

# HARMONY

**BAPIO**  
British Association  
of Physicians of Indian Origin



The e-newsletter of BAPIO

Volume 3 Issue 9 December 2007

Vision without action is a daydream and action without vision is a nightmare— a Japanese proverb

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The New Year will mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Health Service, a unique institution providing free medical service to all its citizens at the point of need. We all are proud to be associated with it and privileged to work within the NHS.

Since its inception, doctors of Indian origin have made substantial contribution in making NHS a success

story. Not only have we provided the much required professional work force, but also made great savings for the tax payers. It is estimated that the present workforce of IMGs, trained and qualified abroad has saved the taxpayers in the region of £10bn. This is the sum UK would have spent to train 40,000 doctors!

It was a sad day in the history of the relationship between UK and Commonwealth when the Government declared that it preferred EU Graduates over the traditional friends of Britain such as the Commonwealth.

In the political expediency to prove a stricter 'immigration control' policy, the Government has shown no sensitivity to the damage it has caused to thousands of IMGs already in the United Kingdom. Thus the year has been dominated by efforts in creating political awareness and legal challenge.

BAPIO has grown in stature over the years by promoting educational events and supporting IMGs in enhancing their potential in career progression. The members of the 'Think-Tank' had a most constructive contribution in driving the policy and project wings of BAPIO.

NHS continues to be a great institution. India has also made huge progress in many fields since her independence. Now in the era of globalisation, there will be even more cooperation between the professionals in the two countries. We therefore decided to have a combined celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NHS and that of Independence of India. We are pleased to have the Indian High Commission, London as our partner in this venture.

I would like to thank the High Commissioner H. E. Kamlesh Sharma and his staff for the support and encouragement that they have given to BAPIO during the most sensitive period. I would also like to congratulate H. E. Kamlesh Sharma for being elected as the next Secretary General of the Commonwealth.

I am grateful of the Executive Committee for their support throughout the year. Special thanks to Raman Bedi, Chairman; Sateesh Mathew, Vice Chairman (Projects); Lakshman Raman, Vice Chairman (Policy); Buddhdev Pandya (Corporate Advisor) and Sajayan, Webmaster and Editor of Harmony for their contribution in making the wheels of the organisation run smoothly.

Wish you all Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Dr Ramesh Mehta  
President—BAPIO



**Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year**

## UPDATE JUDICIAL REVIEW

On 9<sup>th</sup> November, the Appeal Court ruled that Guidelines issued by the Department of Health regarding HSMP was illegal.

This meant that the HSMP holders will, for the purpose the next round of training recruitment, be treated equal to the graduates from the UK.

The three Judges also denied the DH leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

BAPIO had already proved that the Home Office had failed to conduct Race Equality Impact Assessment required by the Race Relations legislation in an early decision.

The DH has approached the House of Lords requesting them to approve leave of appeal to be heard by the Lords. This has been granted.

**Justice - One more hurdle !**

### HAVE YOU DONATED?

BAPIO is now gearing up to meet the final challenge in the House of Lords.

Despite the rulings of the High Court against the Department of Health, BAPIO members will have to face yet one more hurdle.

For more information, please visit  
[www.bapioaction.moonfruit.co.uk](http://www.bapioaction.moonfruit.co.uk)

Donations could be sent to: BAPIO,  
43 Hookhams Lane, Renhold, Bedford MK41 0JU.



INDIA

NHS



### BAPIO CONFERENCE

In partnership with the Indian High Commission British Association of Physicians of Indian Origin is celebrating 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NHS and Independence of India.

12<sup>th</sup> January 2008  
10am - 4pm

Royal College of Physicians  
Regents Park, London  
Details at [www.bapio.co.uk](http://www.bapio.co.uk)

**Have you paid your BAPIO membership fee?**

Membership application form can be downloaded at  
<http://www.bapio.co.uk>



**CELEBRATIONS**  
60th Anniversary

**India's Health Minister Hon Dr Anbumani Ramadoss is to be the Guest of Honour at the 60th Anniversary celebrations of the National Health Service and Independence of India on 12th January 2008.**



The event is jointly hosted by British Association of Physicians of Indian origin [BAPIO] and the Indian High Commission in London at a prestigious venue—The Royal College of Physicians in Regents Park, London.

Amongst the speakers to join the Minister would be H.E. Shri Kamlesh Sharma the Indian High commissioner; Lord Nigel Crisp, previous CEO of the NHS; Prof. Dame Carol Black chair Academy of Royal Colleges; Prof. Aneez Esmail; Prof. Dame Lesley Southgate; Prof. Janet Grant and Prof. Raj Bhopal.

Representatives from various statutory bodies and other IMG organisations are also expected to take part in the event. The celebration includes a day conference, followed by a celebrative dinner and cultural programme. Details are available at [www.bapio.co.uk](http://www.bapio.co.uk)

**EVENTS**

**BAPIO EVIDANCE TO HOUSE OF COMMONS SELECT COMMITTEE**

President of BAPIO gave written and verbal evidence to the House of Commons Health Select Committee on 13 Dec 07. More detail in the next issue.



**BAPIO CONFERENCES**  
September and October 2007



**AN AWARD FOR BAPIO**

Corporate Advisor of BAPIO, Mr Buddhdev Pandya MBE accepted the Social Enterprise Award 2007 on behalf of BAPIO President at a ceremony held at Hilton Hotel in October. BAPIO president was nominated for the award as head of the organisation by *Asian Lite* paper.



**BAPIO TO BE REPRESENTED AT GOPIO CONVENTION-DELHI**

BAPIOs' Corporate Advisor Mr Buddhdev Pandya MBE is invited to address a session at the convention of Global Organisation of People of Indian Origin due to be held on 6th and 7th January 2008. He will be speaking on Current Issues and Concerns, including the issues concerning visa regulations.

**Feedback & suggestions to Dr Sajayan**  
**Email: [sajayan@gmail.com](mailto:sajayan@gmail.com)**



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