

THE MEMON

Mohammed
FAROOQ

The Corporate Man



THE MEMON

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Mohammed Farooq

"I cannot vividly recall the day my father died. I was very young and still studying in school. But I distinctly remember the hardships we faced after we lost him. I remember the undaunted courage, my mother displayed in trying circumstances. Her firm resolve that all her children must pursue their education. I remember doing odd jobs to pay for night school, receiving my Masters in Businesses Administration and scaling the greatest heights of success in both the corporate and business world."

Today, when I help an underprivileged mother with a sewing machine or present a less fortunate family with an auto rickshaw, the objective remains the same. I enable them to earn a living, to provide their child with an education.

I can relate to the trials and tribulations of a resolute mother. I clearly understand her need to make those umpteen sacrifices to educate her children. And I can finally grasp the true meaning of those immortal words spoken by the great Nelson Mandela. "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Because I am it's living embodiment!"



MEMON INDUSTRIAL AND TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

A project of World Memon Organization

“Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day, but teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime”

So runs an old adage. Even in the inclement moral, ethical and spiritual climate of today, there is nothing that can cap the effervescence of compassion and time and again, we get to experience something so surreal and extraordinary that it restores our trust in good old-natured humanity; **MITI is one such hallmark.**



MR. SOLLY NOOR - WMO PRESIDENT VISITS MITI

With the growing human populace and the ever so rapidly, depleting resources, the country's youth is left unattended, unwelcome and unemployed. World Memon Organization has left no stone unturned to nurture society; be it education, business, sports or culture and **MITI is one of WMO's most prized projects.** MITI was launched as a program to curb the alarmingly, increasing rate of unemployment and since its inception, it has yielded unprecedented results. With entrants and incumbents registering in thousands, the success of this social welfare initiative is self explanatory.



NATIONAL VOCATIONAL & TECHNICAL TRAINING COMMISSION (NAVTC) (Prime Ministers secretariat), Govt. of Pakistan, awarded the 1st position amongst vocational training institutes to the Memon Industrial & Technical Institute (MITI). The Prize Distribution Ceremony of the National Skills Competition was held at the Governors House Karachi on 14th May 2016, with the Honourable President of Pakistan, presiding as Chief Guest. Two MITI students received the 1st and 2nd prize at the Skills Competition. Picture shows Chairman MITI Mr. H.M. Shahzad receiving the award from the President. Also in the picture are the Governor of Sindh and Executive Director, NAVTC.

Miti (Memon Industrial and Technical Institute) is a Vocational and Technical centre for the youth (both boys and girls) offering a wide variety of technical, IT, multimedia and home economic courses/disciplines. MITI opened its doors for students in June 2009 with 7 Trades for men. And today, courses are offered in 31 Trades for men and 25 for women. Course durations last 4 months, 6 months, 1 year and short courses of 2 weeks to 2 months and even single day proficient classes are on offer. Courses range from self grooming, stitching and cooking

classes to CCNA (Cisco Certified Network Associate), Diploma in Information Technology, HD Media Production and Web Development. MITI offers a professional Photography course of 6 months duration in which proficient and world class photographers of the country take out time to teach students about the sublime art of photography. Youth have benefitted considerably from these creative courses and are now, not only placed in renowned organizations but most have become entrepreneurs and are, themselves offering jobs to other graduates of MITI from the same discipline.



MITI has trained over 500 young men and women under UNDP's Youth Employment Project. Mr. Neil Buhne, United Nations Resident Coordinator for Pakistan and Mr. Vineet Bhatia, Chief, Country Office Support and Quality Assurance, Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific at the Memon Industrial & Technical Institute (MITI). Both were pleased that UNDP's Youth Employment Project was supporting young men and especially empowering women in developing skills that will help them build a more secure future for themselves and their families.

MITI is affiliated with the City & Guilds of the UK and Trade and Testing Board (TTB), Sindh and is frequently visited by local and international delegates who shower praise and appreciate the hard work being put in to benefit young minds and empower them.

***“Brave men work while others sleep
Brave men work while others fly
They build a nation's pillar deep
Beyond a shadow of doubt”***

The aforementioned stanza could very well be used to describe the life of **Mr. H M Shehzad (Chairman MITI)**. Coming from a philanthropic background and understanding the clarion call of time, the man has put his own shoulder to the wheel to rudder the adrift youth.

Mr Shehzad is the driving force behind MITI and he has done a stellar job over the years, to provide the youth of Pakistan with a world class platform where they can be taught, trained and polished to become successful individuals and future entrepreneurs.



Mr. Solly Noor, President WMO (in centre) with Mr. H M Shahzad (Chairman MITI) along with other WMO dignitaries from WMO Africa Chapter visited MITI and praised the efforts of team Shahzad for running this world class institute in Pakistan.



Mr. H M Shahzad - Chairman MITI, addressing the Graduates



Mr. Satar Dada former WMO President visits MITI



WMO delegates from across the globe visit MITI in 2015



Dr. Tilo Klinner; Consul General of Germany Visited MITI on 19th November 2011.

“I Congratulate your excellent efforts to improve the qualification of young people in Pakistan. I hope to Continue a fruitful cooperation with your Institute.”

- Dr Tilo Klinner;
Consul General Germany



Mr. Adam Thomson; High Commissioner UK Visited MITI on 28th April 2011

“What an impressive institution MITI is! Its model holds not just great potential for Pakistan’s future success but it has been a privilege to learn about its work.”

- Mr. Adam Thomson;
High Commissioner UK

Each year 14,000 graduates pass out of MITI and till date 70,000 students have secured employment or are self employed.

Article by **Dania Hanif**

COVER STORY



MOHAMMED FAROOQ

As Mr. Mohammed Farooq enjoys his evening cup of tea on the sun deck of his sprawling penthouse, overlooking Jumeirah beach in the tony Marina neighbourhood of Dubai, he recalls his incredible journey from the night schools of Karachi to the lofty pinnacles of success. The loss of his father at a very young age, the resolute determination of his mother to educate her children, his pursuit of education in the most difficult of times, the meteoric rise in the Corporate world and the overwhelming success in his own business ventures.

He credits his success to the Duas of his mother and the blessings of the Almighty. He shares a few invaluable insights on how to conquer the skies, his appetite for risk taking, the courage to take bold decisions at the opportune moments and the importance of education in one's life.

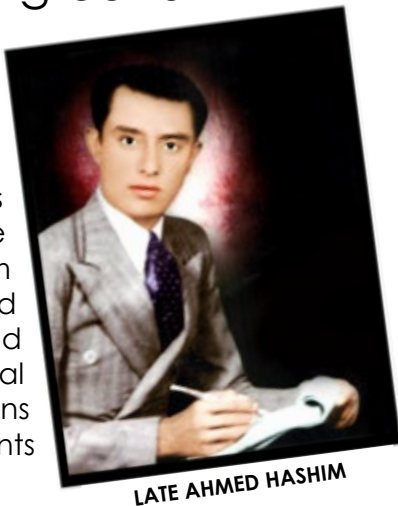
He is a very vocal advocate for the cause of education and is one of the most generous benefactors of the World Memon Organisation, having donated diligently over the years, towards the empowerment of the Memon Community.

A magnanimous philanthropist, successful business magnate, brilliant strategist, corporate guru, educationalist but more importantly a caring son, loving father and a compassionate human being.

The **DYNAMIC** Mohammed Farooq!

