

Dear Members,

I hope this note finds you well as we transition into the vibrant month of September. In this communication, I'd like to touch upon several important developments that impact our industry.

I am deeply honoured to share that during the latest, 73rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on September 16, 2023, HRAWI reaffirmed its trust in our shared vision. It is with immense gratitude that I announce my re-election as President. I am humbled by your continued support and confidence in my leadership.

In this new term, I am pleased to inform you that Nirav Gandhi will continue in office as the Senior Vice President, bringing his wealth of experience to our Association. Alongside him, we have Chetan Mehta serving as Vice President, Jimmy Shaw as Honorary Secretary and Paramjit S. Ghai as Honorary Treasurer, each playing a pivotal role in steering HRAWI toward greater heights. I am also delighted to welcome Gurbir Bedi, who takes charge as the Joint Honorary Secretary, adding his expertise and energy to our dynamic team.

However, it is with a heavy heart that we acknowledge the recent passing of Mr Vincent Ramos, the Senior Vice President of IHCL in Goa. Mr Ramos was not just a prominent figure in our industry but also a cherished member of our community. Our deepest condolences go out to his family, friends and colleagues.

On a positive note, we welcome the introduction of e-visa facilities at Mopa Airport. This development represents a significant step forward in simplifying travel procedures for international visitors. Additionally, we are pleased to announce the inclusion of Morocco in the list of countries whose nationals are eligible for e-Visa grants. This expansion raises the total count to 167 countries, making it easier for tourists to explore the rich tapestry of India. This initiative aligns with our vision of promoting tourism and enhancing the guest experience in our region.

In our on-going efforts to streamline processes and support the growth of the hospitality sector, we recently had a productive meeting with Dr Sudhakar Shinde (IRS), Additional Municipal Commissioner and Mr Vishwas Shankarwar, Deputy Municipal Commissioner, MCGM. This open house discussion centred on simplifying license processes for our industry. We believe that reducing bureaucratic hurdles will not only benefit our establishments but also contribute to the economic development of the region. The objective of the engagement was to streamline and simplify licensing procedures, thereby enhancing the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) in the industry.

HRAWI has submitted a set of recommendations to the MCGM, covering various aspects of licensing and permits. Among the suggestions made, we've emphasized the need to simplify compliances related to fire NOCs, licensing for eating houses, lodging houses, shops and

establishments, and storage licenses for liquor, diesel, charcoal, and weather sheds. We will keep you updated on the progress and outcomes of the discussions.

Lastly, as many of you are aware, the Cricket World Cup is approaching and we anticipate a surge in hotel room bookings in destinations where matches will be held. This presents a fantastic opportunity for our industry to showcase our exceptional hospitality to a global audience. Let us be well-prepared to deliver outstanding experiences to the influx of visitors and make this event memorable for all. As we move forward into September, let us remember the spirit of camaraderie and collaboration that defines our Association.

Best wishes,

Pradeep Shetty, President, HRAWI