

Skål International calls on young Indian travel professionals to enroll

SANJEEV BHAR – New Delhi

The Skål Delhi Club recently hosted the 40th Skål Asia Congress with the theme linking business with friends worldwide. On the sidelines of the event, Skål International president – Tony Boyle remarked, “Skål Delhi was formed in 1954 and since then it has become a force to reckon with. It has grown on to become the third largest club of travel and tourism professionals. As Skål International views it, India has become a strong tourism player and has been improving on its infrastructure which definitely makes it on track with tourism demands.” While Skål International, representing 450 clubs with 19,000 members from 86 countries, is promoting business opportunities based on friendship, fellowship and camaraderie among each other, it is also keen on inviting young travel professionals to join the Young Skål Club and then elevate them to Skål Club as active members. “Without participation



Tony Boyle

of young travel professionals, this association cannot survive and we are encouraging young Indians in the travel trade to join in,” said Gerald (Gerry) S A Perez, president Skål Asia. “Tourism and aviation is growing the fastest in Asia and Skål members in India need to discover the ‘Incredible India’ in its sense of places, focus on best tourism practices and increase the network of professionals,” he added.



Sheila Dikshit

Addressing the Congress, chief minister of Delhi, Sheila Dikshit highlighted that Indians, by nature of their social fabric, are natural travellers. “India is one of the most exciting countries where each aspect of life has been given importance, be it culture and festivities, languages, rich crafts to literature, calligraphy, paintings, philosophy to its diverse flora and fauna – all of which contribute to the country’s

diverse lifestyle.” “At the same time, we are progressing and building a sound infrastructure to offer these unforgettable experiences of the land and would like Skål International members to discover these facets and present it to the entire world,” she added. Jitendar Bir Singh, president for Skål Delhi and president & CEO for InterGlobe Technology Quotient informed, “Skål Delhi has grown from strength to strength with around 200 members and, in all, India boasts 10 clubs in different cities accounting to around 500 members, making it third largest in membership list. We do see immense scope to nurture tourism business through friendship and convert the working relationship at regional level and global level. This Congress helped us evaluate the challenges and identify the scope ahead to build business through friendship.” Skål International will hold its Annual Congress in Turku, Finland during September this year and expects 1000 delegates from 62 countries. ■