PRESS RELEASE

BUSINESS SEMINARS IN COBÁN and Petén ON DECEMBER 16 & 19, 2024

The Embassy of India in Guatemala, in collaboration with the Municipality of Cobán and Petén, organized two Business Seminars in Cobán and Peten on December 16 and 19 respectively. Unlike the majority of business seminars that are typically conducted in Guatemala City, this event marked a significant outreach effort aimed at engaging local stakeholders in Cobán and Peten. The initiative was designed to connect directly with regional businesses, government officials, and the wider community, fostering closer ties and encouraging inclusive development across Guatemala.

2. Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, in his addresses at both the places, highlighted India's emergence as a global economic powerhouse and underscored its commitment to fostering strong bilateral relations with Guatemala. He emphasized India's growing infrastructure development and its potential to support Cobán and Peten and other regions in Guatemala through collaboration in technology, renewable energy, and capacity building. The Ambassador also spoke about the Solar Mama initiative and India's pioneering role in empowering communities by training local Guatemalans in solar technology. Ambassador extended gratitude to the general public of Coban for their support in successful organization of health camp.

3. During the Business Seminar on 16 December, Governor Mauricio José Acevedo Sandoval of Petén commended the Embassy of India for its efforts to extend its outreach to Petén through the Indian Film Festival and other initiatives. He expressed his admiration for India’s cultural richness and technological advancements, emphasizing how such interactions strengthen the ties between the two nations. The Governor highlighted Petén’s potential for development in areas such as sustainable tourism, renewable energy, and capacity building, and he welcomed India’s expertise and investment in these sectors. He encouraged local stakeholders to take advantage of the opportunities presented during the festival and to explore avenues for collaboration with Indian enterprises and institutions. The Governor concluded by expressing his commitment to fostering partnerships that contribute to the holistic development of Petén.

4. During the Business Seminar on 19 December, Mr. Felipe Pop, Mayor of Cobán, expressed his gratitude to the Embassy of India for selecting Cobán as the venue for this important seminar. He appreciated the focus on regional development and highlighted the opportunities for Cobán to benefit from India's expertise in infrastructure, technology, and sustainable

practices. He encouraged local businesses and government representatives to explore collaborations that could lead to transformative growth in the region. Governor Fernando Rodríguez Klarck of Cobán welcomed the initiative by the Embassy of India to organize the Business Seminar and the Indian Film Festival in the region. He praised India's efforts to reach out to local stakeholders in Cobán, emphasizing the importance of inclusive development and mutual learning. The Governor highlighted the potential for collaborations in areas such as renewable energy, education, and infrastructure, which align with the region's development goals.

5. Both the seminars featured a comprehensive presentation by Ambassador Dr. Manoj Kumar Mohapatra, which detailed India's robust economic growth and advancements in infrastructure development. The presentation emphasized India's rapidly growing economy and its potential to contribute to the development of regions like Cobán. Ambassador Mohapatra highlighted recent investments by Indian companies in Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, such as the proposed introduction of 5G technology by Jio Platforms Ltd. in El Salvador and Honduras. He also discussed proposed infrastructure projects, including the construction of a 22-kilometer metro railway line in El Salvador, the supply of 1,500 buses, and the development of cable car systems. Further, the presentations outlined five significant infrastructure projects in Xela, focusing on areas such as waste management, solar energy initiatives, and enhancements to public transportation systems. A special emphasis was placed on the Solar Mama initiative, a program that empowers Guatemalan women through specialized training in solar technology conducted in India. The Ambassador also shared information about various ITEC courses, underscoring India's commitment to capacity building and skill development in Guatemala. This comprehensive approach showcased the diverse ways India's expertise and resources can support sustainable growth and innovation in Cobán and Peten and beyond.

6. As part of its commitment to community support and development, the Embassy of India donated essential medicines to the foundation led by Mr. Erick Borrondo, a Guatemalan Olympic medalist, in Cobán. This gesture aimed to strengthen the foundation's efforts in providing healthcare assistance to underprivileged communities in the region. The donation not only highlighted India's focus on humanitarian collaboration but also symbolized the strengthening bonds of friendship between India and Guatemala. Mr. Borrondo expressed his gratitude for the Embassy's generous support, which will significantly contribute to improving the well-being of local residents.

7. In addition to the Business Seminar, the Embassy of India celebrated the Indian Film Festival 2024 by screening Hindi movies in Cobán and Petén. This initiative was aimed at showcasing the rich cultural heritage of

India and strengthening cultural ties between India and Guatemala. The screenings attracted a diverse audience, including local residents, government officials, and members of the business community, who experienced the vibrancy of Indian cinema and its universal themes of love, resilience, and unity. In Cobán, the festival was organized in collaboration with the local municipality, and it provided an engaging cultural experience for attendees. Similarly, in Petén, the event was warmly received, with audiences expressing great interest in Indian culture and the global appeal of Bollywood films.

8. The Business Seminar in Cobán and Petén were a successful endeavor, providing a platform for fruitful dialogue between Indian representatives and local stakeholders. By extending its outreach beyond Guatemala City, the Embassy of India has demonstrated its dedication to fostering inclusive growth and regional development. The seminar has paved the way for potential collaborations, leveraging India's economic strengths and technological advancements to support sustainable development in Cobán and Petén and other regions of Guatemala.

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Coban, Guatemala, 23 December 2024