

Nanotechies form the first national Indus Nanotechnology Association



US Nanotechies at the launch of The Indus Nanotechnology Association (TINA) in New York City. From left: Dr. Challa Kumar, Prof. Brij M. Moudgil, Dr. Thomas Abraham, Prof. P. Somasundaran, Dr. Ganesh Skandan and Prof. S.V. Babu.

NEW YORK (October 31, 2007) – Indian Americans are increasingly contributing to the new generation technologies and particularly in nanotechnology which is expected to transform our lives in a significant way. At a Nanotechnology and Nano-Bio Convergence conference organized in conjunction with Chem Show 2007 at the Javits Convention Center in New York City, of the 14 invited speakers, seven of them were Indian Americans from academic, research, government and industry.

The October 31st conference was organized by Dr. Thomas Abraham, President of INNOVATIVE Research and Products (iRAP), Inc., a Stamford, Conn. firm conducting industry and market analysis of new generation technologies.

Nanotechnology is being termed by many as the “next big thing” among the emerging technologies. Literally, “nano-” represents 0.000000001, or 10⁻⁹, an extremely small quantity with enormous implications for the miniaturization-driven technology of the twenty-first century. The US National Science Foundation has estimated the nanotechnology enabled market to reach \$1 trillion by 2015.

The keynote speaker was Prof. P. Somasundaran, LaVon Duddleson Krumb Professor of Mineral Engineering and Director, NSF Industry/University Cooperative Research Center for Novel

Surfactants, Columbia University, New York, NY who spoke on challenges in nanotechnology and opportunities for new materials.

With large number of Indian American professionals in the nanotechnology industry, a group of US Nanotechies have decided to form The Indus Nanotechnology Association (TINA), which will have not only entrepreneurs and businessmen, but also researchers, technologists and investors. Since the Nanotechnology along with related fields such as Nanomaterials, Nano-Bio Convergence, Nanoelectronics, Nanomedicine and other areas are growing leaps and bound, the Indian American group assembled at the conference felt that there are opportunities to organize this area for mutual benefits of its members.

The new group will provide a platform for Indian origin nanotechnology researchers, technologists, entrepreneurs and investors to exchange ideas and provide networking opportunities among the nanotechnology professionals so as to advance the field and create new areas of business. It will also create interactive and cooperative efforts between nanotechnology professionals and entrepreneurs living outside India with their counterparts in India. The new group will organize international and regional meetings to promote new technologies and to provide opportunities for technology

developers to meet with potential investors.

Other Indian American speakers included Dr. Brij Moudgil, Distinguished Professor and Alumni Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, and Director of Particle Engineering Research Center, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL; Prof. S.V. Babu, Director, Center for Advanced Materials processing (CAMP), Clarkson University, Clarkson, NY; Dr. Shubhas Malgan, Deputy Director, Office of Science and Engineering Laboratories, Center for Devices and Radiological Health of the US Food and Drug Administration; Prof. S.V. Babu, Director, Center for Advanced Materials processing (CAMP), Clarkson University, Clarkson, NY; Dr. Ganesh Skandan, CEO, NEI Corporation, Somerset, NJ; and Dr. Challa Kumar, Group Leader, Nanofabrication, Center for Advanced Microstructures and Devices, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA. Dr. Abraham also spoke on the emerging nanotechnology markets at the pre-conference workshops.

Contact The Indus Nanotechnology Association at P.O. Box 16760, Stamford, CT 06905-8760. The group's initiators are: Dr. Abraham, Prof. Somasundaran, Prof. Moudgil, Prof. Babu, Dr. Skandan and Dr. Kumar. It will be coordinated by Dr. Abraham at 203-569-7909, or Indus.nanotech@innoresearch.net. ■

Celebrate Diwali This Weekend

Every year, the South Asian community comes together to celebrate Diwali, a massively popular worldwide event that has a rich complexity in belief and meaning. Also known as the “Festival of Lights,” the five-day event begins on Friday, November 9. For some, it signals the New Year while for others, it represents a time for reflection and renewal.

The Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD) would like people to understand this important celebration and enrich their understanding of the cultural significance, Diwali, an annual five-day event observed in South Asia and around the world.

Diwali (also called Deepavali) – A major festival celebrated by people of Indian descent and is significant to people who follow Hinduism, Sikhism and Jainism. Diwali is one of the largest celebrations observed within the community. It is colloquially known as the “Festival of Lights.” Despite its Hindu origin, many people of South Asian descent enjoy the event for its cultural significance.

