

August 2019 | Vol 7

# THE CONSULAR CHRONICLES

NEWSLETTER

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

Saludos!

It was holiday time and as our Editor continues his Globe Trotting adventures, I am happy to bring to you the events of the last few months.

The Republic of India successfully conducted its General Elections in April – May, with 900 million eligible voters and a turnout of over 67 per cent – the highest ever, even in terms of women voters.

The Nation in Focus for this issue is South Korea and we have a Special Focus on Lake Assal, Djibouti. On the International Page we have a few snapshots of the recently concluded FICAC Board Meeting at Bulgaria.

Our readers have welcomed the feature – A Special Guest and in this issue we have a contribution by H.E Mrs. Margit Hellwig-Boette – Consul General of Germany at Bangalore.

HCCD- India today has over 135 Members representing 95 Countries. This number is growing each quarter.

We welcome New Members to HCCD-India and look forward to welcoming many more in the months to come.

Warm Regards

**Surbhi Sharma**  
Associate Editor  
Honorary Consul of Spain

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### Margit Hellwig-Boette

Consul General of Germany

### History of Consuls

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

### Hon. Mr. Vikash Mittersain

Honorary Consul of Mali at Mumbai

### Hon. Mr. M. Sessa Sai

Honorary Consul of Seychelles at Chennai

### Hon. Mr. Apparao Venkata Mallavarapu

Honorary Consul of Brazil at Bangalore

### Hon Ms. Shabeena Sultana

Honorary Consul of Tunisia at Bangalore

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### FICAC BOD Meeting at BLED, Slovenia

1-4 September 2019



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## DELHI

National Day of Rwanda Celebrations were attended by many Honorary Consuls from Bangalore



Mr. K.L. Ganju, Consul General (Hy.) of Comoros with Ambassador of Morocco and Ms. Alka Lamba, M.L.A., Delhi Assembly during National Day celebration of Comoros.



Mr. K.L. Ganju, Consul General (Hy.) of Comoros & his wife with Chief Guest, Ambassador of Kazakhstan, Ambassador of Czech Republic and his wife during National Day celebration of Comoros.



Mr. K.L. Ganju, Consul General (Hy.) of Comoros with Chief Guest, Ambassador of Bhutan, Dr. Shovna Narayan, a world renowned dance guru & Dr. (Mrs.) G.K. Ganju during National Day celebration of Comoros.



Mr. K.L. Ganju, Consul General (Hy.) of Comoros with Hon'ble Mr. P. Bhaggeria, Hony. Consul of Maldives and Hon'ble Mr. Ashish Saraf, Hony. Consul of Bahamas during National Day celebration of Comoros.



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## NATION IN FOCUS - REPUBLIC OF KOREA



**JAGDIP SINGH**  
Honorary Consul General  
of the Republic of Korea,  
Chandigarh.

It is no exaggeration to say that South Korea is a land carved in beauty by the nature. This country's appeal extends far beyond its scenic beauty with ancient temples, tea plantations, trendy neighborhoods, and more than 3,000 offshore islands to explore.

Geographically, Korea has several mountains with various beautiful valleys and coastal plains. Down south is its famous island Chejudo and to its East is Ullungdo. Han, Kum and Naktong are three famous rivers that run through the country.

Since the end of the Korean War in 1953, the Republic of Korea has achieved rapid economic growth. The areas of strongest development are shipbuilding, semiconductors, consumer electronics and automobile industry.

Korean people are known for their endurance and dynamism. The Korean sense of humour is readily apparent not only in daily interactions but also in the nation's rich folk art. Favourite songs, often sung at the end of parties or dinners, have lilting sad melodies, pointing to the strong element of melancholy contained in the Korean character. Koreans tend to vent their feelings and emotions - be it exuberance or anger, delight or frustration.



