

## **Minutes of EC Meeting of HRAO held at Suryansh Hotels & Resorts, Bhubaneswar on 23rd April 2011 at 6.00 pm.**

The Meeting was presided over by Mr. J.K. Mohanty, Chairman, HRAO, the following members were present in the meeting.

1. Mr. J.K.Mohanty, Chairman, HRAO
2. Mr. Sankaracharya Pradhan, VC & MD, Hotel Shanti, Angul
3. Mr. Srinibash Subudhi, VC & MP, Hotel Janpath, BBSR
4. Mr. Jonathan Raul, VC & MD, Cooks Restaurant, BBSR
5. Mr. Arbin Chawda, Jt. Secy & MD, Goutam Vihar, Angul
6. Mr. T P Mohanty, Secy. General & MD, Ridge Residency, BBSR
7. Mr. Satya Narayan Mohanty, Tresurer & Proprietor, Hotel Pooja, Joda
8. Mr. Milan Ku.Sahoo, ECM & MD, Hotel Richi, BBSR
9. Mr. Jitendra Ku. Patnaik, ECM & MD, Hotel Surya, Dhenkanal
10. Mr. Suresh Ch. Patnaik, ECM & MD, Hotel Ankita, Keonjhar
11. Mr. Sarosh Bodhanwala, ECM & MD, Barjorjis Hotels, Balasore
12. Mr. Gopal Khandelwal, ECM & Director, Jasoria Resort, Balasore
13. Mr. D. K. Tunga, ECM & MD, Pashupati, Paradeep
14. Mr. Kailash Ch. Moharana, ECM & MD, Paradeep Int, Paradeep
15. Mr. Siba Prasad Mohanty, ECM & MD, Golden Palace, Kendrapara
16. Mr. Ajit Ku. Nayak, MD, Suryansh Hotels & Resort, BBSR
17. Mr. Surya Parida, ED, Mayfair, BBSR
18. Mr. J.K.Mohanty, Chairman, HRAO
19. Mr. A. Talukdar, VP, The Crown, BBSR
20. Mr. Jasobant Padhi, Mgr-HR, Trident, BBSR
21. Er. B.C. Praharaj, MD, Hotel Upasana, BBSR
22. Mr. MD Alim, GM, The Presidency, BBSR
23. Mr. Prashant Ku. Jena, MD, Hotel Anjali Palace, BBSR
24. Mr. Sagnik Chowdhury, GM, Kalinga Ashok, BBSR
25. Cdr. (Retd) Bijay Ku. Jena, MD, Hotel Kharvela, BBSR
26. Mr. C.R. Jana, Director, Swosti Group, BBSR
27. Mr. Suresh Ch. Patnaik, ECM & MD, Hotel Ankita, Keonjhar
28. Mr. Debasis Behera, Director, Hotel Adarsh, Cuttack
29. Mr. Harihar Guru, MD, Hotel Subhadra, Puri
30. Mr. Ajay Bharati, GM, Toshali Sands, Puri
31. Dr. Ramachandra Panda, Hotel Swarnachuda, Balasore
32. Mr. Ved Prakash Nath, MD, Hotel Veena, Balasore
33. Mr. Rajendra Ku. Sahoo, Managing Partner, Hotel Rajmahal, Bolangir
34. Mr. Durga Das, Executive Secy., HRAO

Mr. Tarini Prasad Mohanty, Secretary General, HRAO presented the quarterly report.

### **Report by Secretary General, HRAO**

1. welcome the honourable members of HRAO to this EC Meeting. Thanks to the Chair for giving me this opportunity.

### **Confirmation of previous agenda**

1. Protecting against the Commissioner of Police decision to restrict marriage functions in Hotels, Marriage mandaps in Bhubaneswar city and ban on playing tourist coach inside the city, our Chairman presented a memorandum to Hon'ble Chief Minister and copy was forwarded to Dept. of Home & Dept. of Tourism. In turn Director, Tourism has requested Police Commissioner to take urgent suitable steps as deemed fit to solve the problem.

**3. 24th January, 2011** : Due to harassment by Cable Operators, I wrote a letter to Secretary General FHRAI. In turn I got a draft reply from legal head FHRAI, Ms. Asha Juneja, which I circulated to all members to forward to the problematic cable operators.

**4. 24th January, 2011** : Mr. V. P. Nath, Proprietor Hotel Veena requested HRAO to write a letter to Secretary, Industry for his OSFC loan settlement and Chairman had written a letter to Secretary, Industry in this regard.

**5. 25th January, 2011** : Chairman submitted a memorandum to Hon'ble Chief Minister informing restrictions imposed by Police authorities on conducting marriage functions in Hotels & ban on playing of Tourist Coaches inside Bhubaneswar city. The copy of this letter was forwarded to Minister, Tourism, Principal Secretary to CM, Secretary, Home Dept. and Secretary Tourism.

## **Achievements :**

**1. HRAO Magazine** : HRAO magazine first in kind, circulated to many and we received lot of appreciation. I express my thanks to our Chairman which was possible due his able guidance and special thanks to Mr. Durga Das, Executive Secretary, who is instrumental in publishing this magazine.

