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### **EC MEMBER**

KUMAR PIRAMANAYAGAM C S RAMAKRISHNA

# Association of Retired IOB's Employees

(Affiliated to AIBPARC)

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12<sup>th</sup> September 2014 Chennai.

# XI Annual Conference a Grand Success Thank You Comrades!

Dear Comrades,

The rise of ARISE to the top has been proved beyond doubt on 7th September 2014. The inaugural function of the conference was webcast live. The same was viewed globally by the membership and the fraternity. This is the first time a conference is being webcast live by an organisation for retirees. The webcast is available in our website www.thearise.org as video on demand and it can be viewed by the members. Though the conference was webcast live the attendance of the conference broke all previous records by leagues. The hall and even the shamiana erected outside could not hold the assembly of members. The strength of ARISE, the commitment of its members, the trust the members reposed in the leadership and the confidence of leadership were all in full sight for everyone to see. Not a single member and not a single invitee left the conference hall till the whole session was over. Members from all cadres attended in good strength and there was bonhomie everywhere. Every speaker spoke on issues relevant and of interest to the retirees. No wonder there was rapt attention while the speeches were made. We are flooded with calls and mails from all over the country and abroad appreciating and giving accolades to the organizers for the successful conduct of the conference. Comrades, we owe our gratitude only to you for the success. We have to acknowledge with appreciation the great efforts put in by our central unit office bearers Com.S.Thyagarajan, Com.N.Sekhar, Com.P.Krishnaraj, Com.V.Rajagopal, Com.Kumar Piramanayagam and Com.T.Iyanar. Com.K.V.Acharya, our Vice President & President AIBPARC and Com.M.R.Gopinatha Rao, our Vice President descended at Chennai days before the conference inspiring the organizers and inspecting minute details to ensure successful conduct of the conference. We also thank the office bearers of ARISE across the country who led members from the length and breadth of the country. We have proved that like the tri colour flag, the flag of ARISE also flies from Kashmir to Kanyakumari.

Comrades, the inaugural session started at 10.30 a.m. with an invocation rendered by Ms.Aravinda, daughter of Mr.M.S.Rangarajan, staff of IOBOA in her melodious voice. Before the inaugural session, the General Secretary's report was presented to the august forum.

Shri.R.Krishnan, (Former General Manager, IOB), Chairman of the Reception Committee delivered the welcome speech in his inimitable style giving graphic description of everyone on the dais. He expressed that the momentous growth of ARISE was due to its broad foundation made up of not only the speakers from ARISE on the dais but also of many other activists and office bearers at the field level across the country. While welcoming the advisors, he reminisced over the contributions to the bank by Shri.A.Namasivayam and Shri.A.S.Sabharwal. The reputation built by Shri.A.Namasivayam, (Former ED of our bank) was such that IOB minus Namasivayam was unthinkable in those days.

Comperer Ms.Rukmani, Officer, IOB, PRD Department introduced every speaker with grace and style and gave a brief yet excellent account of the speech made by them.

Your General Secretary in his welcome address expressed his gratitude to the Advisors, special invitees, Executive Directors, other Executives and all members of every cadre and office bearers of IOBOA and affiliates for their presence. He elaborated on the statutory rights in Pension Regulations like Reg. No. 35 for Pension updation, Principle based on Fundamental Right to Equality enunciated in D.S. NAKARA's case to be applied for 100% DA neutralization, RBI Pension Scheme's improvement in family pension to be applied in Banks too and improved medical benefits scheme as obtaining in Central Government. He exposed the falsehood of the IBA's outrageous estimate of cost of these benefits. He exhorted the IBA to change its mindset as the IBA was well aware that the cost of all these benefits was well within the paying capacity of the banks.

The welcome address was followed by speech delivered by Com. Elangovan our member and former Member of Parliament who helped us liaise with other Parliamentarians and Ministers of UPA regime. He assured that he would continue to place his contacts and influence at the disposal of ARISE and AIBPARC to help realization of the issues of retirees. It was a reassuring speech and this optimism continued throughout in all speeches that followed.

The former Parliamentarian was followed by the doyen of Bank Trade Union Movement Com. S.R.Sengupta, General Secretary-AIBPARC who delivered the inaugural speech in his inimitable incisive style. In his inaugural address Com.S.R.Sengupta elaborated on the issues before the retirees, the organizational activities carried out towards resolution of these issues and the need to fight with resolve. In a magnanimous gesture he paid rich encomiums to ARISE and its membership saying that by attending the conference of ARISE he always gets rejuvenated and becomes more confident about translating AIBPARC's objectives into accomplishments.

After inaugural address the conference was inaugurated by lighting the lamp by Shri.A.Namasivayam and Shri.A.S.Sabharwal, our Chief Advisors. It was followed by felicitation with adorning of shawls and presentation of books as mementos to our Chief Advisors, General Secretary of AIBPARC, our Executive Directors Mr. A.D.M. Chavali and Mr.Atul Agarwal, our Patrons Com.K.Anandakumar, General Secretary, IOBOA and Com.J.D.Sharma, President IOBOA, and Com. Chandrasekeran, T.N.State Secretary of AIBPARC.