Scenic night view of Seoul City

India shares a special relationship with Korea from the ancient times. Two thousand years ago, Princess Suritana of Ayodhya, also known as Heo Hwang-ok, travelled thousands of miles away to Korea on a boat after her father, the King of Ayodhya, had a divine revelation that his daughter was to be married to the Korean king.



She married King Kim-suro, the founder of Karak dynasty in 48 AD becoming the first queen of the dynasty. While hundreds of Koreans come to Ayodhya every year in March to visit their queen's memorial on her birth anniversary, in South Korea, her tomb is located in Kim Hae. There is a pagoda in front of the tomb and it is said that stones she brought from Ayodhya were used in its construction. The new memorial in Ayodhya will be located in the Queen Hu Park.

Korea has a rich cultural history. The Honorary Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Chandigarh works to showcase the rich Korean Culture depicted through their arts and dances in our part of the world. To take this effort further, the Honorary Consulate General of ROK in Chandigarh organized a Korean Cultural Evening in Chandigarh which was inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Shin Bong Kil, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea in India. The program was presented by a Korean Cultural Troup which had specially come from the home country to present the program. It was attended by about 1000 invitees which included high dignitaries, senior officials of the State Governments, Koreans staying in and around Chandigarh and a large number of



college students. The event received huge appreciation and was able to create a spirit of enquiry and interest in the rich Korean Culture. The Honorary Consulate General has planned a series of such events to enhance the understanding of our people to the ethos and nuances of the Korean Culture and History.

Contribution by Jagdip Singh, Honorary Consul General of The Republic of Korea, Chandigarh.



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The Honorary Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Hyderabad works on further improving the Korea- India relations by facilitating meetings that enable trade cooperation, economic associations and commercial transactions between Indian and Korean parties, provides expatriate grievances, and promotes educational and cross cultural pursuits under the Education and Information wing by conducting free Basic Korean Language courses for Korean enthusiasts in Hyderabad. There is an Educational help desk for students that wish to study in Korea's top Universities such as Hanguk University of Foreign Studies, Yonsei University and Seoul National University. Major Korean conglomerates such as Samsung, Hyundai Motors and LG have made significant investments in India, estimated at over \$4.43 billion (as of March 2017). Recently, Kia motors, a sister company of Hyundai Group, announced an investment of USD 1.1 billion and set up a manufacturing unit in Andhra Pradesh.



**SURESH CHUKKAPALLI**  
Honorary Consul General  
of the Republic of Korea

A huge part of the introduction of Korean culture is K-Pop. K-pop is an abbreviation for "Korean pop" which began gaining international attention under the name of "the Korean Wave" or "Hallyu" in Korean. Korean music, movies and TV shows have garnered massive attention and are a great way for the country to promote their culture. Korea's longest running non-verbal comedy & musical show – Cookin' NANTA is an apt representation of the creative amalgamation of traditional Korean percussion ensemble – Samulnori with a modern twist of driving upbeat rhythms that blend a Korean tempo with western style. The show involves acrobatics, magic tricks, comedy, pantomime and audience participation. The show was on tour in October – November 2018 and performed in various cities in India.



**Cookin' NANTA at Shilpakala Vedika, Hyderabad**

There is a lot of history that India and Korea share alike. Hyecho, a Buddhist monk from Silla, one of the Three Kingdoms of Korea, set out for India in 723 to acquaint himself with the language and culture of the land of the Buddha. Fascinated with his journey of India, Hyecho wrote a travelogue in Hanja named "Memoir of the pilgrimage to the five kingdoms of India"

ROK and ROI also share a common Liberation date. The two democracies fought against their colonial rulers and achieved Independence on 15th August, with a gap of two years, Korea in 1945 and India in 1947. Post India gaining its independence and Korea's bifurcation, both the countries were largely considered agrarian societies.

The relationship the two democracies share has made great strides in recent years and has become truly multidimensional, spurred by a significant convergence of interests, mutual goodwill and high-level exchanges. A 'Special Strategic Partnership', built on the foundations of deep-rooted historical and cultural bonds. Both the countries aim to work towards 'future oriented partnership for People, Prosperity and Peace.

