-Chief - Sharon Vaswani, O.D.; Associate Editor - Ella Gan & Zarah Corrales; Editorial Assistants - Lito Cinco; Editorial Consultant and Content Writer

We welcome your suggestions for FICCI E-NEWS, just as we welcome informative articles you may want to contribute.