

Engaging the Diaspora for Development

Diaspora Strategies Workshop

National University of Ireland Maynooth
January 26-28, 2009

Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs
India

THE OVERVIEW

- ❑ The Indian Diaspora
- ❑ India Today
- ❑ The Instruments of Engagement

Indian Diaspora -1

- Over 25 million
- In 110 countries
- The 4 waves of migration
 - The indentured labour migration
 - Post Independence movement
 - The oil boom labour mobility
 - The knowledge workers emigration
- Current annual outflow about 1 million

Indian Diaspora -2

Characteristics

- Diasporas within diasporas
 - Separated by distance and time
 - Integration, new cultural identities

- Strong bonds with India
 - Language, food, culture, social contacts
 - Business, investments

India Today-1

Unity in Diversity

- ❑ Over 1.1 billion people
- ❑ Pluralistic Society
- ❑ Robust and live democracy
- ❑ Rapid economic growth
- ❑ Knowledge economy

India Today -2

- ❑ Fast expanding overseas investments
- ❑ Major country of origin
- ❑ Leading recipient of remittances
- ❑ Rapidly growing new economy sectors
- ❑ Emerging country of destination

Instruments of Engagement - 1

- Independent Ministry

- Annual global diaspora meets
 - January each year in India
 - September each year overseas

- Overseas Citizenship of India

Instruments of Engagement - 2

- Diaspora investments
 - Remittance Gateway launched in 2006
 - Overseas Indian Facilitation Centre
 - www.oifc.in
 - 'One-stop-shop' for investment advisory and hand holding services
 - Facilitates B to B partnerships

Instruments of Engagement - 3

- Diaspora Philanthropy
 - Indian Development Foundation
 - Not for profit trust
 - Focus on health, education and rural development
 - Shelf of projects
 - Engaging the Diaspora professional bodies
 - MOU with AAPI
 - Rural health projects

Instruments of Engagement - 4

□ Diaspora and Knowledge

- Diaspora Knowledge Network –
www.globalink.in
- National Knowledge Commission
- Prime Minister's Global Advisory Council of Overseas Indians

Instruments of Engagement - 5

- Diaspora and Education
 - PIO University
 - Scholarship program
 - Know India Program

Instruments of engagement -6

□ Diaspora Bonding

- Overseas Indian centres in the USA, S.E.Asia, the Gulf and Europe
- E-magazine published monthly – www.overseasindian.in
- Tracing the roots programme
- Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards

Looking ahead

- Future challenges
 - Enhancing linkage with development
 - Promoting Circular migration
 - Addressing the needs of specialised groups – youth, women, parliamentarians

Thank You
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