



Intergovernmental Institution for the use of Micro-algae Spirulina Against Malnutrition

With Consultative Observer status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council

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IIMSAM's Goodwill Ambassador Mr. George Hara visits the Republic of India to facilitate Spirulina initiatives across the globe to eradicate malnutrition



(Standing from Left to Right- Mr. D.C. Joshi; Mr. Somenath Ghosh, Chairman & Managing Director, NRDC; Ambassador George Hara; Ms. Aya Nakauchi, IIMSAM Liaison Officer-Japan & Ambassador Manish Uprety)

[UN Headquarters, New York, 18th December 2007] IIMSAM's Ambassador Mr. George Hara and his team visited the Republic of India from the 11th – 16th of December, 2007, to facilitate mechanisms for Spirulina Initiatives that would be actuated by the organisation from the year 2008 onwards across the globe to eradicate malnutrition, achieve food security and bridge the health divide. Ambassador Hara is a leading venture capitalist from Japan and a fore-runner in post-computer technologies (PUC) who is also the Prime Minister's Special Commissioner on Tax-Reforms and an Adviser to the Finance Minister of Japan.

The official visit was facilitated by Ambassador Mr. Manish Uprety and the delegation met with the National Research and Development Corporation (NRDC), Government of India that along with the Shri A M M Muruguppa Foundation, Chennai, would provide necessary technology and support structures to the IIMSAM to establish Spirulina plants. The delegation visited Spirulina plants in Nagpur and also met with Mr. Tushar Gandhi, great grandson of Mahatma Gandhi and IIMSAM's Goodwill Ambassador who heads the Mahatma Gandhi Foundation in Mumbai. The Republic of India is a priority area for the IIMSAM where it would initiate Spirulina programmes to counter malnutrition along with the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Mahatma Gandhi Foundation, and The Indian Network of People living with HIV/AIDS, in the year 2008. Ambassador Hara is the key agency to facilitate the Spirulina programmes by building partnership of the IIMSAM with various stakeholders in Japan including the Japanese government , the economic, and civil society.

H.E. Remigio Maradona, Director General, IIMSAM stated- I am confident that the initiatives undertaken by Ambassador Hara would be a significant one to address an agendum that needs convergence and synergies of efforts by the international community on a priority basis. We need a collaborative effort from various quarters to realise a world free of hunger and malnutrition; and to achieve the UN MDG's. IIMSAM's initiatives in India would provide us with a learning experience that would be utilised in our future approaches to counter various deprivations associated with malnutrition through Spirulina.