Observers of Diwali believe that the event represents celebrating



the victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance. These held ideals are believed to bring love, compassion and understanding. It would be a misconception to see all South Asians as one particular religion or faith. There is a diversity of beliefs within the South Asian community and Diwali transcends many of them as a cultural celebration. The event symbolizes the celebration of life and an opportunity to strengthen family and social relationships. It has

been predominantly a religious celebration for the Hindu community and its recognition of the New Year. However, it has gradually evolved into a cultural event that a majority of South Asians celebrate regardless of faith or religious background in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Tibet.

The Festival of Lights includes the custom of lighting lamps to represent hope for humankind. Diwali also guarantees fireworks, lights, flowers and sweets. Participants wear new clothing on the day of to signify the renewal of life. Families gather to celebrate the holiday.

The landscape of race and ethnicity in the United States continues to evolve and growth trends have increasingly become more visible. According to data from the 2000 U.S. Census, the South Asian community is one of the country's largest Asian populations with close to 2 Million claiming South Asian descent. Because of this growth, there is now more coverage on the South Asian community and its culture. www.glaad.org Rep. Neil Abercrombie (HI-01) ■

Profile of Cambodian Americans

By Mark E. Pfeifer, PhD

In September 2007, the U.S. Census Bureau released 2006 American Community Survey (ACS) figures for Cambodian Americans. The ACS data are now being released annually. It should be noted that the survey is only given to a sample of the U.S. population as opposed to the census which is intended to be administered to all U.S. households every 10 years. Despite this weakness, the availability of annual ACS data does provide for the first time a wealth of frequently updated data pertaining to racial, ethnic, and ancestral groups in the United States including Cambodian-Americans.

The top 10 states for Cambodian Americans according to the 2006 ACS were California (86,700), Massachusetts (22,106), Washington (13,055), Texas (11,646), Minnesota (7,790), Pennsylvania (6,787), Virginia (6,153), New York (5,720), Rhode Island (5,030), and Georgia (4,592).

The total estimated Cambodian population in the U.S. according to the 2006 ACS was 238,943.

The 2006 ACS estimates that the median age of Cambodian-Americans was 25.9 years (compared to about 36 years among all Americans). The average size of Cambodian households was 3.90 persons compared to 2.6 among the entire U.S. population. According to the 2006 ACS figures, the percentage of Cambodian Americans with a Bachelor's Degree was 11.0% compared to 17.1% among the entire American population. The 2006 ACS figures show that about 24% of foreign-born Cambodians arrived in the U.S. after 1990 while of the population came to the U.S. before this time.

About 80% of Cambodian-Americans reported speaking a language other than English at home. In addition, the 2006 ACS

figures show a concentration of Cambodian-Americans in Manufacturing jobs (Production, Transportation, and Materials Moving Occupations), and Sales and Office Occupations. The enumerated 2006 ACS data put the median Cambodian-American family income at \$47,000. The poverty rate among Cambodian-American families was 16%. The 2006 ACS also makes apparent the ongoing gains of Cambodian-Americans in homeownership. A majority of Cambodian households now own their own homes (52.9%).

Mark E. Pfeifer, PhD is an academic librarian at Texas A and M University in Corpus Christi. He is the author of *Hmong-Related Works: 1996-2006, an Annotated Bibliography* (2007, Scarecrow Press). He is also editor of the *Hmong Studies Journal* (www.hmongstudies.org) E-mail editor@hmongstudies.org ■

CAPAC applauds Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act

WASHINGTON, D.C. (October 24, 2007) – Speaker Nancy Pelosi joined the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) in commending the House for passing H.R. 505, the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act of 2007. The bill passed by a vote of 261-153.

The legislation would take another step in the reconciliation process by providing Native Hawaiians the same right of self-governance and self-determination that are afforded to other indigenous peoples. Since the illegal overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii in 1893, Native Hawaiians have continued to suffer more than a century of injustice. This includes neglect and abuse of Native Hawaiian entitlements and civil rights by the United States.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (CA-08), said she was pleased that the House passed the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act, and “formally creating a path to self-determination is critical to the preservation of Native Hawaiian history and culture,” she said. “Our diversity is our strength. Allowing a process for the indigenous people of Hawaii to be federally recognized makes our nation stronger.”

