

Technology wizards launch IATPA

LARGER INDO-U.S. TECH-EXCHANGES ENVISIONED

CHICAGO - Chicago-based Indian technology professionals have launched the Indo-American Technology Professional Association (IATPA) that aims to offer a digital connection between its members within Chicago and with India-based technology giants.

The high-profile inauguration took place on September 13, 2006, at the Library Club in the downtown Chicago. During the inauguration, IATPA's founding members also honored Hardik Bhatt on his appointment as the Chief Information Officer (CIO) for the City of Chicago, and thanked Chicago Mayor, Richard M. Daley, for having appointed him. He also holds the appointment of Commissioner, Business Information Systems, for the city.

The four founding members are Dinkar Karumuri, Jatinder Singh Bedi, Ravi Nagubadi, and P.V. Shrikanth.

The Head of Chancery, at the Consulate General of India, R.S. Badwal, was among the guests of honor. Over 200 key professionals and technology-related top business houses attended the reception. These included: Jacqueline Colins, State Senator 16th District; Jon Johnson, Deputy Budget Director for the office of Budget and Management at the City of Chicago; Steve Mannina, CIO Cook County Treasurer; Juan Ochoa, President of the Illinois Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Bob Runcie, CIO Chicago Public Schools; Jonathon Lewid, CPD IT Director; David Goodman, Advisor to the Mayor on Technology Affairs, City of Chicago; Smita Shah, Chair, Delhi Chicago Sister Cities Program; Niranjan Shah, Chairman Globetrotters; Jatinder Singh Bedi; Prasad Nettem, Director, Chicago Public Schools; Gloria Castillo, President of Chicago United; Michie Pena, Commissioner, Chicago Department of General Services; and Darnetta Tyus of the Chicago Housing Authority, who is also the Chicago Chapter President of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators.

Venu Mattey, Sai Ratnakar, and Carlos Ponce, the members of the Advisory Board of IATPA were also present.

Speaking at the occasion, President of the IATPA, Dinkar Karumuri, explained that IATPA is a business association of Indian technology professionals and technology businesses.

"Working on a nonpartisan basis, IATPA will advocate the interests of our members with key executive and Legislative leaders at all levels of government," Dinkar Karumuri, who is also the CEO of Senryo Technologies, emphasized.

While presenting Hardik Bhatt with IATPA's honorary membership, Dinkar expressed his profound gratitude to Mayor Daley for appointing Hardik Bhatt as Chicago's CIO.

Speaking at the occasion, Hardik



Founding members of the Indo-American Technology Professional Association Jatinder Singh Bedi (extreme right), P.V. Shrikanth (second from the right), and Dinkar Karumuri (third from the right) pose for a photograph with Consul R.S. Badwal (second from the left) and Hardik Bhatt (fourth from the right). Also seen is a representative of Sofbang, Danny Asnani (extreme left).



The elite of Chicago's technology industry and city circles attended the inaugural Reception.



Dinkar Karumuri (extreme right) and Sai Ratnakar (second from the right) interact with the guests at the function.

Bhatt called for "E-Governance in the city of Chicago." "Expecting partnership" with all the technology wizards from the city, Hardik Bhatt stressed the "need to change the mindset of the Chicagoans at all levels."

He said that there is a necessity to direct children in realistic directions and make them invest their energy in realistically achievable, respected goals in life. Hardik Bhatt stated that parents must evaluate what can be within the reach of their child, and then help him to achieve

it; rather than hankering after something fantastic. "It is about getting a job in life," he stressed.

Bhatt outlined his E-plans for Chicago. He said that electronic hand-modules would be provided to field workers in order to integrate them into a real time city grid.

Referring to the changing needs of the school education system, Hardik Bhatt stated that Mayor Richard M. Daley envisions "technology to the kids." The Mayor is deliberating on the importance of math and science in the curriculum

to make them competitive in the future.

During his brief address, Hardik Bhatt thanked Mayor Daley for entrusting him with the task, and also expressed gratitude to the 82-member team that he commands as CIO. He also thanked Outgoing CIO, Chris O'Brien, who in his brief remarks explained the intricacy of Bhatt's job.

Addressing the technology vendors, he said that Mayor expects A-Plus quality products from them. He sounded that the delays in

invoice-clearing will be eliminated. However, the city plans to enforce liability in low quality work if offered to the city, Bhatt announced.

Elaborating the vision of IATPA, its Founding member Jatinder Singh Bedi stated that IATPA's principle objective is "to offer a forum where our local and international members can exchange ideas, identify issues of common concern or interest." These forums will also include a "digital connection" with several Indian cities to enhance communication between the U.S. and India, Jatinder Singh Bedi added.

Jatinder said, "IATPA has adopted a cross-border format with Chicago as its principal office and will soon open a series of offices in India in order to provide its members cross-border opportunities for partnerships, collaborations, and the development of talent."

P.V. Shrikanth, another Founding member, stated that IATPA will provide opportunities for members to meet with leading corporate technology figures. "We will also liaise and tie-up with other business associations and chambers to enhance IATPA's goals," Shrikanth, of R.S. Consultants, Inc., said.

Exuding confidence at the perspective success of the organization, IATPA's fourth Founding member, Ravi Nagubadi, stated, "We will try and collaborate with other Indian and non-Indian business associations in areas of common benefit. It's a launch pad to represent prominent Indo-American Technology professionals," Ravi Nagubadi excitedly stated.

Ravi Nagubadi is a Principal of IT company Sofbang. Commenting upon the initiative, he stated, "It's the right time to have an organization dedicated to the large population of Indo-American technology professionals. We feel it is important to be a common voice to further the goals and interests of Indian American Technology Professionals in America and abroad."

Ravi Nagubadi's associate from Sofbang, Danny Asnani, describes IATPA as "a humble and important start." "This event marks the beginning of many more to come," Danny added.

The event—which was attended by who's who from the city of Chicago—was sponsored by Dinkar Karumuri from Senryo Technologies; Ravi Nagubadi from Sofbang; Jatinder Singh Bedi; Darell Higueroas from Next Generation, Inc.; and Christine Roth, Alan Weiss, and Adam Weiss from CDWG; Wanda Bell from Avid Consulting; Tim Matter from PMA Consultants of Illinois; and Suzzane Hogan from DSI.

Darrell Higueroas recognized the sponsors of the function. Dinkar Karumuri read Mayor Daley's felicitation letter that was received to commend the launch of IATPA.