Korea, widely famous as the Land of the Morning Calm or the Land of the Rising Sun is not only a country of scenic beauty, but also a centre of rich culture, trade and commerce and it possesses great potential.

Contribution by Suresh Chukkappalli, Honorary Consul General of The Republic of Korea, Hyderabad.



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## MUMBAI

### AROUND THE NATION - MUMBAI

The Terry Fox India Committee hosted a brunch on Sunday, 7th July 2019, for the donors who support cancer research and care at Tata Memorial Hospital.

Convened by Gul Kripalani, Honorary Consul General of Iceland, Diplomatic Corps collaborated with fashion designer Maheka Mirpuri for a unique show with Consul Generals from the Hungarian, Swedish, US, German, New Zealand, French and Canadian Consulates as well as TV actors who sashayed down the ramp in classic creations designed by Maheka.



Mr. Gul Kripalani with Priya Dutt & Maheka Mirpuri

While Rochelle Rao was the Master of Ceremonies, Manasi Scott and Sandip Soparkar enthralled the audience with their performances. Schubert's band regaled with music, with a special performance by Elvis impersonator Mehmood Curmally and a captivating performance by kathak dancer Aditi Bhagwat and flamenco artist Kunal Om.

Terry Fox was an amputee who ran across Canada to raise awareness about cancer affecting children before succumbing to the disease, and left a legacy for children around the world.

Since 21 years, the city-wide Terry Fox Run has been taking place in Mumbai, with just 300 children in its' first year to now over 7000 children from more than 50 schools.





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## CHENNAI

The 1st Board Meeting of HCCD-India was held at Chennai and a grand dinner was hosted by the members of the Chennai Chapter of HCCD-India.





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## SPECIAL FOCUS - LAKE ASSAL DJIBOUTI



**MAHESH SHETTY**  
Honorary Consul of  
Djibouti - Bangalore

The tiny African nation Djibouti is a gateway for one of the important shipping routes of the world. Port is the lifeline (major source of income) for the country. By its geographic location it gives proximity to many areas in Africa and Middle East, so provides prized location for

military and naval base to foreign countries including America, China and Japan. With 5 Ports and proposed new Air Port, Djibouti is poised for great economic growth in the coming years. Djibouti has natural wonderful untapped tourist spots, of which, Lake Assal would be a great example.

Lake Assal is a crater lake in Central-Western Djibouti. It is located in the western end of Gulf of Tadjoura, touching Dikhil Region, at the top of the Great Rift Valley, around 120 km West of Djibouti City. Lake Assal is a saline lake which lies 155 metres below sea level in the Afar Triangle, making it the lowest point on land in Africa and the third-lowest point on Earth after the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea. Lake Assal is the world's largest salt reserve. It is like Dead Sea, Lake Assal's high salinity has proven health benefits. Rich in Minerals like Magnesium, Calcium and Sulphur. Lake Assal's water can be used to cleanse, soothe and revitalize skin as well as treatment of ailments like Rheumatoid Arthritis.

Lake Assal's future is surely commercialization of Salt Extraction and also it will increase the revenue on Tourism. In 2015, Djibouti nominated Lake Assal for UNESCO as World Heritage.





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## BANGALORE

### AROUND THE NATION



National Day of Peru at Bangalore – H. E Ambassador with Honorary Consul Mr. Vikram Vishwanath



The Honorary Consulate of Tunisia was established at Bangalore. H.E Ambassador Mr. Nehmeddine Lakhel presenting the 'Exequatur' to Honorary Consul Mrs. Shabeen Sultana



Hon'ble Mr. K L Ganju – President HCCD-India was accorded a Warm Welcome by Bangalore Chapter



Latvian Ambassador to India H.E. Mr. Artis Bertulis along with Mr. K P Balasubramaniam, Hon. Consul for Latvia with the Chief Secretary of Karnataka, Honorable Mr. Vijay Bhaskar



