

Apeejay Surrendra Group announces the Winners of the 'Apeejay India Volunteer Awards 2011'

- A National Award to encourage volunteering and volunteer engaging organisations across India-

Delhi, 25th September, 2011: Apeejay Surrendra Group – the over 6000 crore business conglomerate operating primarily in the Tea, Hospitality, Shipping, Retail and Real Estate, today hosted the grand finale of the Apeejay India Volunteer Awards 2011 (AIVA), the first-of-its-kind national Award in India pioneered by the Group on its centenary, to reward commendable volunteering engagement and policies for individuals, NGOs and Corporates. Organised in association with iVolunteer and International Business Leaders Forum, the awards programme holds a special significance in its debut year when it coincides with the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the International Year of Volunteering globally by the United Nations. Shri Salman Khurshid - Hon'ble Union Minister for Law and Justice and Ministry of Minority Affairs presided over the programme as the Chief Guest and gave away the awards to the inspiring winners who competed in four main award categories – Volunteer of the Year, Youth Volunteer of the Year, Volunteer involving NGO of the Year and Employee Volunteering Program of the Year.

The winners and finalists present on the occasion were shortlisted from amongst hundreds of applications received regionally pan India, all with exemplary volunteering work to their credit. Eminent names like HSBC, IBM, GMR , Bharti Airtel , mjunction, TCS, Standard Chartered, Fidelity, Accenture and BD were the shortlisted in the Employee Volunteering Program of the Year category for the Corporates. NGOs like Dream a Dream, Operation Smile, Protsahan India Foundation, Salaam Baalak Trust, Vidya Poshak, Nishtha, Great Foundation and YP Foundation were among the shortlists in Volunteer Involving NGO of the Year category for NGOs. A host of individuals and youth volunteers who work tirelessly in different sectors of social development were shortlisted in the Volunteer of the Year and Youth Volunteer of the Year category. A distinguished national jury comprising Anshu Gupta , Founder - NGO Goonj, Indira Dasgupta, associated with Board of International Association of Volunteer Effort, Dr. Lalit Kumar, Secretary, National Foundation for Communal Harmony Ministry of Home Affairs & Joint Adviser (Voluntary Action) Planning Commission, Government of India and Sanjiv Kaura , CEO of the Corporate Social Responsibility division of Bennett, Coleman & Co. Ltd who serves a month every year as Lieutenant in The Territorial Army selected the proud winners of the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Karan Paul, Chairman, Apeejay Surrendra Group, said "This Centenary initiative is aligned with Apeejay's commitment towards societal development and takes our community engagement programme to the next level. We in Apeejay Surrendra Group have always endorsed socially responsible behavior and actions through our policies, social sector initiatives and various projects undertaken to improve the quality of life in the communities we operate in. Some years back we have incorporated an employee volunteering program under the banner of Individual social Responsibility (ISR) by which employees could undertake volunteering work, offering their time and skill to support causes. We are

And the award goes to.....

Volunteer of the Year:

RAM SUNDHER

Youth Volunteer of the Year:

VAISHNAVI SRINIVASAN

Volunteer involving NGO of the Year:

NISHTHA

OPERATION SMILE

Employee Volunteering Program of the Year:

MJUNCTION

HSBC INDIA

optimistic that Apeejay India Volunteer Awards will further strengthen this connect with the community and its participants will instill deep inspiration among the nationwide population in joining the force of change as volunteers.”

Flavia Pansieri, Executive Coordinator, United Nations Volunteers (UNV) in a video message sent from Bonn, Germany for the occasion said, “We at United Nations Volunteers Programme (UNV) are very pleased to learn that Apeejay Surrendra Group of India has created 2011 Apeejay India Volunteer Awards. We would like to congratulate them for this initiative and encourage other partners in the Private sector to follow their example.” She added that volunteering is an important expression of common humanity and empowers change at grassroot level upward.

AIVA was created to identify champions in volunteering in India, recognize volunteers and organizations engaged in volunteering, raise awareness, celebrate and promote this much needed effort and drive volunteering as a mainstream interest in Indians. The platform gains significance for the citizens of this nation, when India needs to look up to role models with a deep sense of responsibility to face several social issues hampering the growth of our country.

Please follow the link: www.indiavolunteerawards.com and get latest updates on face book

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Apeejay-India-Volunteer-Awards>

Notes to Editors:

Apeejay Surrendra Group:

Apeejay Surrendra Group, established in 1910, the over 6000 crore company employs close to 43000 people in rapidly expanding operations in Tea, Hospitality, Shipping, Retail, Real Estate and has diversified into new business initiatives like Logistics and Knowledge Parks. The Group completed its 100 years in 2010.

iVolunteer:

i Volunteer, is an initiative of MITRA, a not-for-profit organisation working in the social sector in India since 2001. iVolunteer offers a range of volunteering opportunities, running Centers across Indian cities for locally based volunteering. iVolunteer Overseas based in UK offers volunteering opportunities for those aspiring to volunteer outside India and for foreign nationals it runs the ICICI Fellows for 2 year volunteering assignments in India. iVolunteer is the recipient of the 2009 India NGO award.

International Business Leaders Forum, UK (IBLF):

Founded in 1990, IBLF is an independent, not-for-profit organisation working with leading global companies on responsible business solutions to sustainable development challenges. IBLF is supported by a network of over 85 multinational companies from Europe, America, Asia and the Middle East. These businesses are leaders in their sectors, and often in the fields of social and environmental accountability, community investment, stakeholder consultation and partnerships. Over the past two decades, IBLF has become widely respected by NGOs, companies, governments and global organisations for their neutrality, professionalism, thought leadership and reach.
