

UIA ORGANISES GALA RECEPTION DINNER FOR CONSUL GENERAL OF INDIA



Mr and Mrs Ganapathi, Mr Lalli Sethuram, Mrs Nalini Orekondy

United Indian Associations gave a befitting send-off to His Excellency Consul General of India Mr. M. Ganapathi and Mrs. Uma Ganapathi at a solemn but impressive function at Grand Apollo, Burwood on the 25th November 2005.

Mr. Ganapathi started his Sydney assignment on the 19th April 2001. After four and a half years of illustrious carrier in Australia he said good bye to Sydneysiders. Mr Ganapathi takes over his assignment as Indian Ambassador to Kuwait early next year. The function was well attended by a capacity crowd



Mr Devendra Kumar, Dr S Orekondy, Hon. Louise Markus

UIA also took the opportunity to farewell Consul Mr. Subbiah Mohan and Mrs. Swetha Mohan and Vice-Consul, Mr. Sunil Baweja and Mrs. Harsh Baweja who are also leaving Sydney for a better future.

Hon. Louise Markus, Federal Member of Parliament for Greenway, Mr. Solomon Rosael representing Hon. Barbara Perry, State MP for Auburn, Mr Mohankumaran, Consul & HOC; Mrs Manju Channan, Consul from CG office, prominent community leaders and members from the press were present on the great event. Mr Raj Natrajan was the Master of ceremonies.

Hon. Louise Markus, conveyed her best wishes to Mr Ganapathi and other Consuls. She pledged her unconditional support to the Indian Community.



Mr Ganapathi



Dr Orekondy



Dr P Sinha



Mr Devendra Kumar



Mr Raj Natarajan



Mr Devendra Kumar, UIA Secretary set the ball rolling by welcoming the guests and inviting them to recite 'Vatapi Ganapathim Bhaje' along with Mr Raj Natrajan.



Mr Raj Natarajan who MC-ed the Program, said "I must say in the last 17 years I have been here, in Australia this is the best team I have seen in the office of the Indian Consulate in Sydney – very helpful and understanding. That is the reason why we have gathered here this evening to, not only farewell H.E. Counsel General, Consul Mohan Subbaiah and Vice Consul Sunil Baweja and their families but also say thanks and express our gratitude for all the help they have given to our community in the last 3-4 years."



After formal welcome speech by President Dr. Sid Orekondy, representatives of Associations delivered their farewell messages.

Dr Orekondy acknowledged that the community had easy access to CG and other Consuls during their tenure. Always personal interest was taken by Mr M Gaanapathi to participate in various community activities. Dr Orekondy highlighted the improvements implemented by the present team of UIA including an informative web site and help line for the Indian Migrants. Dr. Prabhat Sinha of Hindi Samaj charmed everyone with his poetry specially composed for the occasion.



The Speakers Mr.Saha Chowdhry of Bengali Assn., Mr.Lalli Sethuram of Technocrats' Association., Mr.Sam Gopinath of Sydney Kannada Sangha, Mr. Harshad Desai of Gujarati Samaj, Mr. Sam Swaminathan of Sydney Tamil Sangam and Mr Monindr Singh of Punjabi Council of Australia applauded the efforts of Mr Ganapathi especially in uniting the Indian Community.



Mrs. Nalini Venkat of Indian Welfare Assn., Mr. Moninder Singh of Punjabi Council of Australia, Mr. Ejaz Khan of Australian Pakistani Assn. and Mrs. Rekha Bhattacharya of India Post paid their respects & wished Mr Ganapathi and family well in his new assignment.

Dr Vijay Kumar entertained the guests with his melodious voice. Mr Moninder Singh and Mr Khan entertained everyone with some jokes.

Mrs Rekha Bhattacharya, Mr Ashok Kumar, Mr Rajwant Singh and Mr Parsram Maharaj were representing the Indian Press of Australia.



Fourteen constituent associations of the umbrella body, UIA were seen in the most vibrant form. Among the attendees from various associations were Mr Harshad Desai, Dr Hemchander Rao, Mrs Raji Swaminathan, Dr S P Bhatia, Mrs & Dr Navin Khandhar, Dr.Sengupta, Dr Rohitas Batta, Mr Krishnamurthy Toopran, Mr Onkaraswamy, Mr Raj Bhandari, Dr Narsimha Reddy, Mr Logesson Pillay, Mr & Mrs Chandra Jamnadas, Mr Harry Walia, Mr Murli Bhojwani, Dr Suresh Pandey , Dr Vidushi Sharma, Mr Vijayakumar Halagli and so many other prominent personalities from Sydney. Mr Arpit Raswant volunteered for the UIA function.



Entertainment
by
Dr Vijayakumar

Mr. Ganapathi in his speech thanked everyone for coming and wishing him. He assured everyone that Sydney will always be in his heart.

Rohitas Batta
Media Co-ordinator & GC Member UIA

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