

## **NASA 2012 Annual Meeting Survey Results**

Many thanks to those who responded to our NASA 2012 annual meeting survey. Your evaluations of the 2012 event and suggestions for future are most helpful and always welcome. We invited those who attended the meeting (and those whose email contact information to which we had access) to share their thoughts on the NASA 2012 event overall, the programs offered during this annual meeting, specific aspects of the venue, and specific aspects of the food/catering service.

Please find below a summary of these survey results along with pertinent comments. As the data below show, while a majority of respondents were generally satisfied with the event overall, there was some variability in the ratings of the different program activities, and more pronounced variability in the ratings of the venue and food/catering. Based on these responses, it seems that we have disparate expectations and priorities with regard to our annual NASA event. As is apparent in the comments below, while some respondents felt that the venue was a refreshing change, others felt that it fell short in some respects; while some found the invited speaker and his talk to be one of the most engaging programs, others found it to be not as relevant to their interests; while some found the food and catering arrangements to be adequate, others found it to be unacceptable. This type of disparity seems to indicate that parallel programming may be an effective way to accommodate the varied interests and priorities of our community members.

Clearly, these responses have given us on the Board of Directors a great deal to consider as we work towards coordinating a 2013 annual meeting that offers engaging programs to the broad spectrum of our community members. Based on this survey, on more informal conversations with community members, and on experience at past annual meetings, we on the BOD are outing forth our best efforts to put together a dynamic program for the 2013 annual meeting and will look forward to your engaged participation at this event!

**NASA 2012 Annual Meeting Survey Results**  
*34 Invitations Distributed; 18 Responses Received*

<b>Program</b>	<b>Rating</b>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>67% Satisfied</b>
Friday Picnic & Outdoor Activities	61% N/A; 22% Somewhat Satisfied
Invited Speaker, Mr. Ravi Saligram, OfficeMax CEO	67% Very Satisfied
Professional Networking Session	27% Satisfied; 27% Very Satisfied
Music Program by Harsha Nagarajan & Company	44% Very Satisfied
Sports & Outdoor Activities	39% Satisfied
Sunday Puje	35% Satisfied
Children's Activities/Programs	44% N/A; 31% Satisfied
Other (Venue / Food Arrangements / Attendance)	50% Satisfied

<b>Venue</b>	<b>Rating</b>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>50% Satisfied</b>
Geographic Location	57% Satisfied
Overall Ambiance	50% Satisfied
Room Accommodation	43% Satisfied
Conference Facilities	57% Satisfied
Dining Facilities	43% Satisfied
Hotel Amenities	39% Very Satisfied
Price / Cost	46% Satisfied

<b>Food / Catering Service</b>	<b>Rating</b>
<b>Overall</b>	<b>40% Very Satisfied</b>
Quality	40% Satisfied
Quantity	33% Satisfied
Variety of Dishes	33% Dissatisfied; 33% Satisfied
Type of Cuisine	40% Very Satisfied
Timeliness of Food Availability	36% Somewhat Satisfied
Scheduled Times for Meals	40% Very Satisfied
Children's Activities/Programs	44% N/A; 31% Satisfied

### **Comments on Friday Picnic & Outdoor Activities**

- Should not have been arranged on a working day. Not many people took part.
- Too far from the Hotel. The BOD should try to arrange such picnics at a closer location, and offer some incentive that would encourage better participation.
- Enjoyed the sporting activities and games.
- Very well arranged.
- I was disappointed with the somewhat poor attendance which is understandable considering that it was a working day for most members.

### **Comments on Invited Speaker, Mr. Ravi Saligram, OfficeMax CEO**

- Might have been helpful to MBA holders. It would be more helpful and useful if these talks are on health issues, like lung diseases, cancer, etc.
- Interesting and thought provoking, best to keep this type of program short and sweet and no more than one per meeting.
- Very insightful, engaging speaker. Suggest such talks be Annual feature.
- Very informative and it was nice to see someone within our community who has reached such a high achievement within North America.
- It was a good lecture although for a retiree like me the subject matter was of limited interest.
- This was one of the best talks and need to encourage entrepreneurship.
- I enjoyed hearing what this guest speaker had to say, but it seemed somewhat arbitrary to include as a program. In terms of community-building, it seems like this was an interesting program and it was kind of Mr. Saligram to give his talk and share his background/expertise/experience with us, but this program item seemed somewhat disjointed from the overall purpose of the meeting. It seems that the annual meeting may have benefitted from having a cohesive theme around which the programs were organized.
- He was outstanding. This one event made up for any other potential deficiency at the Annual meet.

