

Be the change you want to see

Apeejay Surrendra Group announces the Apeejay India Volunteer Awards 2011

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To encourage volunteering and volunteer engaging organisations in India, Apeejay Surrendra Group on Thursday organised an interactive session titled 'The Future of Volunteering — Be the change you want to see' at The Park.

The panel included eminent personalities from the city such as Dr Meena K Jain, chairperson for Child Welfare Committee Government of Karnataka; Vishal Talreja, co-founder and executive director of Dream A Dream; Vijay Ladha, program director of Make A Wish Foundation of India; Prarthana Unkalkar Kaul, head - East and South iVolunteer; Renu Kakkar, vice president, Corporate Communications, Apeejay Surrendra Group; and Harish Bijoor, CEO Harish Bijoor Consults Inc.

The session was followed by the announcement of Apeejay India Volunteer Awards 2011 (AIVA), in association with i-Volunteer



(L-R) Renu Kakkar, Prarthana Unkalkar Kaul, Dr Meena K Jain and Vishal Talreja

and International Business Leaders Forum, UK (IBLF). AIVA is a national recognition focused on rewarding volunteering and volunteer engaging corporate and NGOs. The awards hold a special significance in its commencement this year since the United Nations is celebrating the 10th anniversary of the International Year

of Volunteering globally.

AIVA aims to identify champions in volunteering in India, recognise volunteers and organisations engaged in volunteering, raise awareness, celebrate and promote this much needed effort and drive volunteering as a mainstream interest in Indians.

Speaking on the occasion,

Renu Kakkar, said, "This initiative takes Apeejay Surrendra Group's commitment to and engagement with the community to the next level. In 2009, we approved an employee Volunteering program under the banner of Individual social Responsibility (ISR) by which employees could undertake volunteering work,

offering their time and skill to support causes. AIVA will strengthen our connect with the community and inspire the nation to join the force of change as volunteers."

"The awards will promote volunteering as a powerful force in India's development by sharing inspiring examples of volunteering in action," said Amanda Bowman, director, corporate partner relations, International Business Leaders Forum.

Various awards — Volunteer of the Year, Youth Volunteer of the Year, Employee Volunteering Program of the Year and Volunteer Involving NGO of the Year — will be given to individuals, corporates and NGOs.

The awards competition will be held regionally in four zones of India, with shortlisted candidates being eligible for the national round of selections. The grand finale will be held in New Delhi in August 2011, and judged by a prominent national jury.

To apply visit www.india-volunteerawards.com.