BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY: REPUBLICAN NATIONAL CONVENTION HEADS TO TAMPA BAY

In August 2012, nearly 45,000 visitors and convention-goers will descend on Tampa Bay for the Republican National Convention (RNC) to highlight the Republican Party and its official nominee. According to the local RNC Host Committee's website, "the direct spending impact for the Convention will total approximately $175 – $200 million. This does not take into account the economic "multiplier" effect which can equate to 2.5 times the actual amount of hard dollars spent."

The Indo-US Chamber of Commerce — a non-partisan organization with no mission or affiliation to any political party — encourages our members to take advantage of this event to garner the myriad of potential business opportunities. For example, it is estimated that "15,000 hotel rooms will be booked for each night of the Convention and more than 75 event venues are under contract." A recent article in the Tampa Bay Times states that "The GOP, its 56 state and territory delegations, plus major corporations, trade groups and big media companies are expected to book 75 Tampa Bay venues for parties. To host those parties, they'll need products or services in nearly 50 categories, from catering to electrical engineering to janitorial services to gift baskets."

The Indo-US Chamber has invited representatives from the local RNC Host Committee to speak to its members at our next business and networking meeting about the Convention and to discuss how local businesses can register and list their services through the Small Business Network initiative. In addition, the Chamber plans to host a series of tailored workshops for our members to cover the extensive application process, sign-up for a published directory of participating businesses, identify tangible business opportunities, and use our network and expertise for matchmaking efforts to your benefit. Based on the level of expressed interest from our members, these workshops will include guest speakers from the business development offices of Hillsborough and Pinellas counties who will discuss the registration and certification process as a small business enterprise (SBE) and women/minority business enterprise (WMBE).

Interested business entities must be located in and its owner must live in the following counties that comprise the Tampa Bay area: Hillsborough, Pinellas, Pasco, Polk or Manatee. Registration deadlines are quickly approaching and the directory of businesses goes online in April. We encourage you to attend our next monthly business and networking event on Wednesday March 21st featuring Matt Becker, Chief Operating Officer of the 2012 Tampa Bay Host Committee, Inc. to learn more about this opportunity.

INDO-US CHAMBER TIP OF THE MONTH: HOME AFFORDABLE REFINANCE PROGRAM (HARP)

If you're not behind on your mortgage payments but have been unable to get traditional refinancing because the value of your home has declined, you may be eligible to refinance through MHA's Home Affordable Refinance Program (HARP). HARP is designed to help you get a new, more affordable, and stable mortgage.

The HARP II program is specifically designed for homeowners who owe more that property value. For information on eligibility and program details, visit www.MakingHomeAffordable.gov or contact your loan servicer by calling the phone number listed on your mortgage statement

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RECAP: 3RD INDIA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

On February 17-20, the Indo-US Chamber of Commerce presented the 3rd India International Film Festival. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our volunteers and the following title sponsors who helped to make this event a resounding success:

- Main Event Sponsor: Homeowners Choice Insurance
- Opening Night Sponsor: The Westin Tampa Bay
- Closing Night Sponsor: Dr. Rao Emandi, Cancer Care Centers of Florida

INDO-US CHAMBER MISSION

"To provide an active forum in which Asian American professionals and business owners, through an exchange of ideas, with a unified voice, can communicate, interact, and secure a position within the business industry and become a source of inspiration by promoting professionalism and excellence through education and community involvement."

Attend the next Indo-US Chamber networking event for the opportunity to have your business highlighted in this space!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Monthly Business & Networking Meeting

Topic: What to Expect for the Republican National Convention

Speaker: Matt Becker, COO 2012 Tampa Bay Host Committee, Inc.

Date: Wednesday March 21, 2012

Time: 6:30PM - 8:30PM

Location: HCI Building 5300 W. Cypress Street, Tampa, FL 33607

This is a FREE event. Dinner will be served. No RSVP required.

KHAAS BAAT