Family background

Born and raised in Karachi. Farooq belongs to a well respected Memon family. His Father, the Late Ahmed Hashim was a reputed businessman and Secretary General of Karachi Grains & Seeds Merchants Association.



LATE AHMED HASHIM

Education

Though Farooq was born with a silver spoon, unfortunately his father passed away when he was just a young boy, studying in Secondary School. Farooq, along with his 4 brothers and 3 sisters were still in school and unaware of their father's vast investments and wealth. His father's partners took advantage of the situation, usurped the family's rightful inheritance and left them with nothing. Thus began a period of hardships for Farooq and his family. However, with the encouragement of their mother, Farooq and his brothers pursued their education. In order to make ends meet, they worked during the day and attended night school, followed by evening college. **Farooq believes that the key to his success in life was his uncompromising stand on education during the most difficult period of his life.** Farooq's academic qualifications are a B.Com., an M.B.A and his professional qualification includes D.A.I.B.P. (Diplomate Associate of Institute of Bankers in Pakistan). He secured the fourth position, across Pakistan in the Banking Diploma Examinations.

The Journey of Success

With steely determination, clear concept, sound education, hard work, honesty and the ability to take timely and right decisions, more importantly with the Duas of his Mother and the blessings of Almighty Allah, Farooq celebrated one success after another. He began his career at the bottom rung but scaled the greatest heights of success, ascending to the top position of Director – Middle East of a large U.S. Multinational Corporation. Since 2002, he is enjoying even greater success with his own family business.

Meteoric Rise in the Corporate World

After working for a local company in Karachi and a brokerage firm, he joined the Allied Bank of Pakistan (formerly Australasia Bank Limited). While working for Allied Bank, he pursued his Banking Diplomas and secured fourth position throughout Pakistan. Since Banks became nationalized in Pakistan from January 1975, he lost interest in the banking sector as regrettably, the criteria for promotions had changed from merit to recommendations. This compelled him to look at other options. He applied for a job in Jeddah and after successfully passing several tests and interviews, he was selected by **Gray Mackenzie & Company**, Jeddah to join their Saudi Arabian operation as Sub Accountant. Three years later, he joined **Carrier Corporation USA**, which was the largest Air Conditioning Manufacturer in the world, as Branch Accountant for their Eastern Province Branch in Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia. Subsequently he was promoted to Financial Manager for **Carrier Saudi Service Company**. Thereafter, he ascended to the position of Operations Manager and Divisional Manager. His accomplishments in Carrier Corporation remain unmatched. **Considering his extraordinary performance and achievements, he was given the Honourable Carrier USA Expatriate status.**



WINNING A PRESTIGIOUS AWARD

Dubai

In November 1989, he moved to Dubai as he was selected by **Copeland Corporation, USA** which was the largest compressor manufacturer in the world as District Manager – Middle East. Subsequently he was promoted as Area Manager – Middle East and finally Director – Middle East. He received a number of Awards from Copeland Corporation, USA for excellent performances, remarkable sales and exponential gross profit growth. **In his 12 years with Copeland, he grew the annual sales from U.S.\$ 8 Million in 1989 to an astounding U.S.\$ 60 Million in 2001.**

The Memon

Though he was enjoying a cushy Corporate Life; flying business class, being put up in luxury suites of the top hotel chains of the world whilst attending conferences and business meetings in all corners of the globe, being a Memon, he always dreamt of starting his own business venture. When his elder son, Imran Farooq graduated, he helped him set up their family business, initially Electronics and subsequently IT under the name of Silver Star Electronics LLC. At the same time, another company, Premiers Management Consultancy was also formed which dealt with Immigration Consultancy and Real Estate. Once these business ventures started flourishing, in February 2002 he decided to resign from Copeland Corporation to expand his own business empire. This was a difficult decision to arrive at but by the grace of Almighty Allah, Farooq had the courage and confidence to leave a lucrative, high paying corporate job to pursue his own business interests. **Today, he is enjoying the fruits of that bold decision with his very own, booming and thriving business enterprise.** Also, he was able to groom his sons, particularly the elder one, into a very successful and eminent businessman.

The Business Magnate

Upon resigning from Copeland, he worked for Copeland Corporation as a Consultant for four months, owing to the company's persistent and earnest requests. After moving to his own family business, M. Farooq continued to ride the wave of success, courtesy his ability to make



STAR BUSINESS CENTRE

bold, timely and correct decisions. His sons, particularly, the elder Imran Farooq has played a vital role in the exponential growth of the business enterprise. Due to greater success in the Immigration and Real Estate sectors, Farooq decided to shut down the Air Conditioning and

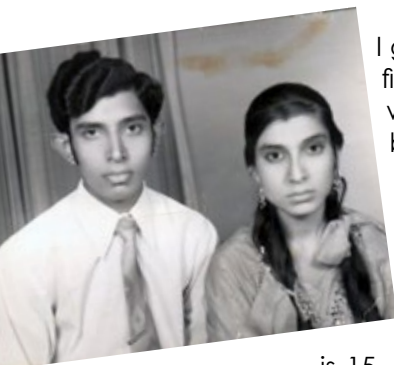
Refrigeration units, he had established in 2002. At the same time, he decided to sell off the IT venture in order to focus on the other, more lucrative trades. Once the real estate industry started to falter in Dubai, the family ventured into building Business Centres with fully serviced Executive Offices that are managed by his son, Imran. Two world class Business Centres, Star Business Centre in JLT Dubai and Star Executive Business Centre in the Business Bay, Dubai are now fully operational. His elder son, Imran has done a sterling job in setting up and managing these majority owned, Farooq family Business Centres. Farooq's younger Son, Kamran Farooq has also acquired excellent business and management skills. Farooq is very supportive of Kamran and wants him to follow in his elder brother's footsteps and become a highly successful entrepreneur too. The Farooq family now has a vast and diversified business portfolio including it's latest venture, the investment arm known as Capital Investment Company Limited.



The Samana Group

Recently, the Farooq family decided to merge all family businesses under one umbrella – the SAMANA GROUP. M. Farooq is the Chairman of the Samana Group of Companies while his elder Son, Imran Farooq is the CEO and his younger Son, Kamran Farooq is the Director. **Samana is the Surname of the Farooq family.** However, since this Surname was inconspicuous on travel documents and never used previously, the family decided that now would be the right time to form the CONSORTIUM under this once lost identity. Thus bringing the SAMANA family name to the fore, as well as the family's fully and majority owned Companies under one Conglomerate.

Family



I got married in May 1972. Our first child was a son. Imran was born in May 1974. I am blessed with 4 children, 2 boys and 2 girls. All of them are now married and settled in Dubai. I have 9 adoring grand children, 3 boys and 6 girls. The youngest is four months old while the eldest

is 15. My sons, Imran and Kamran

are an integral part of my success story in the world of business. I take pride in my sons, daughters, sons-in-law and daughters-in-law. **We are a very close knit family and they are all very close to my heart.**



My Wife, Hamida is an extremely loving and caring individual. She has been my constant travel companion, accompanying me overseas on most of my journeys, short excursions, long voyages, business trips and conferences. It has not been easy for her, shifting base from Karachi and setting up homes in Jeddah, Al-Khobar, Riyadh and Dubai. Although there were several perks too as we got to travel to all corners of the world including Egypt, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, France, Spain, UK, USA, Singapore, Malaysia, South Africa and Morocco.

