



Guiding Team

Convener:

Vipul Patel
484-664-9420
Abhinav Dwivedi
484-664-9420
Nainan Desai
813-931-7442

Host:

Braham Aggarwal
Dr. Durgarao Parimi
Dr. Sadhana Ramcharran
Dr. Pawan Rattan
Prakhar Agarwal
Bhitti Patel
Aruna D. Mehta
Pt Vishnu Hardowar

USA:

Abhaya Asthana
Amit Mehta
Hiranya Gowda
Kaushik Joshi
Krishna Kirti Das
Kumar Dave
Maithili Lee Bachu
Nangali S. Srinivasa
Navin Kadakia
Padma Kuppa
Ram Hardowar
Ram Suchdev
Ravi Joshi
Sanjay Mehta
Sant Gupta
Sharma Tadepalli
Sudershan Pasupuleti
Surendra Pandey
Umesh Shukla

Canada:

Hemant Parekh
Budhendra Doobay
Dwarka Persaud
Ramesh Gosyne
Ramnarine Sahadeo
Ravi Subramanian
Roopnauth Sharma

HMEC 2014 - Call For Papers and Participation

Enhancing Hindu Community Through Mandirs

Register Online at: www.myhmec.com

Namaste

On behalf of the Program Committee, it is our pleasure to invite you to participate in the 8th Hindu Mandir Executives' Conference 2014 (HMEC 2014), Sept 19-21, 2014 to be held in Orlando, Florida.

The theme of the conference is: **"The Role of Temples in Hindu Education."**

At HMEC 2014 you will deliberate on ways of ensuring the sustenance of Hindu Dharma in North America and explore avenues for expanding mandirs' roles to meet the ever-changing needs of our community. Your enthusiastic support contributed immensely towards making the previous seven conferences of high quality. We plan to continue that tradition this year.

The program being developed will be filled with inspiring talks and discussions. We will have ample opportunity of networking with our peers from other Hindu Temples nationwide, develop long-lasting friendships and share common goals and aspirations for our future generations.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Keynote Addresses ▪ Exhibitions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Plenary Sessions ▪ Workshops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Panel Discussions ▪ Poster Sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Parallel Tracks: Seva and Outreach, Education, Temple Operations, Youth Programs, Arts & Culture
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We come together from many walks of life, bringing with us varied experiences and points of view. It is this diversity which makes these conferences as successful as they have been. You are invited to offer your experience and wisdom in specific areas, for everyone else's benefit. Contributing as:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A youth speaker ▪ A panelist 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A speaker ▪ A poster presenter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A session chair ▪ An author 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A sponsor ▪ Workshop organizer
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We join together as one and share and listen to each other's stories, opinions and experiences. It is our hope that each one of us may take several new concepts from this conference and implement in advancing the growth of the respective temples. If you would like to contribute in any of the above roles please contact:

Vipul Patel, PhD HMEC 2014 484-664-9420 patelvipulk@gmail.com	Abhinav Dwivedi HMEC 2014 484-664-9420 abhinav@hua.edu	Nainan Desai HMEC 2014 813-931-7442 uc9n9n@gmail.com
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We are confident that participating in this conference will be a rewarding experience for you. Thank you once again for your interest and we look forward to working with you in the coming months in developing the program.

HMEC 2014 Program Committee

Conference Theme: "The Role of Temples in Hindu Education."

Proposed Session Topics, Subjects & Issues

(Partial List)

Hindu Temples/Institutions are an important nucleus of our community. In the context of Education, the role of temples is to leverage the talent, knowledge and skill base of the devotees, inspire them and constructively engage the entire community in supporting these programs at the temples and other institutions.

Proposed sessions, topics include but not limited to:

- Inaugural Session
- HMEC Closure Session

Temples: Center of Learning

- Living as a Hindu: Hindu Life Style – Self Study, Yoga, Meditation
- Framework for Hindu Value and Continuing Education Programs for: Priests, Parents, Children, Elders, Community
- Spectrum of education material:
 - Different segments of the community, Different levels, Different age groups
 - Temple Tour (Real & Virtual) Series, Hindu Dharma Essentials, Hindu Deities (HUA)
- National Institutions for Promoting Art/Music/Dance/Languages
- Holistic Models for Health and Nutrition
- Hindu Chaplaincy Program for community and colleges
- Community Needs: One place to go for social needs (e.g. Habitat for Humanity)
- Samskrit Classes in High Schools and Colleges; On-line certification
- Case Studies – success stories

Models of Engagement

- Inward and Outward Focus: Internal (temple), External (outreach)
- Caribbean experience: Keys to success & sustainability
- Integrating adhyatma with practical living
- Role of the Mother: Hindu Women's Views on Education (Panel Discussion)
- Promotion and Protecting: Things we can do locally/individually: Things we can do globally/collectively (e.g. attack on Hindus, sponsoring a village)

Youth

- Youth: Cultivating young Hindu Ambassadors
- Youth Guidance: (Panel Discussion)
 - Drawing youth to the temple
 - Arming Against Pitfalls
 - Why am I a Hindu: Hindu Identity
 - Sports, activities, "hang out" space
- Interfaith marriage: creating a support structure
- Respect for systematic education on Rituals; Mantras, Poojas, Homas on DVD, I phone Apps

Implementation – Internal

- Creating Remote (Extension) Educational Centers at Temples – HUA
- Hindu Awareness Yatra – Lecture Tours by Scholars
- Training Programs for Priest and Others
- Long term strategy of Hindu Temples
- Collaborating with Astrams; Cow Sanctuaries; Organic Growers (Tulsi)

- Explaining the annual religious activities programs at the temples
- Metrics for success of temple operations: spiritual metrics, education programs
- Media: Using media effectively to educate & communicate

Implementation - External

- Creating Remote (Extension) Educational Centers at College Campuses – HUA
- Producing documentaries (engaging directors, producers); Animation, 3D and other techniques
- Educating the Main Stream about Hindu Tradition and History
 - Pracharaks , Ambassador: Hindus representing Hindu Dharma at different forums
 - Outreach: Temple community outreach to Interfaith, colleges, visits
 - In-reach: Bringing the community to Temple, temple tours, College/High School students

Correcting Misrepresentations

- Non Hindu Professors who teach Hinduism (Panel Discussion)
- Working with Schools, Universities
- Engaging Policy Makers – Public Face
- Educating Other Faith Groups
- Engaging Text Book Publishing Companies in Americas (HAF)

Developing Collective Infrastructure

- Hindu Libraries
- Accelerating pace and volume of quality “Authentic,” “Peer Reviewed” Hindu Publications (especially for children) – Drive this (Hinduism Today and others)
- Supporting Publishing Houses – Geeta Press, ACK, Rupa, ..
- Technology Infusion – effectively & wisely
- Developing Common Teaching Material: documentaries, books, aids
- Distribution, Clearing House System for Education Material

Project Updates:

- Hindu Mandir Priest Conference May 2014
- **Hindu Chaplaincy Initiative**
- Seva Diwas - Blood Drive through Temples
- World Hindu Congress in 2014
- Vanaprasthi Network (Serving Our Senior Citizens)
- Mandir Bal Vihar Network Conference

Parallel Sessions and Workshops

- Education – Young, Yuva & Adults
- Temple Operations, Management & Administration
- Outreach to Surrounding Communities
- Library Book Project – India Unveiled
- Teaching Sanskrit to Yuva and Adults

Other ways to participate in HMEC 2014

- Poster Sessions
- Contribution of Articles and Abstracts to Mandir Vani (Conference Souvenir)
- Booths – Limited to Promotion (and sale) of Hindu and Temple Centric Material
- Arrange Small Group Meetings to develop action plans, etc.

Hindu Mandir Executives' Conference · An Initiative of VHP of America

www.myhmec.com · P.O. Box 611, Iselin, NJ 08830 · (732)-744-0851 · hmec-1@vhp-america.org