### **Comments on Professional Networking Session**

- A little too long.
- We needed more time and a better location for this. The activity was great but it felt rushed and people were distracted.
- Need to have more time to continue discussion or ability to connect on-line in some forum.

### **Comments on Music Program by Harsha Nagarajan & Company**

- Was good and time management was not good.
- Brilliant. NASA BOD should make every effort to draw on in-house (within NASA Members and their families) talent for future programs.
- It was a good performance.

### **Comments on Sports & Outdoor Activities**

- Poor facility and there was no open field for sports.
- Could be a little more organized.
- Suggest indoor competitions in games such as Carrom, Chess, etc.
- A larger field to have events would have been better.
- Met my expectations.
- It was great to have a pool!!!
- Need to do a bit more.

### **Comments on Sunday Puje**

- Puja by Children should involve kids in performing the puja. There should be more involvement of kids in the puja and the procedure should be explained.
- Well done. It was such a pleasure to see young children take part with such diligence and reverence. This event should continue in every Annual Function of NASA.

### **Comments on Children's Activities/Programs**

- Not much to keep the kids interested in the event, simply giving them a colouring book and a room is not enough.
- Can we organize more beforehand?

### **Comments on Other (Venue / Food Arrangements / Attendance)**

- Venue- It was perfectly alright. But I have a feeling that because it was in NJ and many locals came only for the programs and did not stay because of the expense involved. I suggest that the committee look into other venues like Madhwa sangha near Pittsburg or other places where everyone can come stay there itself and enjoy to fullest extent. Consider cost into picture.
- Food arrangements were great.
- It would be nice to find a place like before rather than a hotel which is expensive, if possible. Many did not turn up because it is expensive.
- The facilities at the hotel were very satisfactory and the food served was very good. However, personally I would have preferred a location which would be more like a retreat than a convention center.
- I was very pleasantly surprised with how comfortable and convenient the location was. The only thing I would say is that part of the convenience was that the hotel was practically empty, so there was no problem with the kids running around, etc. I don't know if I would feel comfortable with that if the hotel was packed.
- More people need to come and support.

### **Comments on Least Interesting/Relevant Programs**

- All relevant but some were prolonged to the point it became boring. I would not remove any of the activities; just reduce the length or make them more engaging.
- All were relevant and interesting.
- GBM.
- None.
- There seemed to be a lot of down time during this meeting. The sports and outdoor activities did not seem to be particularly organized. While it's sometimes nice to have fewer programs and more down time between programs, perhaps because of this venue, I'd imagine some folks might have found themselves at a loose end during the space between programs.
- Food was terrible. Very poor quality. Need Sankethi (if at least South Indian) food! Location (hotel) was not a conducive one for our events. We need a place like a retreat, where we have the place to ourselves, so we can be ourselves.

### **Comments on Most Interesting/Relevant Programs**

- Children's painting class.
- The speaker was very relevant and encouraging.
- Sankethi language class.
- Saligram's talk and Music program.
- Kids programs, Ravi Saligram talk, puja.
- Picnic, invited speaker, and networking session.
- The General Body Meeting was conducted in an efficient manner and the proceedings were very orderly.
- Children's programs particularly sports for them as also the participatory puje.
- All.

### **Suggestions for Improvement**

- General talks on Health, Philosophy, Money management, etc.
- Creative activities for kids.
- More Sankethi related activities.
- Perhaps consider holding NASA event once in 2 years such that larger attendance will be seen.
- Seminars on Bhagavat Geetha or Upanisheds giving a good back ground on Hinduism or seminar on comparative religions.
- Entertainment programs such as skits, comedy hour, anthakshari, etc.
- Programs which are unique to Sankethis like music dance Kaavya vaachana. Round table discussions of issues for various age groups. Invited speakers on topics of interest to the members.
- Younger generation to be involved in activities and take away goodies could make it attractive.
- These bigger annual meetings provide an opportunity to engage in more interactive community-building activities and it would be nice to see more of that in the future. Having a cohesive theme for each of these meetings would help – as would connecting each of the programs with aspects of our heritage to make it a richer learning experience for us.
- Needs programs to appeal to all three groups in NASA: Adults, Young adults, kids.