Hamida is very compassionate and always ready to support a cause. Fortunately, we share the same beliefs of serving humanity, to the best of our abilities. Her ever smiling, welcoming and cordial approach, along with a helpful personality is appreciated by all. It would have been difficult for me to travel extensively on business trips without her understanding and accommodating nature. She has stood shoulder to shoulder with me and braved the pressures and formidable challenges of a demanding corporate life.



As the saying goes...

*behind every
successful man
there is a
woman.*

I rest my case!

The Community Man:- Farooq, along with both his sons have done extensive philanthropic work for the Memon Community in particular and humanity in general. Farooq has initiated the Auto Rickshaw scheme under the banner of the World Memon Organization (WMO) to enable underprivileged families to earn money with dignity rather than seek financial help month after month and year after year. WMO Pakistan Chapter, with assistance from the Farooq family, has thus far distributed more than a hundred Auto Rickshaws and over a thousand Sewing Machines to deserving Memon families in Karachi. **The objective of the program is MEMON EMPOWERMENT.** Today, hundreds of families are benefiting from this program and are standing on their feet, thanks to Farooq and Sons.

Awards received by Mr. Farooq:- Farooq has been conferred with a number of prestigious Awards from Carrier Corporation and Copeland Corporation including the 1999 Presidential Award from Copeland. Listed below are some of the awards, he received:

- Award for Top Performance among all the Parts and Allied Products Divisions of Carrier Corporation in the Middle East and Europe in 1987.
- Highest Sales Growth Award from Copeland Corporation for two Years in a row 1993-94 for excellent Sales Growth in Saudi Arabia.
- Highest Gross Profit growth Award from Copeland Corporation for the Year 1995 for exponential Gross Profit Growth in UAE.
- Strategic Break through Award for the Year 1995 from Copeland.
- Pinnacle Club Award from Copeland Corporation for Excellent Sales Growth, 3 years in a row 1997-98-99
- Presidential Award from Copeland Corporation for Excellence in Air Conditioning Sales for the Year 1999.

PEARLS OF WISDOM

Message for the Youth: If you do not compromise on Education and develop the skill set listed below, then sky is the limit

1. Clear Concept
2. Confidence
3. Professionalism
4. Transparent approach
5. Taking Challenges head on
6. Ability to make timely and informed decisions

M. Farooq's Mantra for Success in Business:

1. Don't Compromise on the Quality of Products and Services.
2. Exercise proper control on credit and cash-flow.
3. Ensure Professionalism and maintain a Transparent Operation.

4. Gain Customer loyalty – Consider yourself as a Consultant to your Customers.
5. Timely and informed decisions. Also, timely trouble shooting.
6. Expand the Product range and Service offerings.
7. Expand Territorial coverage for faster growth.
8. Ensure Competitiveness.
9. Encourage and Reward good Performers (Employees).
10. Aggressive Sales and Marketing strategies.
11. Well defined goals for the Sales team.
12. Implement Management Information Systems (MIS) for better control, review of results on monthly basis and timely corrective actions.

A Tribute to My Mother

My mother, Hanifa Ahmed was a visionary. A woman of great strength and foresight. Although, she lost her husband and endured many hardships in life, she singlehandedly brought up her children and made sure that they pursued their education. My mother was not highly educated but she was far sighted. It was her firm belief that a good academic qualification would always open many doors and opportunities for us in the future, not just in our own country, but globally.

I distinctly recall the prophecy she made a few weeks before she passed away. The words remain etched in my memory forever.

"Farooq, you will make a name for yourself in this World. You will be a far greater success than your father. You will have an even better life than the one we had when your father was alive. You will have all the wealth in the world and you will live in the lap of luxury for the rest of your days.

Unfortunately, I will not be there to see it!"

She died in the April of 1976 and I left the shores of Karachi in June to join Gray Machenzie and Company in Saudi Arabia. She left for her heavenly abode as I was just about to embark on a journey which brought me unparalleled success. And I owe it all to her. Her Duas have made me who I am today.

The only regret, I have in life is that I cannot share these successes with her. She faced many adversities, made innumerable sacrifices for her children whereas I couldn't offer her any comfort or luxuries in life which she so richly deserved. Now that I have it all, she is gone!

I know she still watches over me from above. But I miss you Maa, I wish you were here!



A Warm Reception in Freezing Chicago



A Dinner Reception was hosted by the World Memon Organization, North America Chapter in honour of visiting Secretary General, World Memon Organization, Mr. Shoaib Ismail Mangroria on the 28th of December 2016 at Sabri Restaurant, Chicago.



The program began with a recitation from the Holy Quran by Assistant Secretary General of WMO North America Chapter, Brother Bashir Akuly. Thereafter, he introduced the Vice President of the Chapter, Mr. A. Ghaffar Variend, and requested him to deliver his welcome address.

Mr. A. Ghaffar Variend thanked Mr. Shoaib Ismail for visiting WMO North America Chapter. He recalled their recent bonding at WMO's 14th Annual General Meeting in Dubai. He elaborated on the global endeavours of WMO and the services rendered by North America Chapter.

In his speech, Mr. A. Ghaffar Variend quoted some of the excerpts from WMO President, Mr. Suliman Noor's welcome note:

***If you are a Visionary, we will share your vision
If you are an Idealist, we will share your dreams.
If you are an Optimist, we will share your joy.
If you are a Pessimist, we will share your concerns
If you are a Humanitarian, we will share your cause.***

If you want to be a part of a worthy cause this is the place for you. You can join our humanitarian endeavors to promote education, housing, rehabilitation and numerous other welfare projects to Uplift, Uphold, Unite and Serve Mankind

If you are an entrepreneur this is the place for you. Learn from the best business minds from around the world and build a global network.

For all you youngsters, if you are proficient in sports, this is the place for you. WMO has hosted a wide array of sports events in all corners of the globe. The Memon Premier League is a prime example of organising a spectacular sporting Championship on an international level for the connoisseurs of cricket.

We will encourage your Dreams Applaud your

Accomplishments and Fulfil your Aspirations.

Welcome to this place where you will meet respected philanthropists, humanitarians, dignitaries and doyens of industries, the crème de la crème of the Memon community from around the globe.

Welcome to this place where you can serve not only the community but also humanity.

Welcome to this place where you will not only live a wonderful life but prepare for an even better Akhiraah

Welcome to WMO



The Vice President, in his speech highlighted the future plans of WMO North America Chapter, which included:

- To start work on the first Memon Community Centre in Chicago in the year 2017-18, followed by the launch of the Houston, New York and Los Angeles centres in the upcoming years
- Head Office of WMO NA to be established at the Chicago Centre and setting up of Regional centres in other cities.
- Free advice and guidance for Education, Immigration, Citizenship, Medical Services and Social Security to community members
- Free Tax Returns Filing for seniors and unemployed community members
- Free Clinics for persons with no Health Insurance with a very minimum co-pay
- Seniors and Ladies Activities
- Youth Activities and Cricket Club
- Banquet Hall

He emphasized that all of the above would be possible, if WMO North America Chapter is provided financial support from the community, as well as commitments from affluent Memon

businessmen and families across North America, by way of donations and membership. He introduced visiting WMO General Secretary Mr. Shoaib Ismail Mangrora to the audience, and then requested him to address them. Mr. Shoaib Ismail Mangrora started his speech by thanking the Vice President, Mr. A. Ghaffar Variend, General Secretary Mr. Bashir Akuly, Internal Auditor, Mr. Feroz Aboobaker Khadbai, Observer, Mr. Qasim Moosa Lawai, Chicago Memon Jamat President, Mr. Farooq Sardharia, other honorable guests and all the members that had gathered over dinner.



He stated that our forefathers have laid the foundation of this benevolent humanitarian work and it is incumbent upon us to continue in their footsteps to Serve Mankind. **“WMO is the dream envisioned by the five founding members of the organisation namely (Late) Haji Abdul Razzak Yakoob, (Late) Latif Ibrahim Jamal, (Late) Abdul Razzak Tasty, (Late) Adam Noor and (Late) Aboobaker Kassam Pardesi.** Together, they came up with the idea to create a global Memon Organisation, which has now become a reality. Presently we are working through 7 chapters worldwide comprising of Pakistan, India, the Far East, the Middle East, Africa, Europe and North America.” He went on to cite the humanitarian projects of WMO, including Housing, Education, Vocational Training, Micro finance, all of which were possible due to generous donations and Zakat funds provided by Memons across the

globe. **"In Pakistan chapter itself, 11,000 school going students are an integral part of the WMO bursary program, around 700 for higher education and more than 70,000 students are standing on their feet, courtesy vocational training provided by the Memon Industrial and Technical Institute, MITI.** Similar projects are carried out In India and Sri Lanka too. WMO has a disaster Relief program to cope with catastrophes such as the 2005 Earth Quake in Pakistan, recent floods in Malawi and Sri Lanka and the Refugee Crisis in Syria. WMO has successfully completed 15 years of service to Humanity."

"WMO is the Umbrella organization of Memons worldwide. It must be noted that WMO, along with furtherance of humanitarian causes, also builds bridges and connects Memons across the globe. It gives pride of place to its ladies and youngsters who form an integral part of the organisation.

Last year we held the sophomore edition of the world class MPL Cricket tournament in Sri Lanka which draws youngsters from all corners of the globe.

We also have a very active ladies wing, which is presently working on myriad projects, including women empowerment and matrimony.

Recently WMO held its highly successful 14th Annual General Meeting, which translated into

the largest gathering ever since its inception. All seven chapters and more than 200 members participated. Alhamdulillah, Memons from Lesotho, Indonesia, Portugal and Uganda were also present. I cordially invite all of you to attend our next Annual General Meeting in 2017, once again in vibrant Dubai, where you will be our honoured guests. In the end, I thank you for welcoming me to the beautiful city of Chicago and honouring me with this warm reception. Thank you very much, Jazzak Allah."

Later, the Chicago Memon Association President, Mr. Farooq Sardharia, thanked the visiting General Secretary of WMO, Mr. Shoaib Ismail Mangrora, Mr. A. Ghaffar Variend, Mr. Feroz Aboobaker, Mr. Qasim Moosa Lawai, Mr. Ahmad Jangda, distinguished members of Chicago Memon Association and lauded WMO's global endeavours. He urged all members of the Chicago Memon Association to assist WMO in their worthy causes and promised steadfast support for all future activities.

Finally, Mr. Bashir Akuly thanked everyone for participating in this program, and thereafter, dinner was served. WMO Vice President, Mr. A. Ghaffar Variend personally thanked every guest for their valuable time and support.

The program eventually concluded at the stroke of eleven bringing to an end, a very warm reception in freezing Chicago.



MASL - AGM



Mr. Farouk Darvesh

Mr. Ashraf Sattar



Mr. AC Saleem,
VP (Far East Chapter)

Founder member of the World Memon Organisation from India, Mr Farouk Darvesh was cordially invited by the Memon Association of Sri Lanka to attend their AGM in Colombo.

Mr. Darvesh gave a poignant account of a large segment of the Memon community, dwelling in deep poverty across India. Mr. Ashraf Sattar, Deputy Chairman of the WMO Board of Trustees made a fervent appeal and urged the gathering to contribute towards their less fortunate brothers and sisters in India.

90,000 USD was immediately pledged by prominent members of the Sri Lankan Memon Community towards the upliftment of the underprivileged Memons in India. Stalwarts of the Memon Association of Sri Lanka also expressed their desire to visit India in the near future to access the plight of the downtrodden, understand their needs and promised more contributions in the future.

May Allah Swt reward their generosity and accept their kind endeavours.

LOVE THY NEIGHBOUR

“ 90,000 USD was immediately pledged by prominent members of the Sri Lankan Memon Community towards the upliftment of the underprivileged Memons in India. ”

My Visit TO THE KHIDMAT TRUST

The Khidmat Charitable Trust is a non-profit organisation based in Mumbai which was set up in 2001 to help the poor and needy. I had the honour of visiting their trust office on a trip to India last year in November along with other members of the World Memon Organisation.

One of the causes of poverty in India is a lack of education, which prevents people from progressing in society and another is medical ailments which hinder their ability to work and earn a living. The Khidmat Charitable Trust aims to educate and provide healthcare to enable the less fortunate to progress in society and reduce poverty.

As we toured around the Trust's head office we came across a waiting area, seeing people with all types of illnesses seeking medical help. This was both heart wrenching and satisfying to see in that at least these people had a chance of receiving medical attention with the Trust's helping hand.

We also came across a room dedicated to dialysis treatment, eight beds which were all occupied along with a dedicated nurse to monitor the treatment. In India, the cost of this treatment is 180GBP/15,000INR per month. **If it wasn't for the generosity of the Khidmat Trust many of these people wouldn't be able to afford such treatments.** A melodious tune resonated across the room, the soulful rendition of Surah's from the Holy Quran were playing in the backdrop, reinforcing that this work is purely for the sake of pleasing Allah S.W.T.

By Arshad Gani

Arshad is the youngest son of the Deputy President of WMO, Mr. Nowsad Gani.



“A melodious tune resonated across the room, the soulful rendition of Surah's from the Holy Quran were playing in the backdrop, reinforcing that this work is purely for the sake of pleasing Allah S.W.T.

Strength of A Woman



Hafsa Carim is described by friends and colleagues as “their guardian angel” – a person whose heart has no proportions and whose soul continues to soar beyond the horizon...

Family History and childhood

Although we were a very small family – just my mum, dad and brother - we were part of a much bigger, extended family. Both my parents were one of ten siblings. My mum being the youngest and my dad the second eldest. As my dad was the first to be married he was considered to be the oldest in the family.



My dad's family lived in Pretoria North (South Africa) and eventually settled in Alexandra, an African Township in the suburb of Sandton, Johannesburg, when my grandfather realised the potential for growth in business there. My mum was from the scenic hamlet of Groot Marico, where she still has family.

I have fond memories of my childhood – living in Alexandra. Our neighbourhood was one huge yard with all of our homes adjoined to one another. We were all one big happy family. I lived with my grandmother – having been the first grandchild in a home of 10 siblings, I was doted on by my grandparents, aunts and uncles... there was no shortage of love in our home... and we still are a very close knit family.

As there were no schools for Indians in Alexandra I would travel to the nearest school available, being Waterval. I had the privilege of being granted the honour of being Head Girl in my school. In my final year of school, land had been allocated to Indians in a suburb called Marlboro Gardens. After matric I moved to Pageview (Fietas) to live with my parents as the University of Witwatersrand was in close proximity.

What kind of work did your parents do

As children, we were expected to work on Saturdays and during holidays in the family businesses, Initially as security guards and packers and eventually progressing to cashiers and finally sales.

By the age of fifteen, my youngest uncle and I bought our own shop, selling bulk sweets and crisps. My granny would run it in the morning while we were at school, and we would alternate working during the week days. Both of us were on duty, on the weekends.

Our family businesses were all under the same name and style of I.B. Wholesales, I.B. Supermarket, I.B. Hardware. I.B being my grandfather Ismail Bhika.

Both my parents had not completed high school, but worked long hours together building a successful business in downtown Johannesburg. My dad imported crockery and was a wholesaler, he was the sole agent of Black and Decker power tools.

As we are all but visitors in this world, my father passed away at the age of forty five from a heart attack. My mother, being a very young widow found it very difficult to continue the business without my father's help and support.

Most of my free time from university was spent assisting my mum in the business. Times were difficult and I would travel with our drivers to deliver goods and obtain new orders from the surrounding towns. I had to balance my studies with work. I took on a part time after-hours job at the University of Witwatersrand Law Library, three times a week. This afforded me the opportunity to earn an income, at the same time allowing me to use the prescribed text books and provided me with many quiet hours to study.

My father was an amazing human being with a huge heart. He could not enjoy success while seeing others struggle. He provided many people the opportunity to start up their own businesses. Alhamdulillah many are still flourishing, even today.



As a child what difficulties did you face

My father started from humble beginnings, running to the train station every morning before school to sell chilli bites to the white people going to work. My grandfather was a very strict disciplinarian and ensured his nine sons worked very hard, built their businesses and became independent.

I lived through the June 1976 uprising – as a child I witnessed family businesses gutted to the ground or looted empty. We were forced to leave with the clothes on our back. My grandmother stood her ground, being very adamant, strong willed and stubborn, refused to leave the house. We eventually settled in Marlboro Gardens.

My parents too were evicted from their home, as the Group Areas Act had proclaimed the area of Pageview, a white area. One day my parents came home and found all their furniture on the side walk. They would return it into the house and this continued until most of our neighbors were forcefully evicted and relocated to Lenasia, an Indian township established in the south of Johannesburg for Indians.

My parents would go to work and return to find furniture on the pavement. My parents persisted, so out of frustration the Apartheid Government demolished our lounge and graded the entire street. My parents would park at the end of the street, walk home and pack the furniture into the other rooms, which were still standing. This continued for quite a while, until they realised that we were there to stay.

Though, we constantly faced harassment from the poor whites who moved into the area - they would throw paint onto our cars, break our windows, empty their bins in front of our porch. As a child I remember we were not allowed access to the park as it was reserved for white children only. Eventually we were allowed to use it the day before the municipal workers cut the grass and cleaned the equipment, in preparation for the white kids to use the premises, over the weekend.

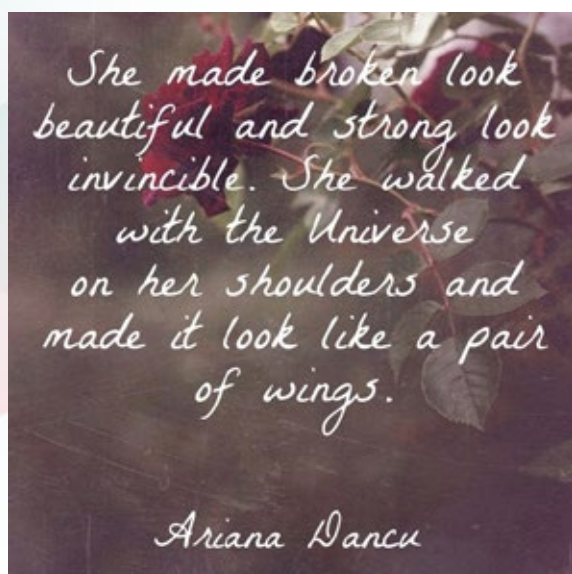
As we know, Allah does not shoulder a burden greater than you can bear.

Surah Anfal –(8:46) – “And be patient and persevering: For God is with those who patiently Persevere.”

What was one of your most defining moments in life - The turning point

When my father passed away. My brother, Mohamed, was still at school. My mum was young and I was forced to help, take responsibility, and take charge of everything. I had to grow up overnight and realized that if you want to attain success you needed to be hands on and not depend on anyone else.

However, not too long thereafter I got married – On the one hand I had completed half of my Imaan (Islamically), but on the other hand this posed another hurdle as my brother was too young to run a business and my mum couldn't manage it on her own – so with profound sadness, we were forced to eventually close the doors of an established successful business. This was an extremely painful experience as many happy moments had been shared and a great many memories were made there.



Married life – joys and challenges as a working mum

I married Nazim Carim, the grandson of Carrim OA Janoo and Aboo Fogia, twenty five years ago. We lived with my in laws in an outside room, until after my first daughter Nabeela was born. We later bought our own house and moved to Erasmia not far from my in laws in Laudium.

My husband worked for his father, but subsequently started his own business and through the grace of the Almighty he has been very successful in his various businesses. He is very traditional and I spoil him with proper home cooked dhesi food, which is

his favourite. Four years after the birth of my Nabeela, I was blessed with a son. My son Aadil is twenty and is studying his third year LLB at Free State University. He is a beautiful child with a heart of gold, humble and helpful. He is my greatest strength and brings me great joy and fills my heart with pride.

When Nabeela was thirteen we took her on pilgrimage and I found out that after nine years since Aadil, Allah had again blessed me with my third child. My Zakiya is eleven and in grade 6. She is the splitting image of her older sister Nabeela. Nabeela was an intelligent beautiful child. She would volunteer at the Haartebeespoort Animal Welfare on Saturdays, she has painted the most beautiful pieces of art, she was attending finishing school, and we were discussing her sixteenth birthday, when fate would plan otherwise.

On the 3rd day of Ramadaan – on her Islamic birthday – I lost my daughter Nabeela in a tragic accident. We had broken our fast and read Magrib prayers together, and a few minutes later she was in my arms taking her last breath ... it has been 8 long years and not a day goes by without me thinking about her and sending a little dua for her.

In the Holy Quran – Surah Baqara (2:155) Allah SWT reminds us

“Be sure we will surely test you with something of fear and hunger, some loss in goods or lives or the fruits (of your toil), but give Glad tidings to those who patiently persevere”

My Ayesha is ten and in grade 4. She is very much like me. And has a very strong personality. Both Zakiya and Ayesha (just like their late sister) have also had their art exhibited at the Pretoria Art Museum and Centurion Art Museum. They both have Gauteng North colours in Taekwando.

My highlight every morning is to wake up my little girls - comb their hair while singing to them - remembering what my granny used to do for me, make their breakfast and pack their lunch bags. They only receive pocket money on special days such as cake sale or entrepreneurs day. I drive them to school as it affords me the opportunity to spend time reading their morning duas with them. Driving them to and from madressa and all extra curricular activities gives me the time to discuss their day with them. I supervise all their homework and choose not to delegate my responsibility to anyone.

Education

I started with an H.Dip in Education at Wits, but soon after doing my practicals I realised that I wasn't cut out to be a teacher and changed to a B.Proc degree. On completion of my B.Proc I joined the law firm, A.K. Mia and Associates as a candidate attorney and later

as an attorney. After getting married and relocating to Pretoria, it soon became difficult commuting to Johannesburg. With a sore heart I resigned, and joined a parastatal in Pretoria, The Road Accident Fund, as a legal officer.

The RAF was a predominantly Afrikaans institution, but my worth was recognized and I soon progressed to manager and senior manager. When I had my Nabeela, they agreed to my half day employment and this afforded me the opportunity to study for an LLB degree.



As a senior manager with over five hundred employees, I realized I lacked management expertise and enrolled to study an MBA, after completing my LLB. As the RAF was also experiencing change with the change in government a Commission of enquiry was established by Minister Dullah Omar. I was seconded to the Commission as I was able to add valuable input on the workings of the RAF. The findings were a lack of training. I returned to establish the Human Development and Training Department, nationally. To prepare myself for this huge project, I undertook a certificate course in Project Management at Wits Business School. I also did an Assessor, training and facilitation course.

After returning from Haj and Zakiya's birth, I decided to retire as Allah had blessed me abundantly in every respect.

I was soon bored and decided to open my own practice doing mostly pro bono work.

Alhamdulillah all of this would never have been possible if I did not have the support of those closest and dearest to me. My friends, neighbours, family and most of all my mother have been supportive and without their combined efforts I would not have been able to achieve all that I have. I must thank Allah SWT for blessing me with those who supported and encouraged me.

The path to Charity

My two little ones have proven to be the busiest of all kids. There is never a dull moment when I am with them and they have really put my age to the test. At 50 my Ayesha still reminds me that I am still the best Uber driver and the greatest homework assistant buddy...

As soon as they started pre-school, I joined an organisation called the Gardens Social Services, an NPO servicing the medical/ hospital sector. This organisation has grown from hospital visits to free hospital shuttle, daily feed, permanent tea and coffee stations, home visits, an assisted living home, and many other projects. When a few of us Board members, registered for a certificate course through UNISA on Bereavement, Grief and terminally ill, this was a rude awakening to my lack of what the Quraan had to say on the topic. This lack of knowledge led me to my study of the Quraan and Arabic.

During the five years of my studies of the Quraan, my desire to assist the community and to give back of the bounties I have been blessed with became a reality.

The Laudium Woman's Network (LWN) was established five years ago and I was unanimously elected as the Chairperson. The LWN has twenty eight different NPOs and NGOs affiliated to it, across racial, religious

IS THERE ANY REWARD FOR GOOD OTHER THAN GOOD?

QUR'AN [55:60]

and cultural grounds, its motto, "**Building Community Together.**"

This, however, posed its own challenges, as a few muslim ladies felt that the inter religious and cultural differences were not conducive to the Islamic ethos, as music and dance are part of some activities. I am of the belief that everything should be done in moderation, and I am very conscious of my Islamic values, though Islam also teaches us to be tolerant and respectful to people of other faiths.

To encourage unity amongst the Muslim charities, Pretoria Muslim Women United (PMWU) was established, with twenty five charities and NPO affiliated thereto. Our motto being "Unity is Strength".

About four years ago, Central Muslim Burial (CMB) was established, and I joined the committee and as deputy group leader of a ladies ghusal group, I am active and this involvement takes precedence over every other community commitment.

When it became compulsory for all school learners to do community hours in order to apply to university I addressed this need by establishing an organisation called Muslim Youth of Laudium (MYL). Members are scholars that range between the ages of sixteen

to university students. They are invited to various community outreach projects and fund raising events. They are very enthusiastic volunteers with great energy levels.

As deputy chairperson of the Laudium Care Services for the Aged, a registered NPO serving the vulnerable senior citizens of our community by encouraging graceful aging and providing meals at two service centers three times a week, I have the privilege of spending time at the feet of wise old folks.

As an AWQAF ambassador, I am exposed to both local and international charity initiatives. As a member of the Shura council, we get to discuss zakat matters and the eligibility of applicants and recipients.

Irregularly, I attend to one of the family business, dealing with HR matters, franchise queries, reports and financials. I also still try and keep in touch with the law by referring matters to two firms, Barnard Patel (Administration of Estates) and Vezi De Beer (Conveyancing matters)

Free time is a rare commodity...

I am neither a Television watcher nor am I a social media addict, so this gives me a lot of spare time, after my kids have been tucked in. I love to read and have edited three books, Humorous Anecdotes and Pearls in the Path Vol 1 and 2.

I take out time to paint and my kids have learnt the skill as well. And many of our art pieces adorn our home. From baking to entertaining guests – our home is never quiet. We love having close family and friends around.

My husband and I both love to travel and we very fortunate that we are able to do so freely.

The secret of success

Is that I've handed everything to Allah and it is HE who guides me and provides for me and gives me the strength and courage to continue serving in His path. I cannot thank Allah enough for the bounties HE has bestowed on me.

My greatest asset is my yearning for knowledge – every opportunity is grasped to learn something new.

My circumstances and challenges in life have taught me to be resilient and this has allowed me to hold out even during the most trying of times – **My motto, "that too shall pass."**

I am a firm believer that one should always act with integrity and honesty. No matter what the situation, if you genuinely believe that your rizq (sustenance) is from Allah SWT alone, you will succeed.

Live every day as if it's your last, because one day you will be right. I genuinely believe that if you are someone who makes everybody feel that they are somebody, then you will have lived a life worth living.

My understanding of success is not the financial stability or the worldly accolades, it is the legacy one leaves behind. Leaving an indelible mark on the lives of others. A complete day is knowing that I have brought a smile to someone or knowing that I have lessened someone's burden.

Who do you admire most in life

My mother, Mariam and my grandmother Amina. My late grandmother with whom I spent most of my childhood was a strong, feisty woman. Very intelligent and the matriarch of our family. My granny is the reason for the close bond we all share as a family. My mother, is my pillar of strength and has a heart bigger than her chest can hold. At the ripe age of 71 I still find it very hard to get hold of her during the day - she is either volunteering her assistance at an old age home, a hospital or busy with one or another charity project. She hasn't lost her business acumen and still keeps herself occupied with various matters. My mother is the most gracious and generous hostess. Our house was always filled with family and friends, laughter and camaraderie, and till date - that hasn't changed.

If you could go back and change something in your life – what would it be

Absolutely nothing – its our circumstances in life that mould us into who we become in life.... through experiencing love and pain, I believe that empathy is born.... My greatest happiness is when I look into my childrens eyes and know that Allah has blessed me with the most beautiful gifts in life ... and I need to thank my husband for these priceless gems as he has been an integral part of my journey...He has been by my side throughout my challenges and successes. And as Muslims we are taught to patiently persevere, so if you accept that it was Allah's will, then Allah sees you through it.

Dedicated to my dearest friend whose strength has no boundaries - **Farzana Mahomed**

HERE'S TO **STRONG** WOMEN
MAY WE **KNOW** THEM
MAY WE **BE** THEM
MAY WE **RAISE** THEM



Report by WMO Youth Wing Pakistan Chapter

WMO YOUTHWING (PC)

WMO Youth Wing Pakistan Chapter has a vision to develop Memon youths' capabilities, provides them with a platform to nurture their aptitudes and develop the skill to hold the reins of future leadership. Under the chairmanship of Mr. Khurram Shehzad, we provide the youth a chance to come forward by organizing various sessions; enabling them to learn about their culture, discuss and understand new ideas and formulate solutions. Khurram and his team aim to make the youth productive members of the Society and constantly engage them in thought provoking sessions combining the element of fun with learning. WMO(PC) Youth Wing's mission is "Fun with Learning" which is witnessed in all of the programs.

INTRODUCTION TO SPARK

The Youth Wing of WMO PC organizes its signature event SPARK every year for the children of ages between 11-16 years. This event is aimed at inculcating civic sense and for social learning of these children. So far, WMO youth wing has held these events as a summer activity spanning four Sundays. Each day has a theme aimed at a particular learning activity with full day activities.

The target age group of children is the most fertile ground to sow the seed of civic responsibility. The highlight of SPARK is the last day event where parents come in the second half and are guided by trainers together with a Q&A session on effective parenting and how the parenting style needs to be adapted to account for change in external societal factors. This year we repeated this landmark achievement in an even more ambitious way.



SPARK

17



WMO Youth Wing Pakistan chapter launched the third sequel of Spark in February 2017. This year's SPARK was a more challenging effort as we aimed at launching a residential program that required the children to stay with us for three days and two nights. Beyond the increased cost of housing the kids there had a manifold increase in the responsibility. Our usual SPARK events have always been highly demanding as children are relatively harder to manage. A residential SPARK was an even more ambitious endeavor; however, we felt that the children needed to get this experience. Therefore, this is the first time such a program was launched within the community for this age group.

The reason why our team decided to go for yet more ambitious endeavor was because wanted to bring the children out of the comforts of their homes and give them an opportunity to interact with other children and adults beyond their immediate families. This way they would be able to get important life lessons like, team work, patience and have healthy discussions. It proved to be a hugely successful idea. The children stayed at the Beach Luxury Hotel for three days. They were removed from outside distractions and were more focused on the sessions and activities. Not only did they maximized their learning through this but also were able to relax with friends in the evenings and enjoy the venue's excellent facilities.

The activities and speaker sessions introduced in SPARK 2017 were based on our theme of 'BELIEVE IN'. The current turbulent situation is making the young people lose focus and hope. They are losing faith in themselves and the future. The 'SPARK Believe in' was an effort to remind them of their capacities and abilities. The aim was to make them believe in

virtues of hard work, believe in team spirit, believe in creativity and synergy and most important of all to believe in the power of 'self' and respect for elders.

Keeping this in mind we divided three days of SPARK in three different themes of self-belief. The first day focused on "BELIEVE IN YOURSELF" because we are willing to test, experiment, and try new things even when we feel uncertain. The universal truth of life is that once we believe in our own capabilities we make things happen. This self-efficacy is the most important driver of all success, inventions and progress in the world. People who doubt themselves are doomed to fail and therefore "believe in yourself" is the starting point from where any person can begin to act.

The second day theme was "BELIEVE IN YOUR ACTIONS". Actions are always followed by beliefs and attitudes. Both actions and inability to act are defined by a person's self-belief. These actions are therefore crucial and if we do not act, we fail.

And finally, the third day was focused on "BELIEVE IN YOUR IMPACT". Our impacts are always a consequence of our inner power and actions. And the ability to enhance the influence or in other words, the IMPACT of our actions, comes from our ability to believe in our impact. Once the inner self is strong, goal oriented and confident, our outer self becomes powerful and creates an impact. Once we make the decision to move forward, we accept the challenges and give our best shot to WIN.



With these themes and aims of learning in mind, the WMO youth wing PC launched the SPARK 2017 amidst several challenges and hindrances. We had set the dates on Friday to Sunday so that the children do not miss schools. The venue of Beach Luxury was a perfect place as it features a view of the bay and in evenings gives a serene look of the sunset. The weather is also relatively pleasant in February in Karachi giving the children a chance to make most of their time out of home.

DAY 1 - Believe in Yourself



The 1st day of Spark 17 started with all the vigor & zeal on Friday on 17th of February. The participants went through the mandatory registration process, received their conference material and were sent to their rooms for initial relaxation. The program started with the energy to believe in themselves by WMO youth wing team and the participants were informed with the norms of the session. A set of guidelines regarding code of conduct was given. This practice is important because it teaches children respect the laws and principles. As human beings we are sharing this world with many others and it is important for us to understand the importance of boundaries and to avoid behaviors that may be unacceptable.

This was followed by a session by Burhan Shah who talked to children about self-awareness and gave them the pointers to discover themselves. Later, Shahroze Suzuki, who is from Japan and currently in Karachi on a research, joined us. He took the children on a ride of their life. He talked about ways how young people can learn about their strengths and weaknesses. The day ended with a full of activity session by a renowned trainer Maddy Murtaza, who closed the day with making them realize the power of oneself.

DAY 2 – Believe in Your Actions



After spending a day with the Spark 17 team the participants had already built up expectations for the second day. The day started very early at about

6 am, when the participants were given a wakeup call and were asked to gather in the Auditorium for a Yoga session by a well-known Yogi of Pakistan, Yogi Wajahat. He gave them a good 'rise and shine' activity to build the momentum of the day. Besides trying to freshen up the children early in morning, another purpose of this exercise was to inculcate discipline in the kids. After the session, a good healthy breakfast was provided to the children nourishing them with the energy to run throughout the day.

After breakfast a young lady Nazia Ramzan talked to children. The focus of her talk was to look for resources within themselves and beyond. We live in a world that is always restricted when it comes to resources. Nazia, told the children how they could make it possible to create resources. After Nazia's session the participants were taken outdoors. This was managed by Sadeed Mirza, a young trainer from Funverks. He engaged the participants in fun filled team building, action oriented, and problem solving activities. After about four hours of power packed energy filled session the participants were sent for relaxation and lunch.

The second half of the day started with a very renowned trainer "Qaiser Abbas" who ran his session on the topic of "Shabash Tum Karsaktay Ho". (Bravo! You can do it !!). This was a motivational session which included stories of successful people. The aim was to convey a message of belief in actions and showing persistence in whatever we do. This session was followed by a religious lesson. An Islamic scholar was invited who told the children about right & wrong in the light of Quran & Hadiths. Being Muslims it is essential that we channel our actions and thoughts under the light of Islamic teachings.



After some religious knowledge, the stage was taken over by Saman Mazhar, who is a famous corporate trainer. She primarily talked about decision making. Our actions are consequences of our decisions. She also explained on how to manage bad decisions and turn the tables when things go wrong.

The day did not end as there was more to come. The children were introduced to an activist 'Alamgir Khan'. Alamgir has set upon a task to improve the situation of Karachi and make it a better place for its residents. A country like Pakistan that is still developing to its potential, people like Alamgir are real hope as they show us how self-reliance works. He talked to children about his work in Karachi 'fixit' where his

aim is to 'FIX THINGS'. Yes, when there is something wrong, you need to FIX IT rather than shrug it off. True meaning of taking responsibility is to feel responsible for ourselves, our families, our neighbors, our city, the country and the world.

Umair Jaliawala, carried on the same theme of responsibility. He is a Memon who has left a mark on the training industry in Pakistan. He came with his 10 points agenda which was independence, sovereignty of Allah, Dream Big, responsibility, decision making, fight with you and to move forward in life. The full of learning day ended with Movie night, where the kids saw Kangfu Panda 2, to give them a concept of action based learning, which to take appropriate actions at the right time. This session was executed by Zuhair Alibhoy.

DAY 3 – Believe in Your Impact



After a full day two the participants were very tired to get up very early in the morning, so they were given some relaxation time and the third day started with a healthy breakfast at 0800 hours. This was followed by the first session of the day by a young trainer from School of Leadership, Aarsal Fahim, who was very energetic. His talk was focused on creating an impact on our environment. He introduced the concept of a cleaner Pakistan and asked the participants to gather waste products and think of ways to recycle and reuse the waste. Hence every child came up with their creativity and made several useful things. After Aarsal a renowned consultant and trainer, Wali Zahid, took the floor and highlighted the concept of 'Believe in Pakistan'. During his session the participants were told about the positivity of their country and the resources we have to create an impact in the World. Spark 17 was designed in a holistic approach to give broader vision to our kids. We were therefore joined by a group from Australia, which is now operating in Pakistan by the name of Helen O Grady. The people from Helen O Grady are involved in soft skills development working with academic institutions. They work on children through activities that would enhance their speech, creative movement, structure improvisation, develop dialogues and mini scripts. At SPARK they told a story and encouraged the kids to use their imagination and develop ideas. After Helen

O Grady, everybody was going into an emotional phase of closing the program, where two sessions were to be held simultaneously. One session was scheduled for the children by Maddy Murtaza, who tried to recap of all what was done in Spark 17. This was done to give them a hold of how to develop them to devise suitable actions to create the best of impacts. The other session was conducted with the parents by Sohail Zindani, who is a very successful trainer from learning minds. He spoke about the psychology of children of 21st century, who are exposed to so many technologies and are truly globalized. The session was intended to help parents on techniques to nurture the best in their children and raise a generation that would be an asset for the society, community, country and the world. To conclude the program, the kids were sent to the arena where parents were anxiously waiting for their children. They were seated together and shown a recap of the last three days of Spark 17. This was followed by some sparkling words for the team by our chief guest Peer Mohammad Diwan and our guest of honours namely; Altaf Habib Jangda, Khursheed Subzwari & A. K Ismail. Closing of the program was done by the head of Pakistan Chapter, Mr H. M. Shehzad with a thanks to all the guests present in the arena and a special applause for the Team behind Spark 17.

MAKING OF SPARK



The proceedings of SPARK 2017 look very happening and easy, but this was definitely not easy. It was an outcome of several sleepless nights by the members of the youth wing. This event proved to be the biggest event in the history of WMO youth wing because of the scope and financial commitment it demanded. We started off with a very small budget and tried to convince all hotels of Karachi to partner with us for this noble cause. The response was not encouraging and we kept getting turned. However, with ALLAH's help and after a lot of hard work we finally managed to get Beach Luxury as a supporter. Although it was still out of the budget, but we managed to crack a deal and launched the program. Our next step was to collect funds for this mega event. By the grace of Almighty we managed to raise the highest amount of sponsorship youth wing has ever achieved before. We are still left with some shortfalls but those are expected to be managed by some of our gracious supporters in Memon community. As we approached

the launching of the program, the team started on the operational work of developing participant kits, creating an ambiance at the venue, managing meals, getting speakers on board etc.

SPARK TEAM



Spark team was led by the Chairman Youth Wing Pakistan Chapter followed by the Central Executive Committee. Mr Khurram Shehzad led from the front followed by all the members. All CEC members were designated tasks and the core event leadership of the event was handed over to Jawad Choksi and Arsalan Nara. Operational management was handed over to Ammar Motan, assisted by Abu Huraira and Khubaib. Registration which was a core task was handed over to of Rabia Saleem. The facilitation team was led by Musaab Vindhani. We also designated Day Champs who were responsible for managing the stage and speakers each day. These were Haseeb Vayani, Aqib Jawed, Zeenat Rafiq & Tehreem Rasheed. Coordination with trainers was done by Jawad Choksi, Arsalan Nara, Musab Vindhani and Waqar Mandani, as they have a vast experience of running such sessions. All the content writing and presenting briefs was done by Sumrin Kalia & Reeda Sheikhani. Our senior members who are also our advisories, Mr. Altaf Vayani, Faisal Baqi and Saleem Vayani handled the hospitality and public Relations campaign for the event. The Youth Wing CEC Pakistan Chapter was assisted greatly by carefully selected facilitators who gave their heart and soul to lift the event to the highest level. Their names are; Ibaad Sheikhani, Hussain Kath, Jawad Iqbal Gaba, Arsalan Ameen, Hasnain Pasta, Salman Marfani, Fatima Abdul Samad, Fiza Aslam, Sana Basathia, Sadia Hanif, Shumaila Shivani & Ammara Imran.

SPARK GURUS

When the idea of SPARK 2017 was in its inception, two gentlemen from the CEC were given the primary task of the project. As things moved the Chairman of Youth wing PC named these two the "SPARK GURUs", who are Jawad Choksi & Arsalan Nara. These two people sacrificed their work & family life to create this milestone event and at last succeeded in executing SPARK 17 to a level which was beyond expectation. They gave their heart and soul to this event and for their four months day and night effort they were presented a gold medal by H.M. Shehzad & Khurram



Shehzad at the closing ceremony. The two names Arsalan & Jawad cannot be forgotten for years to come because of what they have done to create a mega event and to motivate the youth of today for a better and bright prospect. Doing something for this age bracket where it is the most needed the two didn't leave any stones unturned.



Considering the efforts of the SPARK GURUs the Youth wing of the Pakistan Chapter salutes and applauds them.

EVENT SPONSORS

SPARK 17 had a lot of supporters without whom it would have been impossible to execute the event. The list starts with the head of WMO Pakistan Chapter H.M. Shehzad who spent a lot of efforts to build this program, followed by Pir Mohammad Kaliya, Shoaib Mangroria, Younus Jiwani and Iqbal Gaba, who



took out a lot of time from their schedules to make this event a great success. Our sponsors included Lucky Cement, AKD group, Premier Cables, Altaf Habib Jangda, Nasir Rangoonwala, Naurus and Activade. We are very thankful to them for supporting us. We are also deeply thankful to our training partners who worked very hard to groom the kids, their names being; School of Leadership, Funverks, Possibilities, Sohail Zindani Company and Skill city. We acknowledge the efforts of Yogi Wajahat, Nazia Ramzan, Maddy Murtaza & Sadeed Mirza for their time to make our event a great success. Above all we would like to thank Beach Luxury Hotel for their hospitality and their consent to be our residence partners. Lastly we would like to acknowledge the efforts of Double 2 Films for their day and night efforts of capturing the event and bringing a recap of the Spark 17.

CONCLUSION

SPARK 2017 was a milestone achievement of WMO Youth Wing Pakistan Chapter. A project like this one comes with its set of challenges. There are logistical as well as resource concerns. From raising sponsorships, arranging the venue, organizing meals, approaching the speakers and matching their schedules, an event like this is a humongous task. We had about 200 children with us for three days and two nights. These children had joined us for a learning experience that was combined with fun activities. We had to make sure that the children remained safe, were eating well, not indulging in squabbles and also getting maximum learning from the sessions. This involved immense

planning, risk analysis and patience. We trained a team of facilitators who joined us voluntarily. The core team of WMO monitored these facilitators who were also young people of age 20 to 26. So SPARK was not just a learning journey for young children of 11 -16 years but also an experience for youth leadership for our 20 facilitators. We also managed to attract some of the best names of Pakistan as our speakers. People who featured our speakers' list are renowned in the world for their achievements. This was only possible because the WMO youth wing has maintained a strong and influential image in the training community in Pakistan. We are considered a team of dedicated youth leaders who are there to make a difference in the community and therefore people like Umair Jaliawala, Qaiser Abbas, Sohail Zindani etc. who are otherwise very expensive trainers willingly joined us in this mission. As a team we have learned to believe in ourselves and this has enabled us to undertake some very ambitious projects. We aim to keep this tradition alive and expand our circle of influence. Stay tuned for more. We will not fail to surprise with yet another bang!

- Report by WMO Youth Wing Pakistan Chapter

