



Indian Diaspora Council

Indian Diaspora Council International

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**IDC Convenes Discussion on “Indians in Malaysia”
July 27, 2019 in New York by Datuk Dr. Denison Jayasooria**

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The International Diaspora Council International (IDC) convened a special presentation and interactive discussion on Indians in Malaysia by Datuk Dr. Denison Jayasooria of Malaysia. The event was held on Saturday, July 27, 2019 at Richmond Hill Library on Hillside Avenue in Richmond Hill, New York.

The theme of Dr Jayasooria’s PowerPoint presentation at the IDC hosted event was “POST - GE14 **Malaysia & Indian Concerns in Malaysia**”, followed by an informative audience interactive discussion.

Datuk Dr Denison Jayasooria is the Principal Research Fellow at the Institute of Ethnic Studies (KITA), National University of Malaysia (UKM) & Secretary-General of PROHAM (Society for the Promotion of Human Rights). He was in New York as lead presenter at several conferences held at the United Nations. Dr. Jayasooria was honoured in 2017 by the United Nations for his contribution to the mobilisation of different stakeholders, particularly representatives of vulnerable groups, towards ensuring inclusion and participation in Sustainable Development Goals in Malaysia.

Following a welcome by IDC president Ashook Ramsaran and invocation by Pt Santram Dukhbhanjan, Dr Sharla Khargi presented a welcome garland to Dr. Jayasooria.

Dr. Jayasooria’s presentation focused on: Malaysia & Indians with Malaysia as:

A multi ethnic society - Malays, Chinese, Indians and others;

A multi religious society - Muslim, Buddhist, Hindus, Christians, Sikhs

A multi lingual society - Malaya, English, Tamil, Mandarin

A multi-cultural society – a vibrant cultural diversity

Based on the 2010 Census Report, there are 1.9 million Malaysian Indians out of a population of 28.3 million (about 8% of the population). About 80% of Malaysian Indians can trace their origin to Tamil Nadu in India. While much progress has been made, there are challenges relating to minority issues, inclusivity, and poverty.

Attendees’ observations and question ranged from Indian migratory history to comparisons of Indian indentureship to Malaysia with other countries, such as Caribbean, Mauritius, Fiji and South Africa, where Indians were brought under the Indian Indentureship period.

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Indian Diaspora Council International (IDC), established in 1997, is an international non-profit organization with global affiliates and membership in 21 countries with the objective to embrace, engage, and enhance the shared heritage, aspirations, and interests of persons of Indian origin with optimum inclusivity.



Datuk Dr. Denison Jayasooria



Presentation of IDC Memento by Dr. Sharla Khargi & Peter Persaud



*Standing (l-r): Robert Mahase, Ronald Lochan, Santram Dukhbhanjan, Ashook Ramsaran, Peter Persaud and Naidoo Veerapen
Seated (l-r): Dr. Dhanpaul Narine, Dr, Sharla Khargi & Datuk Dr. Denison Jayasooria*