Congressman Michael M. Honda (CA-15), and CAPAC Chair, said the passage of the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act “is a step towards resolving the injustice put upon the indigenous people of Hawaii for over a century.”

“As CAPAC continues our commitment in ensuring fundamental fairness for Native Hawaiians, we call upon the Senate and the President to ensure safe passage of this important piece of legislation,” Honda added.

Two Hawaiian Congressman, Rep. Neil Abercrombie (HI-01) and Rep. Mazie Hirono (HI-02), were both pleased with the legislation making its way through Congress.

“It's highly appropriate that today's House vote to approve the Native Hawaiian Government Reorganization Act was the 1000th vote of the Democratic-led 110th Congress,” said Representative Abercrombie, who sponsored the House bill. “We've made significant progress in promoting individual opportunity and self-determination; none more important than the Akaka Bill.”

Rep. Hirono added that the vote “reaffirms that Native Hawaiians, as

the indigenous, native people of Hawaii, are entitled to the same rights for self-determination as are American Indians and Alaska Natives.”

“I am very proud to have had the opportunity to co-introduce this bill and to argue for it on the floor of the U.S. House,” Hirono added. “The resounding vote supporting passage shows that the majority recognize that justice for Native Hawaiians is long overdue. This is a victory for all the people of Hawaii and our nation. I appreciate the support for this legislation by Chairman Mike Honda and the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.”

The Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) is comprised of Members of Congress of Asian and Pacific Islander descent and members who have a strong dedication to promoting the well-being of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. ■



Rep. Neil Abercrombie (HI-01), the bill's sponsor.

Cambodian Population Estimates - 2006 American Community Survey

California – 86,700
 Massachusetts – 22,106
 Washington – 13,055
 Texas – 11,646
 Minnesota – 7,790
 Pennsylvania – 6,787
 Virginia – 6,153
 New York – 5,720
 Rhode Island – 5,030
 Georgia – 4,592
 Ohio – 4,586
 Florida – 3,752
 Illinois – 2,839
 Maryland – 2,827
 Oregon – 2,819
 Tennessee – 2,808
 Michigan – 2,298
 North Carolina – 2,105
 Connecticut – 1,968
 Utah – 1,799
 Colorado – 1,771
 Indiana – 1,342
 Arizona – 1,308
 Louisiana – 1,187
 Iowa – 1,006
 Nebraska – 917
 Missouri – 863
 New Jersey – 821
 Nevada – 766
 Alabama – 559
 Kansas – 541
 Oklahoma – 460
 Alaska – 407
 South Carolina – 350
 Wisconsin – 345
 New Hampshire – 286
 Hawaii – 63
 Arkansas – 0
 District of Columbia – 0
 Wyoming – NA
 Puerto Rico – NA

Cambodian Profile: 2006 American Community Survey (Total U.S. Population Figures in Parentheses)

Total U.S. Population: 238,943

Median Age: 25.9 (36.4)

Average Household Size: 3.90 Persons (2.61)

Divorce Rate (Persons 15 Years and Over): 6.1% (10.5%)

Educational Attainment (Persons 25 Years and Over)
 Bachelor's Degree: 11.0% (17.1%)
 Graduate or Professional Degree: 2.6% (9.9%)

Period of Arrival in U.S.
 Entered 2000 or later: 11.3%
 Entered 1990 to 1999: 13.1%
 Entered before 1990: 75.6%

Language Spoken at Home (Persons 5 Years and Over)
 English Only: 19.8%
 Language Other than English: 80.2%
 Speak English - Less than Very Well: 42.4%

Occupation (Civilian employed population 16 Years and Over)
 Management, Professional and Related Occupations: 20.2% (34.0%)
 Service Occupations: 18.9% (16.5%)
 Sales and Office Occupations: 27.8% (25.9%)
 Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations: 0.1% (0.7%)
 Construction, Extraction, Maintenance, and Repair: 6.3% (10.0%)
 Production, Transportation, and Material Moving: 26.6% (13.0%)

Income
 Median Family Income: \$47,136 (\$58,526)
 Poverty Rate (All Families): 16.4% (9.8%)

Housing Tenure
 Owner Occupied Housing Units: 52.9% (67.3%)
 Renter Occupied Housing Units: 47.1% (32.7%)

Source Data Set: 2006 American Community Survey: 2006 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau.