

AICC Franchise Expo to be held on Sunday, September 21st 2014

Financial incentives announced for small businesses

NEW YORK CITY (TIP): Asian Indian Chamber of Commerce (AICC), a New Jersey based representative body of Indian owned businesses, will offer interest free loans to winners of best business plans at its forthcoming 'Franchise Expo', scheduled to be held on 21st September at New Jersey Convention & Expo Center at Raritan Center in Edison, NJ.

"We are offering a total of \$30,000 as interest free loans to top three business plans which will be selected from submitted plans at the 'Start up Hub', a competitive project of the show", announced Anil Bansal, AICC president, who is also the chairman of Indus American Bank.

"The objective of 'Start up Hub' is to encourage fresh talent come forward with their plan for a business", he said adding that he wants them to succeed by giving them an opportunity to win interest free loans of \$15,000, \$10,000 and \$5,000."

AICC launched its first Franchise Seminar & Show in 2013 when several franchise companies specializing in food, child-care centers, tutoring centers, computer IT services, senior care, financial planning and staffing and employment services participated in the event.

"We decided to hold this show because we wished to understand franchising from a franchisee's point of view", said Anil Bansal. "It proved to be a perfect opportunity for franchisees and franchisors to network and share their experiences among themselves."

AICC held a kick off meeting for this year's Franchise Seminar & Show at the Consulate General of India in New York City where Ambassador Dnyaneshwar Mulay, Consul-General, appealed to entrepreneurs to share innovative ideas with their Indian counterparts.

Emphasizing the importance of investing in commerce and business for development of



Ambassador Dnyaneshwar Mulay lighting the ceremonial lamp to mark the launch of AICC 2nd Annual Franchise Expo. Also seen are board members of the association.



Ambassador Mulay addressed the gathering

India, Mr. Mulay said, "The need for transferring ideas and business concepts from USA to India has never been so important as it

is today because of the prevailing environment in India which is ideal for strengthening bilateral partnership between the two

countries."

Pointing out to opportunities for investing in new projects in India, he said, "Delegations of officials and business owners from various states of US should visit India to explore new investment opportunities."

Explaining the goal of the expo, Rajeev Krishna, event chair, said that the expo will provide a platform for entrepreneurs to meet and build relationships with small business owners. "They will benefit from each other's experience of owning and operating a small business and a long lasting relationship will develop."

He said that the expo offered varieties of opportunities for business owners, professionals and sponsors of the event. "The expo serves as a platform to showcase brand excellence and promotional opportunities for business owners. A number of workshops and marketing sessions have been organized during the show", he announced.

According to Nandini Menon, co-chair of the event, prospective franchisees can look forward to financing and marketing resources for their businesses while current franchisors can explore alternative financing and marketing resources.

AICC board members Priti Pandya Patel and Ilayas Quraishi also made presentations at the event. Elayne McClaine, Regional Director, NJ Small Business Development Center at Rutgers-New Brunswick, offered a variety of services including training and online technical assistance for entrepreneurs interested in start-ups and expansion programs.

Franchise owners and entrepreneurs may contact Rajeev Krishna by email at Rajeev@signsbytomorrow.com or by phone at 732-599-5726. They can also contact Divya Chadha at webmaster@aicc.net or 732-777-4666

(Based on a Press Release)

Liu and others call on MTA to avert transit Shutdown

QUEENS, NY (TIP): At a press conference, July 10, at the Bayside LIRR station, Democratic State Senate candidate and former City Council Transportation Chairman John Liu called on the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to reach a labor agreement to avert a shutdown in the coming days. Highlighting the fact that thousands of residents in the 11th Senate District would be adversely affected by a possible shutdown, Liu urged the MTA to find a resolution before the looming deadline.

"For neighborhoods that already have limited access to mass transit, a wholesale service shutdown will turn a difficult situation into a disaster for our communities. The MTA's failure to act in good faith is jeopardizing the safety and livelihood of hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers," said Democrat John Liu. "Moreover, the MTA's suggestions to the public to explore travel alternatives like 'telecommuting' is just simply appalling and out-of-touch. The MTA has twice ignored the rulings of an independent panel, hoping that if they ignore the problem someone else will clean up the

"The time for excuses and blame games is over. Commuters deserve a resolution now."

mess they created. The time for excuses and blame games is over, commuters demand and deserve a resolution now."

In a letter sent to MTA Chairman and CEO Thomas Prendergast, Liu blasted the agency for refusing to continue negotiations before the National Mediation Board. "Instead, MTA negotiators inexplicably announced that a settlement could not be reached and they would be seeking Congressional intervention, which then failed." Full text of the letter can be found below.

The MTA has not reached a resolution with the LIRR unions to avert a shutdown on July 20. A potential shutdown would affect approximately 300,000 daily riders.

"For the thousands of Queens commuters, it is critical that the MTA reach an agreement and avoid stranding our working families, businesses and LIRR employees," said Assemblywoman Nily Rozic whose district does not have subway access and

relies heavily on the nearby LIRR. "Expecting local residents to depend on overcrowded, inconsistent local and express bus service is not a viable option."

"A transit strike would be a great disservice to the people of this City," said Assemblymember David Weprin. "Thousands of commuters in my Assembly District rely on our public transportation system daily. I urge the MTA and union leaders to agree on fair terms as quickly as possible, as this transit strike must be avoided."

"It's our hope this issue is resolved as soon as possible without a strike," said Councilmember Paul Vallone. "Our district relies heavily on the Long Island Railroad for transportation within New York, and this would be a severe setback to our community."

"Residents of Bay Terrace and Bayside rely heavily on the LIRR to get to work, shop and as a means of transportation to get to New

York City's entertainment opportunities," said Phil Konigsberg of the Bay Terrace Community Alliance. "Their passage to and from the Bayside train station, as well as others along the corridor also stimulate the economy of the businesses that provide goods and services to the daily and weekend commuters. We need someone who represents this district to utilize their negotiating skills while having a precise financial background and understanding that can stop the looming strike before the deadline is reached."

"For many residents of Northeast Queens who travel to and from Manhattan, the LIRR is their only mass transit option," said Warren Schreiber, Co-President of the Presidents Co-op & Condo Council. "In Northeast Queens the LIRR is our subway. A LIRR shutdown would impose a heavy financial burden on commuters and merchants who depend on the railroad for their livelihood. All sides must bargain in good faith to reach an agreement that is fair to both LIRR employees and customers."