The Chief Guest A.D.M. Chavali, and an uncompromising banker, in his address wished ARISE grows in size and stature and inspired by its organizing capabilities witnessed with his own eyes, he promised that he would become member of ARISE on his retirement which is only a few months away. He was followed by the other scholarly Executive Director Shri.Atul Agarwal.

Shri Atul Agarwal spoke with sympathy about the concerns of retirees and about the necessity of retirees' organisations to address those concerns.

Your President gave a very brief but poignant speech about the need to strengthen ARISE. He was followed by Com.K.V.Acharya, President AIBPARC, Vice President ARISE. In an electrifying speech in his thunderous voice Com K.V.Acharya effusing confidence assured realization of major demands of Pension Updation, 100% DA Neutralization and Improved Family Pension in the shortest time than the members would anticipate. The speech was so inspiring and confident that most members felt that they have already received these benefits.

Next our Patrons Com.J.D.Sharma and Com.K.Anandakumar in that order delivered the Patrons' greetings each in his own and beautiful style. Com.J.D.Sharma spoke about the need to strengthen the organisation ARISE and AIBPARC. Com.Anandakumar, Chairman of Negotiating Committee of AIBOC gave a description about the developments in the wage revision talks. Both the patrons as top level functionaries of AIBOC assured that retirees' issues like pension updation, 100% D A neutralization, increase in family pension and adequate medical benefits would form part of wage negotiation and all issues will be resolved to the satisfaction of retirees. We are thankful to our Patrons as our membership would not have grown to the present size but for the patronage of IOBOA.

The last speaker Com.Chandrasekhar, TN State Secretary of AIBPARC (Former President of Indian Bank Officers' Federation) urged in a speech mixed with wit and humour that an organization has to be like a tiger and not like a goat else the organisation will also meet the fate of a sacrificed goat. While justice may be had from Courts enabling us get our entitlements like Pension Updation and 100% D A neutralization but many may not be alive to enjoy the fruits of the Court verdicts because of frustratingly long duration of litigations in our country.

The meeting concluded with vote of thanks delivered in poetic style by Com.M.R.Gopinatha Rao, Vice President, ARISE and he showered flowery fitting tributes of gratitude to all those who made the inaugural conference successful. He made a special mention about the valuable cooperation / support extended by all central unit office bearers of IOBOA & IOBOA Staff. He also thanked Com.V. Kumaresan, Vice President, IOBOA for his active involvement in making the conference a grand success.

The inaugural session also witnessed a solemn duty performed by ARISE which as a true off-spring of AIBOC believes in 'Nation First Organization Next and Individual Last.' Major Mukund Varadarajan succumbed to the injuries in the fight against terrorists in Kashmir who tried to destroy democracy. Trained to Kill and prepared to die Major Mukund Varadarajan killed the terrorists before succumbing to his injuries. The son of Mr.Varadarajan, our member, died but Mother India gave birth to a martyr on that fateful day. A humble citation from ARISE was read by Com. Uma Subramanian, Senior DGS of IOBOA and a memento was presented by the dignitaries on the dais and Amar Major Mukund's photo was unveiled. His father delivered a heart-rending speech.

After the inaugural session the members broke for lunch. It was hard to participate in a brain-storming delegate session after a delicious meal. But the interest of the members in ARISE was such that the post-lunch Delegate Session too witnessed great assembly of members in full strength. Many members spoke about the problems in REMAS claims and some have even made suggestions to improve the claim settlement. On the whole, members expressed satisfaction over the functioning of ARISE at the Central Unit, credit for which has to go largely to Com.S.Thyagarajan and his team guided by your President. Your General Secretary replied the queries of members and thereafter on the President tabling the General Secretary's report and Accounts the same were unanimously approved by the General Council.

General Council has also approved after much deliberation that the Bye-law be amended to provide for life membership as an option where a member can become life member by paying one time subscription of Rs.6000 in lieu of monthly subscription of Rs.50. The rationale for fixing Rs.6000 as life membership subscription is that assuming an average of 10 years' membership at Rs.50 p.m for the first 5 years and Rs.100 for the next 5 years the total subscription for 10 years is Rs.9000 and at 1/3 discount for upfront payment, the life membership has been fixed at Rs.6000. The corpus from life membership will not be normally used for day to day expenses but only its interest income will be used to meet revenue expenditure. We request more members opt for life membership.

The general council has identified some Regional Coordinators for some of the districts / regions and the names of such coordinators will be published in our next circular.

The vote of thanks was rendered by Com. K.V.Acharya. Before delivering Vote of Thanks, he dwelt in detail the issues involved, the steps being carried out by AIBPARC and the goal in sight and urged the members to be prepared to fill Jantar Mantar yet again if needed to reach our goal.

The XI Annual Conference concluded successfully.

Yours comradely

(K.S. RENGARAJAN)
President

(S.B.C. KARUNAKARAN)
General Secretary

### **ERRATA**

In our handout 'Things to know for IOB retirees':

- 1. Page No. 5 first line commutation factor for age 53 to be read as 57
- 2. Page No. 8 second line 24 years to be read as 24 hours

ARISE ZINDABAD!

AIBPARC ZINDABAD!!

OUR 11<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE ZINDABAD!!!