

Club of Amsterdam

Taste of Diversity

# the future of **INDIA**

July 2008



Presentation by

**Rajindre Tewari**, Managing Director, Cordares Capital (APG Group) [▶ click to download](#)







**Taste of Diversity** is about creating greater awareness of **cultural diversity** and strengthening, promoting and sharing of cultural wealth. The idea of "intercultural dialogue" takes as its starting point the recognition of difference and multiplicity of the world in which we live. This year's focus is **the future of INDIA**.

► **Ram L. Lakhina**, Founder and Executive President of the Netherlands India Chamber of Commerce and Trade (NICCT)  
**India's Unity in Diversity: Relevance for The Netherlands**

Dramatic improvements in the means of transportation and communications have transformed the world into a global village. The process of globalization has greatly accelerated the movement of capital, products and persons around the world. This is resulting in enormous increase in cultural, demographic and social diversity in many parts of the world. In the absence of corresponding harmonization of global social norms and core values, cultural & social conflicts, tensions and instability are increasing rapidly.

During the last sixty years the demographic composition of The Netherlands has changed greatly due to substantial emigration of native population to North America and Australia and vast immigration of necessary workers from many countries, particularly Morocco, Turkey, Indonesia and Surinam. This has led to dramatic increase in diversity of cultures, religions and social norms along with the concomitant social conflicts and tensions. These trends are likely to accelerate further during the years to come.

India is a multiethnic, multicultural, multilingual, multiracial and multi-religious society. It is the oldest living civilization in the world. During its history of more than 3500 years it has absorbed numerous waves of invaders and immigrants along with their ethnic, racial, lingual, cultural and social diversity. To manage this vast diversity, to ensure stability, to live in harmony and to progress further, India has developed the concept of "unity in diversity". Indians from different parts of India may have different

racial features, may be speaking different languages, may be following different religions and may be eating different kinds of food but they have common core values. This concept of unity in diversity is a distinguishing feature of the Indian society and it has great relevance for the increasing diversity in The Netherlands and Europe.

► **Rajindre Tewari**, Managing Director, Cordares Capital (APG Group)

### **Can the Indian Elephant Dance? Highlights and Opportunities of the Indian Economy**

Economical Highlights & Roots of concern

The New capitalist society

Opportunities ahead

► **V. Subramanian**, Professor, School of Environmental Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India

Senior central government advisor on technology development and assessment

### **Water, Environment, Technology and Development**

India faces challenge in all these three fronts. It may appear we have plenty of water but the extreme nature of spread and distribution make it uneven in terms of availability and accessibility. In addition, more than 70% of all health related issues in India are water borne. Hence delivery of right quantity of right type of water is the utmost priority in any developmental activity. Due to pressure on land and natural resources, the external environment faces rather various degree of endanger related to air, water and soil. Urbanisation is growing fast and development of civic facility needs equally a fast action. While the general feeling of sustainability of development keeping in mind the totality of environment has been a governmental and social policy, there are several instances of mismatch leading to conflict - social, legal as well as political. The latest thinking on development is not just sustainability but that aspects and approach that will leave a very low carbon footprint. Responsible industrial investment will need to recognize this aspect while taking decisions so that only what is locally sustainable in the long run at the same time leave negligible carbon foot print should be attempted. While globalization has brought the world closer almost like borderless Western Europe this has also thrown open responsibility on each one to keep the environment clean for future generations as well. To quote Mahatma Gandhi, we have enough for everyone's needs but not for everybody's greed!

19:00 - 20:00

**Introduction** by our Moderator

► **Hedda Pahlson-Moller**, Managing Director, Evalueserve Benelux and Omnisource International

Welcome by the Embassy of India

**Part I:**

► **Ram L. Lakhina**, Founder and Executive President of the Netherlands India Chamber of Commerce and Trade (NICCT)

### **India's Unity in Diversity: Relevance for The Netherlands**

► **Rajindre Tewari**, Managing Director, Cordares Capital (APG Group)

### **Can the Indian Elephant Dance? Highlights and Opportunities of the Indian Economy**

► **V. Subramanian**, Professor, School of Environmental Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India

Senior central government advisor on technology development and assessment

### **Water, Environment, Technology and Development**

20:00 - 20:30

Coffee break with drinks and Indian snacks by Global Food Funatics

20:30 - 21:15

**Part II:** Open discussion

21:15 - 23:30

**Part III:** Indian dishes by Global Food Funatics, drinks by Kadarka, networking and socialising.



**Ram L. Lakhina**

Founder and Executive President of the Netherlands India Chamber of Commerce and Trade (NICCT)

Ram Lakhina has been espousing the interests of Non-resident Indians / People of Indian origin for more than thirty years. He was one of the pioneers in identifying NRIs/PIOs as a great national asset for India and in articulating the role which they can play in accelerating India's development.