I request members to contribute their articles to make magazine more attractive.

**2. Entrepreneur's Week** : HRAO's Contribution in conducting Entrepreneurs Week program was highly appreciated by Department of Tourism. High level panel discussion by eminent personalities and knowledge sharing was attended by 230 personnel from Travel trade on 6th March 2011.

**3. Procurement of Imported liquor** : Dept. of Excise approved our suggestions to procure imported liquors for hotel industries. List of the brand of liquors received from hoteliers is submitted to Dept. of Excise.

**4. Participation in national events** : 7 of our members hotels participated in SATTE, New Delhi which was highly praised by Dept. of Tourism.

**5. Objection to Power tariff hike** : We have also submitted our protection to proposed power tariff hike to OERC on January 2011. Due to the combined efforts of all associations the proposed hike was held up.

**6. Service Tax** : On behalf of HRAO Chairman submitted an objection for the proposed imposition of service tax on hotel rooms with a tariff more than Rs. 1000/- and on AC restaurants & bar which is reflected on many hospitality industry magazines.

**7. HRAO Discount card & certificate** : HRAO discount card & certificate reached to the members on 1st April 2011 for which many members have appreciated.

**8. HRAO membership** : In the year 2010, we have added 18 HRAO members. In 2011, January, we have added 4 members. Today also we have received applications from 05 hotels for new membership.

We all know how tedious, it is to achieve our goals while working with Govt. authorities. But HRAO is doing its best for Department of Tourism in the state.

Mr. Satya Narayan Moahnty, Treasurer, HRAO informed members about the financial position of HRAO.

Day to day activities by HRAO office was presented by Executive Secretary.

## Report by Executive Secretary, HRAO

I would like to intimate members briefly about the correspondence done by your office during last quarter.

**1. 18th January, 2011** : After our EC meeting on 17th January, Chairman wrote a letter to President, FHRAI for hosting of FHRAI Convention at Bhubaneswar.

**2. 20th January, 2011** : We have submitted an objection to proposed power tariff hike. We appreciate the valuable suggestions given by Mr. Talukdar,VP, The Crown, Mr. Nilasaila Nayak, ED, Tripple C in this regard.

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In turn Director, Tourism wrote a letter to Police Commissioner on March 2011 requesting him to take a suitable step.

**6. 2nd February, 2011** : Chairman, HRAO wrote a letter to Chief Secretary requesting him for approval of Tourism Policy by Cabinet on 10th February 2011.

**7. 28th February, 2011** : Representatives of Ezeego1 appealed HRAO to do business with them for which they won't charge any listing fee. 50 HRAO members have enlisted with them.

**8. Celebration of Entrepreneurs Week** : All preparatory meeting of Entrepreneurs week was attended by me in State Secretariat and minutes of the meeting was also circulated to all members. Agenda prepared by HRAO after a meeting at 'The Crown' forwarded to Secretary Industry and Secretary Tourism. Most of our agendas were accepted by Department of Tourism. Our Chairman had requested Minister Tourism to inaugurate the function. The process for preparation for Entrepreneur's Week meeting took one month for inviting and co-ordinating Ministers, MLAs, Government officials, Co-ordinators, Panelists and all members from travel trade. I have visited many times to Department of Tourism and interacted with officials who praised highly for the contribution of HRAO Chairman and the members for the success of meeting on 6th March.

**9. Capital Foundation Day** : Collector, Khurda requested us to illuminate Hotels/Restaurant building on Capital Foundation Day. Many of our members offered 20% discount on food apart from illuminating buildings on that day. I request members to congratulate our Chairman who received a business leadership award from Hon'ble Speaker of Orissa Assembly on that day.

**10. Service Tax** : Objection on imposing Service Tax on room rate Rs. 1000/- and above by our Chairman is reflected on many national hospitality magazines and timely information we have shared with our members in this regard.

**11. Dishonouring HRAO Card** : Time to time we are sending letters, messages to members to honour HRAO Discount Card. Few complaints by members were also communicated to MD of the hotel/restaurants.

We are happy that they have responded positively in these issues.

**12.** Time to time many Hotel owners contacted me for manpower of their hotels. I have interacted Principals of Hotel Management Colleges with them to solve their problems.

## **Approval of New Membership**

New Membership applications received from Hotels/Restaurants were handed over to Mr. Srinibash Subudhi, Vice Chairman for approval on floor. Following Hotels, Restaurants were unanimously approved by the Executive Committee for new HRAO membership.

1. DALMA, Bhubaneswar
2. Hotel Arya Palace, Bhubaneswar
3. Hotel Arya Mahal, Bhubaneswar
4. Lucky International, Balasore
5. The Sans, Keonjhar

## **Open House**

**Mr. Talukdar, VP, The Crown** expressed his concerned over limitation of conducting marriage function in Hotels by Police authorities. He requested Chairman to write letter to Hon'ble Chief Minister in this regard.

He informed members that in metro cities hoteliers are hiring Traffic police to look after major marriage parties and conventions. Even this trend is also followed by the stadium authorities in recently IPL matches. He requested Chairman to write to higher authorities in this regard.

