

Malayalee Engineers' Association
Houston, Texas.

www.meahouston.org

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February 2010

Happy New Year!

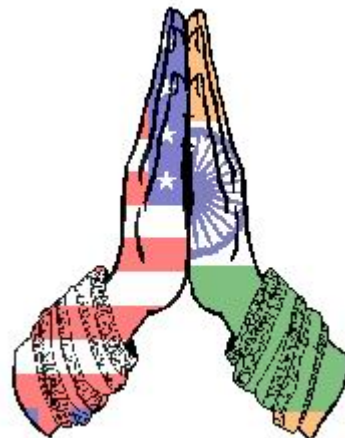
The MEA2009 committee would like to thank all our members, patrons, friends and well wishers for supporting MEA in all its endeavors throughout the years. Please remain actively involved with MEA and make 2010 another memorable year of our membership-experience.

The Year in Review:

Technology Seminar

Fall Outdoor-event & GBM

Scholarship Fundraiser



Scholarship Project Update

Committee 2010

Outlook 2010

Membership Drive 2010

Spring Outdoor Event: 04/10/10, 11:00AM - 4:30PM. @ Bayland Park near Hillcroft area

<http://www.pct3.hctx.net/parks/bayland.aspx>.

MEA PROMOTIONAL NITE: 05/08/10 at Stafford Civic Center.

President: Krishna Kumar Valiyatodi
Communications: Harish Pillai

MEA BOD for 2010
Secretary: Sanjay Poduval

Treasurer: Abraham John
Events: Sudhir Padmanabhan

2009: The Year in Review...

The 2009-BOD would like to express our gratitude to all our friends and family for their dedicated efforts in making 2009 another successful year for MEA. It was a great honor to share the journey with you all and we hope you had a wonderful year with us!

Our spring and Fall Picnics were well attended and proved to be great fun for the entire family. On the food front, we had "barbeque", "kappa & mean". Members' enjoyed several games and other usual events. We also had General Body Meetings where by-laws were amended to include Trustees and new MEA members were elected for various responsibilities

The Cultural Evening was another grand success, a 'sold out' event (almost 300 tickets sold!) that showcased the many talented people in our membership-family. We organized a well-received Seminar at Rice University with support of Jesu Joseph.

Our website now has been updated with great new looks and organization. Harish Pillai is the volunteer web-master who maintains our online-content. We had 109 paid members in 2009. We have also been able to keep the ball rolling with our Scholarship Program, which is completing the first decade since its inception. It is a matter of tremendous achievement that the MEA-community has been able to retain its results-oriented focus and simple efficiency to make it the model to follow, in its class of programs.

We had many challenges during the past year with schedules and resources but because of your active and selfless volunteering, we could organize a few great events and maintain the momentum in our Scholarship Project. Thank You!

MEA Technology Seminar

A Technology Forum was organized jointly by MEA and The Rice University Jones Graduate School of Business on September 9th, 2009. The event was well attended and well appreciated by all. Prof. Ajayan Pulickel presented a seminar on Nanotechnology, followed by a discussion on 'The Next Net- Automating Thought' led by Joseph Pally, CEO of Z Cubes. MEA has been continuing with its tradition of engineering seminars at local universities and at colleges in Kerala. We have had good success in the past with our mission of getting industry-experts to do short seminars in Kerala, utilizing the visits of our own members with their friends and family in Kerala. We hope to build and expand on this outreach goal in the years to come.

Fall Outdoor-event and GBM

We had a great day of wonderful family-fun activities and good food at our outdoor-event on October 24th, 2009, at the George Bush Park in West Houston.

A General Body Meeting was called to order during the event when the Board of Directors for 2010 and the current year's Scholarship Evaluation Committee were elected. The Financial Statements to date were also presented.

Scholarship Fundraiser

Our dedicated team of members and their spouses put together a historic fund raising event on Dec 5th 2009 at the warm & friendly atmosphere of Udipi Restaurant on FM 1960, Houston. We had an evening of good music and fine dinner in this gathering of the extended MEA family and friends who came together to proudly support the cause that has provided critical support to many well-deserving engineering students in Kerala.