Members of the Bangalore Chapter HCCD-India at the event



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## A SPECIAL GUEST



### **Margit Hellwig-Bötte**

Consul General of Germany

Germany and India have had a productive bilateral relationship for the last 60 years. We are partners in the United Nations and share common values on democracy and multi-lateralism. Together we fight climate change and build smart cities. This is why Germany supports the clean energy initiatives of the Indian government and is financing large-scale solar partnership projects to the tune of EUR 1 billion over the next five years. These transmission lines for green energy in seven selected states with high potentials in renewable energy will create "green corridors" through India.

Germany also supports India's Smart City Mission, especially in Coimbatore, Bhubaneswar and Kochi. In Kochi German companies have built the world's first airport fully powered by solar energy. This has reduced the carbon footprint by over 3 lakh metric tons, which is equivalent to planting three million trees.

At the German Consulate General in Bengaluru, we are actively engaged in the federal

states of Karnataka, with its more than 200 German companies, and Kerala, with about 70,000 German tourists every year.

Bengaluru is where the technological heart of India beats. It is a magnet to foreign investors, a vibrant, thriving and dynamic place full of scientists, researchers, start-ups and creative young people with business ideas - a megacity with plenty of opportunities and a spirit of entrepreneurship. This special background has inspired the Consulate and the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce (IGCC) in Bengaluru to create a platform called BIGSUN, the Bengaluru Indo-German Startup Network. BIGSUN is a win-win initiative for German companies and Indian start-ups. It fosters co-creation and co-innovation among German corporates and Bengaluru based start-ups, offers them easy access to the German market and gives them strong visibility in sector specific events. Combining the German dedication to hardware and engineering and the Indian passion for software, this will boost applications for AI, Industry 4.0 and smart manufacturing.

Besides the Indo-German Chamber of Commerce, the offices of 'Invest in Bavaria' and of the German Engineering Federation (VDMA) support and strengthen the German business presence in Bengaluru. Fraunhofer India brings in the aspect of applied research. The German Academic Exchange Service DAAD in Bengaluru and the German cultural institute Goethe-Institute / Max Mueller Bhavan, present in Bengaluru, Trivandrum and Kochi, make sure that the almost 18,000 Indian students at German universities are well prepared and proficient in the German language. These students will shape the future of our relations and foster Indo-German exchange. After all, as Nelson Mandela put it, "the youth of today are leaders of tomorrow".



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## NEWS FROM WORLD FEDERATION - FICAC

The 4th BOD Meeting of FICAC & South Eastern Europe Conference was held at Sofia, Bulgaria in June 2019.



The Board of Directors of FICAC Presented a citation to His Majesty King Simeon II, Former Prime Minister of Bulgaria.





## HISTORY OF CONSULS

Consular relations have been established between peoples since ancient times. The history of the consular function is largely associated with the development of international trade and the economic interest of States.

Tracing the history of consular functions, one comes across a classical term "Proxenos" which meant a citizen of a city state, who felt friendship towards another city state and therefore he voluntarily took up some of roles which are fulfilled, in present times, by Honorary Consuls, Proxenos also used all his contacts and influence to support friendship or alliance with the town which he voluntary represented-like for example, Cimon, a Proxenos of Sparta in Athens who operated there even before the outbreak of the first Peloponnesian War (460 BC-circa 445 BC), nearly 2500 years ago.

The origin of Honorary Consuls can be traced back to the 8th century, especially to China, India, and the Middle Eastern regions. In Europe, the origin of the consular institution takes us to ancient Greece where, in 12th Century, the first figure of the consul emerged and development to its present and more complex structure. The official Consular Corps was first established in France at the end of the 18th Century. Other states soon followed. The office of the honorary consul was originally sanctified by common law. The extraordinary increase of consulates during the 19th and 20th Centuries highlighted the need for a more precise legal framework, particularly concerning the consular service and the status of consuls.