**Mr. Durga Das, Executive Secretary, HRAO** informed members that few Hotel consultants are requesting to take HRAO membership.

Few members expressed their view that HRAO should charge more amounts from allied members.

**Mr. Suresh Ch. Patnaik, MD, Hotel Ankita, Keonjhar**

- i Taking part on discussion on IGR registration, Mr. Patnaik opined that if there is a problem due to non availability of approved by laws it is better to obtain a fresh approval and go for IGR.
- ii He also informed members about the formation of Keonjhar district Hotel Association wit 37 members. Finally, he requested Treasurer & Secretary General to have polite approach to the members for collection of outstanding dues.

Mr. Jonathan Raul, Vice Chairman, HRAO asked Treasurer about the present financial status and filling up the IT return.

## **Chairman's Reply :**

- i On replying to the question raised by Mr. Talukdar, Chairman informed about the steps taken by HRAO on the issue. He informed that Director Tourism has requested the Commissioner of Police to take some suitable action which will be helpful to organize conventions & marriage functions in hotels. Reply from the Commissioner of Police is awaited.
- ii Replying on financial status and IT return, Chairman requested members to have this discussion on Finance Committee Meeting.

## **Address by Chairman**

Chairman, in his address informed members, President, Vice President, Secretary General of HRAEI are in Bhubaneswar to access the infrastructure and facilities for conducting FHRAI Convention in Orissa and they will be joining with us at 8 PM for open discussion. Proposed dates for the convention are 13, 14 & 15 in the month of October. It is indeed a matter of pride for us.

## **Meeting with HRAEI EC Members**

Following members from HRAEI were present in the meeting :

1. Mr. SK. Khullar, President, HRAEI
2. Mr. Deepak Puri, Vice President, HRAEI
3. Mr. G Agrawal, Honorary Secretary, HRAEI
4. Mr. Alok Chowdhury, Secretary General, HRAEI

At the outset **Mr. Surya Prasad Parida**, ED, Mayfair welcomed the dignitaries on dias. He briefly informed about convention infrastructure, room availability in different category of hotels at Bhubaneswar and requested HRAEI President and members to project FHRAI strongly to host the convention at Bhubaneswar.

## **Address by SK Khullar President, HRAEI**

Expressing his views over hosting FHRAI Convention at Bhubaneswar, Mr. Khullar said that Bhubaneswar is changed a lot since his visit to this place 4 years back and he expressed his happiness over the infrastructure available in Bhubaneswar for conducting FHRAI convention this year.

## **Open House**

**A. Talukdar**, Vice President, The Crown : Welcoming the dignitaries to HRAO, Mr. Talukdar described how IATO, 2008 convention in Bhubaneswar was a grand success. Since Bhubaneswar is hosting many national level conventions, he assured the HRAEI dignitaries that HRAO can host it successfully. He also shared his experience with members and said that it is an opportunity to express ourselves in such forum. If few of them open hotels in Orissa it is good for the state. He requested Mr. Khullar to intimate the requirements to HRAO.

**Mr. Khullar** said that the requirements will be handed over to Mr. JK Mohanty, Chairman, HRAO. He pointed out that since we hoteliers are hosting convention for others and this is our own, so the expectation level is always high.

**Mr. P.D. Gupta**, ED, Suryansh Hotels & Resorts : Mr. Gupta asked that 'is it necessary that the accommodation you are looking for must be form classified hotels ?'

**Mr. Khullar** replied that accommodation is not a major issue. Guests can be accommodated in good budget hotels. Many budget hotels are members of HRAEI and FHRAI. Main aim is to host it in a presentable manner.

**Mr. Suresh Patnaik**, EC Member : Mr. Patnaik asked that since first time we will be hosting in Orissa what will be the room requirement and infrastructure.

**Mr. Deepak Puri** replied that room requirement will be 350 to 400. Since venue is new and it is a historical place many delegates will come first time. Puri is also nearby which will attract delegates.

**Cdr (Retd) Bijay Ku. Jena**, Hotel Kharvela asked the dignitaries 'how this kind of convention is going to help Orissa Hotel Industry ?'

**Mr. Alok Chowdhury** said that this is a forum where we will interact with many members of FHRAI and Govt dignitaries. Many of them will come to know about Orissa hospitality industry. The business sessions are fruitful for the people associated with the industry.

**President, HRAEI** concluded his speech by giving 100% assurance to the members for convincing FHRAI to host convention at Bhubaneswar. Mr. Khullar was convinced about the infrastructure and highly praised about the hospitality of Bhubaneswar

On behalf of HRAO, **JK Mohanty, Chairman**, expressed his heartfelt of thanks to Mr. Khullar, Mr. Puri, Mr. Agarwal and Mr. Chowdhury. He said that we all are looking forward for convention and assured FHRAI members for brotherhood hospitality in Orissa.

A special vote of thanks was also extended to **Mr. Ajit Kumar Nayak, MD and Mr. P.D. Gupta, ED, Suryansh Hotels & Resorts** for hosting the meeting & hospitality.



**Tarini Prasad Mohanty**  
**Secretary General, HRAO**