In 1980 he created the Foundation for Critical Choices for India to mobilize intellectual and material resources of NRIs/PIOs for identifying critical problems facing India and for suggesting policy options for the solution of those problems. He was the President of the Foundation from 1983 to 1991 and then again from 1994 to 2003. He is the President Emeritus of this organization at present.

He was one of the founders of the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) and was its first Chairman from 1994 to 2002. He drafted the constitution of GOPIO and steered its adoption by the world body.

He is the founder and Executive President of the Netherlands India Chamber of Commerce and Trade (NICCT) from 2002 to date. Earlier he was the President of the Indo Dutch Chamber of Commerce from 1979 to 2001.

The publishers of "The Indian" based in Hong Kong have named Ram Lakhina as one of the "100 Global Indians- luminaries, achievers and entrepreneurs".  
[www.nicct.nl](http://www.nicct.nl)



**Rajindre ( Ryan) Tewari**

Managing Director, Cordares Capital (APG Group)

*Education*

B.A Social Sciences Delhi University & UFSIA (Antwerp University)

M.A. Organizational Studies (University of Leiden) specializing in transaction cost analysis of mergers and acquisitions.

NIBE - Banking Modules

CMA (Vrije University of Amsterdam)- Management Accounting

IFF (London)- Corporate Finance , Distressed Asset & Fund Management

Insead - Executive Management / Business Development

Various types of professional education (AMBI, NIVRA-modules)

*Business Expertise*

Business Strategy, Information Technology , Real Estate, Corporate Restructuring & Performance Improvement.

#### *Current Position*

Managing Director of Cordares Capital Shared Services & Key Account Management  
Associate of Access International Capital LLC, Investment Bankers (Boston)  
Advisor to the Board of IFCI Venture capital Ltd.  
President GOPIO Chapter Amsterdam (international lobbying group for Persons of Indian origin)  
Member of the Committee of Recommendation of the Seva Network Foundation  
Advisor to Indian Investment Banks & Corporate Groups in M&A/Private Equity Investments

*Former roles include:* Group Director & Global Head of IT of Eureko (Pan-European Financial Services Group), Director of Corporate Restructuring and CIO at Achmea (Insurance & Banking group in the Benelux and now part of Eureko) Managing consultant at Getronics, Manager of DCE Consultants Europe. Ryan Tewari has gained in depth experience in the course of his work in alliance management, corporate turnaround, portfolio investments & divestments as well as (international) M&A-projects.

[www.cordares.com](http://www.cordares.com)



#### **V. Subramanian**

Professor, School of Environmental Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India  
Focus on water, environment, energy and pollution.  
Also holds several committee/advisory membership in many governmental bodies

Got PhD from Northwestern University, USA and earlier spent one year at Yale University as Fulbright Scholar. Taught in McGill University, Canada before returning to India to join JNU in 1975. Have extensive collaboration in Europe with universities in Belgium, Germany, France, UK, Sweden and Finland. Had been visiting Faculty for variable duration in USA, Canada, UK, Sweden, Belgium, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia. Recently spent a semester at Hanse Institute of Advanced Study, Delmenhorst, Germany. Earlier involved in international programs with SCOPE (Scientific Committee on Problems of Environment), IGBP (International Geosphere Biosphere Program)

Has guided 32 PhD students over the years.

Chief Editor, international journal (Asian Journal of Water, Environment and Pollution)



#### **Hedda Pahlson-Moller**

Managing Director, Evalueserve Benelux and Omnisource International

Hedda Pahlson-Moller is Managing Director of the Outsourcing/Offshoring consultancy, Omnisource International, and serves as the Benelux Client Executive for Evalueserve - a global knowledge services company providing customized Business/Market and IP research and analytics services to leading edge clients worldwide. Evalueserve has a team of 1400+ professional researchers based in its operations centers in Gurgaon, India; Shanghai, China; and Valparaiso, Chile.

Hedda has a B.A. from Brown University (USA), a Masters in Political Science from Lund University, and an MBA from Copenhagen Business School. Hedda has lived around the globe and worked for the Swedish Embassy and the Japan Development Bank in Tokyo, the US Chamber of Commerce in

Berlin, the Centre for Science and Environment in India and spent 4 years at Hewlett-Packard's financial operations in Brussels and Grenoble.

She is Swedish-Canadian and has lived all over the world before settling in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, where she manages her businesses and teaches Entrepreneurship at Sacred Heart University, Luxembourg.

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