

## RECAP: OCTOBER MONTHLY NETWORKING MEETING

BY SURAJ NAYEE, EDITOR@INDO-US.ORG

Our monthly business and networking meeting was held on Oct. 19 at the Wyndham Westshore. It featured keynote speaker Robert "Bob" J. Rohrlack Jr., President and CEO of The Greater Tampa Chamber of Commerce. Rohrlack's experience in the Chamber of Commerce industry includes program and financial management, incubator development, technology transfer, economic development and international trade.



Rohrlack spoke to our members about the role organizations such as *Leadership Tampa* (executives experiencing the region in an incredibly detailed way) and *Emerge Tampa Bay* (a program for young professionals to develop community leadership skills) have played in forming an integral role in defining the region's business identity and economic advocacy initiatives.

As former Senior Vice President of *Enterprise Florida* — a key public-private partnership driver for economic development — Rohrlack offered our members a unique perspective regarding current investment trends, funding opportunities, and policies at both local and state levels. By reiterating the intrinsic advantageous business environment that the Tampa Bay area has to offer, Rohrlack discussed the steps that his team has undertaken to attract and retain a greater corporate presence in the area, including a concerted effort to promote more international flights to Tampa International Airport in a bid to galvanize local and independent businesses.

At the conclusion of his presentation, Rohrlack took questions from audience members eager to learn more about the overall vision and direction of local economic activity, covering a wide swath of topics from contracting opportunities for entrepreneurs and small business owners to the debate over a possible relocation for the Tampa Bay Rays baseball team.

For more information, Bob Rohrlack can be contacted at [brohrlack@tampachamber.com](mailto:brohrlack@tampachamber.com)

## RECOMMENDED RESOURCE: U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION (SBA.GOV)

WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES

Have you ever wanted to start your own business? If you are a woman entrepreneur, there are many opportunities for you to start, grow and expand your business. We encourage you to visit the SBA Office of Women's Business Ownership to learn about new developments, which affect women entrepreneurs and to find out about valuable training opportunities SBA promotes.

SBA works with women's business centers, which provide in-person assistance and educational resources to help women start and grow successful small businesses. The SBA offers resources and materials to help you navigate:

- Business Assistance and Training
- Grants and Loans
- Government Contracting

You can read about more opportunities for women-owned small businesses by visiting <http://www.sba.gov/content/women-owned-businesses>

## 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."*

## 10TH ANNUAL GOLF INVITATIONAL

The Indo-US Chamber hosted its 10th Annual Golf Tournament on Oct. 7 at the Emerald Greens Golf & Country Club in Tampa, an immaculate facility owned and managed by board member Santosh Govindaraju.

The tournament, which serves as our annual fundraising event, attracted more than 100 golfers and was a resounding success. We would like to take this opportunity to once again thank our title corporate sponsors who contributed to an enjoyable afternoon by all in attendance:

- Emerald Greens Golf and Country Club
- Humana
- West Coast Radiology



## INDO-US CHAMBER SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT: FIFTH THIRD BANK



Andy Gangadharan, V.P., Private Bank Investments, Fifth Third Bank

Fifth Third Bank serves as a corporate sponsor and partner of the Indo-US Chamber of Commerce, with its "deep-rooted ties to philanthropy and community involvement."

According to Andy Gangadharan, Vice President of Private Bank Investments and an Indo-US Chamber member, "community outreach and empowerment are principles that are core to every employee at Fifth Third Bank." This is clearly evidenced from its involvement in the Tampa Bay area through 'Financial Literacy and Empowerment' initiatives and support of local organizations such as United Way and Metropolitan Ministries.

To strengthen ties between Indo-US Chamber members and Fifth Third Bank, Gangadharan adds, "It brings me immense pride and joy both as an associate of Fifth Third as well as a fellow Indian to recognize the important and invaluable strides and accomplishments that the South

Asian community has made within the Tampa Bay community at large. Consequently, Fifth Third Bank has proactively put into place a highly specialized and niche product mix specific to healthcare, retail business and IT solutions, some of the arenas where the South Asian community has flourished exponentially over the last decade."

"Fifth Third has been one of the major proponents of the Indo-US Chamber for several years now and is proud to not only be associated with this dynamic organization but to also be known as "The Friend of Indo-US." The future looks very bright for the Fifth Third Bank-Indo-US partnership. Great organizations and entrepreneurial professionals getting together to partner and collaborate with one another is what will ultimately drive success and sustainable growth in the future. Let's continue learning from the lessons of yesterday, implement and execute on the solutions for today and hold each other accountable for the results of tomorrow. This will be the key to strengthening our ties going forward."

Andy Gangadharan can be reached at [andy.gangadharan@53.com](mailto:andy.gangadharan@53.com) or call (813) 306-2548.

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

November Monthly Business and Networking Meeting

Wednesday, Nov. 16 • 6:30 p.m. onward  
Presenter: Hill Ward Henderson  
Topic: Financial Health and Analysis of the Current Economy  
Location: Wyndham Westshore (700 N. Westshore Blvd., Tampa, FL 33609)  
This is a FREE event. No RSVP required.

India International Film Festival (IIFF)  
Feb. 17-19, 2012 • Channelside Cinemas  
For more information go to <http://iifftampa.com/>

THANKS TO SAFFRON INDIAN CUISINE, CATERER OF THE INDO-US CHAMBER'S MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING:



10044 Cross Creek Blvd,  
Tampa FL 33647  
TEL : 813 600 3315  
FAX : 813 600 5409.  
MOBILE : 321 460 0788  
[conceptpsi@yahoo.com](mailto:conceptpsi@yahoo.com)

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