This year we have Nine Sponsors for Full Scholarships, of which 5 of them are MEA & MEANT members. Two of this year's Sponsors have shown great commitment by contributing a second time now. Over 45 of our members contributed to scholarship fund that helped to collect a net fund of about \$8000 in addition to the full scholarship sponsors. Our friends from Austin have also joined us with their contribution. We are in the process of leveraging 'Employee Contribution Matching Grants' with some major US corporations, thanks to our 501-c3 status.



Music at the Fundraiser Dinner.

Hats off to Sudhir, Sushama, Rani, Shiny & Kanchana along with all others who worked hard to make the event a success!

Scholarship Project Update

The Scholarship Evaluation Committee has been hard at work evaluating the deluge of applications (over 500) that we received in 2009. The short-listed candidates are being verified for a final list of awardees now. We are planning to make 10 awards this year to qualified candidates. Karun Nair, Jesu Joseph, Sojan Antony, K.P. Subrahmanian and Thomas Mathew made the Evaluation Committee and completed the great job of selecting the short list of 16 candidates

We've had 27 students that we were supporting, in 2009. Kindly take a moment to consider how you can take an active role in supporting the project's functional aspects. We need to find mentors for the students that we support- members who are able to guide and inspire them in their courses, projects and career-options please sign up. We also need to re-develop our network of contacts throughout Kerala who can provide us with timely verification of candidate-data (maybe as simple as a general assessment of a student's financial status). If you have friends / family who can help with this, please contact us!

Committee 2010

Here are the able volunteers who have undertaken to take on the strenuous but rewarding challenge of moving MEA forward through the year 2010:

Krishna Kumar Valiyatodi, President.
Sanjay Poduval, Secretary.
Abraham John, Treasurer.
Sudhir Padmanabhan, Events Director.
Harish Pillai, Communications Director.

Please give them your active support in making 2010 another memorable year for the MEA membership-experience!

Outlook 2010

Just a sneak-peek at some of the events chalked for this year:

- The Spring Picnic is scheduled for April 10th, 2010. Bayland Park, 6400 Bissonnet Street, Houston, Texas 77074
- MEA Promotional NITE has been scheduled for May 8th, 2010 at the Stafford Civic Center. We are in the process of working out a format for the same. Your creative ideas are most welcome!

2010 marks over a decade of achievements for MEA, after the initial launch of its Scholarship Project. It is indeed a remarkable feat that the organization has remained true to its simple ideals of community-service and has provided a great forum for Malayalee Engineers in the Houston area to come together and put in the hard work and provide other resources necessary year after year with a sense of kinship and goodwill. The MEANT, Dallas along with the Austin based Malayalee engineers are working with us in this great effort. Malayalee engineers in New York, Chicago, Toronto and other Cities are now communicating with us for various matters. Let us continue to grow and flourish in this pure spirit of friendship & cooperation, in the years to come.

Membership Drive 2010

It's a new year and it means its time to renew your membership with MEA! Thanks to all who have sent in their checks already. While it is great that we reached a 'century' in membership for 2009, we need to carry the momentum forward and make sure that we have a broad membership-base.. Together, we can make it. Kindly use the form below or print it from our website and mail it with a check of \$30 to

**Abraham John,
5911 Mesa Brook Lane,
Houston, TX 77041**

MEA Houston: 2010 Membership Form

Name: _____ Email: _____

Home Address: _____

Tel# (home): _____ (work / cell): _____

Employer: _____

Hometown in Kerala: _____

Volunteer Help Needed! (1) Volunteer as a mentor in our Scholarship Project? Y__ N__

(2) Help with scholarship candidate-verification utilizing your contacts in Kerala? Y__ N__

(Kindly contact the Scholarship Coordinator or a Committee-member for additional information if needed)

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All MEA members will receive a 5% special discount on shopping \$ 50 or more at the store until December 31, 2009.

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MEA THANKS ALL ITS SPONSORS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR THE NEWSLETTER.



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