### **Comments on Venue / Location**

- Great, closer to Canada!!
- Proximity to our house was good.
- Very respectable and well taken care of property.
- Not as "spiritual" as Windsor (i.e., more "corporate"), but it was very good.
- The kitchen was far away and hence to bring food to the dining area was problematic. The dining area was very crowded due to lack of space.
- Great pools & basketball courts, etc.
- Loved the pool!
- Compared to the cost of previous get-togethers this was way too high. The structure of the charges should be more carefully thought about.
- Group activities and outdoor activities were harder to participate in.
- It was nice to have a place for all the "youth" to go in the evening within the hotel.

### **Comments about Least Appealing Aspects of Venue**

- Surrounding environment was very plain and not accessible.
- Food quality and quantity was not so great.
- We needed an indoor place for the kids to run around. The gym in the old location was perfect, for example.
- That there are other people/strangers around.
- The venue is more suitable for professional conferences while we need something more culturally more suitable.
- Dining Hall.
- As I stated earlier, the venue did not seem conducive to spending time together with other community members during the down times. Everything seemed spread too far apart - the conference hall, the dining hall, the outdoor amenities, etc., again making it difficult to gather together and get re-(acquainted).
- I don't at all like the idea of holding our get-to-gathers in a public place like a hotel. We need a retreat like place to get away from it all and be ourselves.

### **Comments on Most Appealing Aspects of Venue**

- Nice outdoor services, pool, etc.
- Great location, ambience, and facilities (pool, basketball).
- Gym, pools, fields.
- All was good and nice that we had a private area for the NASA community and cooking facilities.
- The swimming pool, everything in one wing/area.
- Facilities like conference room and rest rooms and rooms.
- Event Hall.
- Close to OUR home. But that doesn't say much.

### **Suggestions for Venue Selection Criteria**

- Not an easy thing to answer. It is very hard to find place like New Windsor.
- Outdoor services (basketball, tennis etc.), pool, rooms to hold many people but allow interaction (no auditoriums).
- Ability to do group and outdoor activities.
- Cleanliness, functional, private and location.
- I would prefer a venue in a suburban setting away from city near a temple, in a forest/park type place.
- The cost is an important factor. Siddhachalam, Vraj Bhoomi and such venues could be explored.
- Larger Dining Hall.

### **Comments on Food / Catering**

- For breakfast, South Indian type like Uppittu is preferred, not just continental breakfast.
- Availability of a toaster for breakfast would have been appreciated. Lunch and Dinners were all fine.
- Lunch of Dosa required waiting due to volume of people.
- We didn't have dosa in enough quantities and it came at too slow a rate for the group.
- Terrible. The North Indian dinner on Saturday was absolutely the pits. Awful! We should stick to South Indian food or at least a choice on the menus for all meals. Breakfast was not at all good (Bread and butter??). What happened to all the South Indian breakfast items: idli, vada, etc.?
- Friday evening was a disaster- I became hypoglycemic and had to nibble on some things to stay OK.
- Dosas when served should be hot and people should not be made to wait for a long time.
- Generally fine, except for Dosa.
- Overall very satisfactory and well managed.
- Usually I find this to be a good caterer, but this time the food was just awful in taste and quality. Sometimes there wasn't enough of it or one would have to wait until more was prepared (i.e., dosas). And the set up just seemed messy - I'm not sure what that was about.
- All in all food was bad. Lots of people complained about it.

### **Additional Comments/Suggestions**

- GBM needs to respect the time as it went considerably over the allotment.
- An enjoyable experience.
- Please explore the other venues before continuing in the same place.
- Better to hold the event around a long week-end.
- Effective follow-up of matters discussed at the General Body Meeting.