After years of consultations and preliminary work, the United Nations Conference on Consular Relations met in Vienna (Austria) and adopted on April 24, 1963 the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations and two optional protocols. The Convention 'baptized' both categories of consuls, gave them a legal status, invested them with the

UN authority and gave them global reach and recognition. Over ninety countries as well as several international organizations attended the Conference. It came into force on 19 March 1967. To date, the Vienna Convention has been ratified by over 130 countries.

The Vienna Convention provides for two categories of consuls: Career consuls and Honorary consuls. The Convention does not define the Honorary consul. But it distinguishes between career consuls and honorary consuls in terms of legal status.

Career consuls are state officials employed by the sending country while Honorary consuls are public dignitaries-politicians, economists, personalities in the finance, banking, cultural field, law and other professions-with financial independence.

Honorary consuls are either citizens of the receiving States or of a third Country with permanent residency in the receiving States. They carry out the assigned mission in the "receiving States" in the interest of the "sending state" and their citizens. In accordance with international practice, Honorary consuls do not receive any regular payment or salary for their work. Honorary consuls do exactly the same work as career diplomats of the same rank. They are heads of missions. In fact, in capitals of the States, Honorary consuls act as Ambassadors.

Born nearly one thousand years before the official consular corps, it would not be wrong to hold the institution of Honorary consuls as the mother of consular service.

Having come out with flying colors in all climes and contingencies, the office of Honorary consul is once again experiencing a renaissance in the 21st Century, due partly to the continuous development of communication encompassing all areas of life and partly to the oft-witnessed



decline in the financial resources made available to the foreign services. The economic sense underlying their functioning has made Honorary consuls more and more sought after and has led to more and more Honorary consuls being appointed in preference over career consuls. They have earned high praise for their work from heads of states and governments.

After 'baptism' in 1963 of the Honorary consul arose the need for bonding & brotherhood of widely scattered and functionally self-centered consuls. This deeply felt need was fulfilled on 2nd October in 1982 when Federation International des Corps et Associations Consulaires-FICAC-(now also called World Federation of Consuls) was founded in Copenhagen by a small group of visionaries led by Consuls General Vagn Jespersen of Denmark. This body gave consuls of the world a much-needed forum to share experiences and co-ordinate efforts to enhance their status and effectiveness and to bring together Consular Associations and Corps from all around the globe.

Consuls are of two categories-career consuls and honorary consuls. In practical terms, the difference between a career consular officer and an honorary one is that the latter does not belong to the official diplomatic and consular cadre of the sending state. He is not a state-employee, and is a well-known and respectable citizen or permanent resident of the receiving state. Furthermore, service as an Honorary consul is usually not his or her main source of income.

An Honorary consul is normally appointed by countries who do not wish to spend substantial amounts required to position a career consul in the receiving States. Even for States with great financial capabilities, the increase of cultural, touristic, economic and trade relations with distant places of the world have rendered the performance of consular functions only through

diplomatic missions exceedingly difficult, due to the very nature of the fact that embassies are located only in the capitals of the receiving states while even the richest states may not be able to afford setting up consulates headed by career consuls in every important city of a receiving State where such offices may be required in their own interests.

Honorary consuls now exist in almost every country in the world. They are emerging as significant components of diplomatic power in the scheme of traditional diplomacy exercised from embassies. Appointing an Honorary consul saves them the cost of supporting staff and sending out their own citizens as full time diplomatic representatives abroad. Persons occupying the office of Honorary consul are well-respected persons in prominent social positions. They are established businessmen, captains of industry, well-reputed professionals and former bureaucrats of high caliber and level of their service is highly professional and in no way less than of career consuls.



*Proxena or Proxenia in ancient Greece was an arrangement whereby a citizen hosted foreign Ambassadors at his own expense, in return for Honorary titles from the State. The citizen was called proxenos or proxenos.*



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***\*World Bank***