

Neville Roach Discusses India – Australia bilateral relations at IITAA Seminar

Mr Neville Roach AO, Chairman of TCS-FNC & TCS Management, was the keynote speaker at an Seminar organised by the IITians Association of Australia. The theme of the forum session was "Current Australia India Relationship: Opportunities and Challenges ahead".

The Consul General of India Mr Amit Dasgupta attended the Seminar as the guest of honour of the IITians Association of Australia (IITAA). Mr Dasgupta discussed in an open and candid manner a number of issues related to Indians in Australia and the general bi-lateral business situation in the wake of global financial crisis.

The seminar was sponsored by the NSW Government Department of State and Regional Development (DSRD) and was held at their offices in Martin Place.

The primary theme of the presentation by Mr Roach, Chairman of TCS-FNC & TCS Management, the keynote speaker for the night was "Current Australia India Relationship: Opportunities and Challenges ahead".

Dr. Ashok Manglick, President of IITAA, welcomed the guests and used the opportunity to draw the attention of the gathering to a recently concluded study entitled, "IIT Alumni Impact Study – 2008" commissioned by Pan IIT and Indian Brand Equity Foundation. Some of the key findings of the study are that since the launch of the 1st IIT in India at Kharagpur in 1955 there are over 175,000 IIT alumni worldwide, companies founded by IIT alumni collectively generate over USD 171 Billion annually and 80% of the companies founded by IIT Alumni has been started post 1990 implying ever increasing impact of IITians on world economy.

Mr Roach came to Australia in early 60's during the days of white Australia policy and he talked about the challenges faced by early settlers. He said that since India opening its market economy, it has started to take its place amongst the established world economic order and one sign of that is the recent India - US Nuclear agreement despite delicate international opinion. He mentioned Paul Keating's push for Australia's Asia focus, ASEAN, G20 etc and Paul's vision of new economic alignment. He praised the recent recognition amongst the Australia people of multiculturalism which has opened up more opportunities. However, he stressed the need for mutual respect and need for all migrants to make an effort to be part of Australia's mainstream activities.

Neville also called upon IIT alumni and all migrants to engage in volunteerism and contribute to broader Australian scene. He also discussed issues of Indian students, their economic contribution to Australia's education sector, their settlement issues, behavioural issues, and safety/security issues.

Evidently, he said, that cricket between India and Australia has a potential to offer a lot outside the cricketing arena in terms of bilateral relations.

During the subsequent discussion, Mr Inderjeet Singh, Secretary of IITAA, asked how a greater awareness can be created among fellow Australians about India. Mr Singh also pointed out that some of the School Curriculum are heavily biased towards British style and that the current school texts do mention the contributions made by Indians to Australia. Mr

Pravin Trivedi asked about the characteristics required of Indian companies who want to do business with Australian Companies.

The Seminar offered opportunity to seek Indian Consul General's thoughts on various matters including Indian Students in Australia, business opportunities and bilateral relations.

The Seminar was followed by Dinner at a nearby Indian Restaurant where the lively discussion continued.

IITAA is always eager to hear from all IITians living in Australia and New Zealand and encourages them to become a member of the association and join the global network of fellow IITians.

Please visit our website at www.iitaa.org.au or contact Dr Ashok Manglick on President@iitaa.org.au or Dipankar Choudhury on Dipankar.Choudhury@pyrozone.com.au for all IITAA related matters.