NOMINATION FORM: Global Business & Interfaith Peace Awards

Note: Nominations are open to CEOs (present or past) of companies who have championed interfaith understanding and peace.

Nominee Contact Information

1. Nominee Full Name: Dr Mehool H Sanghrajka
2. Corporate Title: Founder and CEO
3. Company Name: Learning Possibilities Group
4. Company Headquarters Location (Country): London, England

5. Engagement with the UN Global Compact and/or the Religions Freedom & Business Foundation*
    ☐ Company is a signatory of the UN Global Compact
    ☐ Company has joined Business for Peace
    ☐ Company has signed the Religious Freedom & Business Foundation's pledge to protect freedom of religion
    ☒ Company intends to join one or more of the initiatives listed above in the next six months, please specify   Religious Freedom & Business Foundation's pledge to protect freedom of religion

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* Nominees are invited to:

1. join the UN Global Compact and its Business for Peace platform and,
2. make the Religious Freedom & Business Foundation's corporate pledge to protect freedom of religion or belief (FoRB)

Nominator Contact Information

1. Nominator Full Name: Arvind Vora
2. Corporate Title: Chairman & President
3. Company Name: Long Island Multi Faith Forum & Shanti Fund, NY, USA
4. Email Address: avora@optonline.net
5. Phone Number: +1 917 406 6065
6. Relationship to the Nominee: Admirer, Fellow Jain

Please submit a Biography of the Nominee (max 200 words)
Mehool is the founder and Chief Executive of the Learning Possibilities Group; a global leader in building and implementing e-learning solutions for schools and colleges around the world. The Company has a Global Alliance with Microsoft to sell its solutions. The e-learning solution is used by over 1m users in the UK alone, In 2014 and

2015 Learning Possibilities won the major national Education Investor Award for Technological Infrastructure. It also has a national contract with the Welsh Government until 2018. Mehool is a serial entrepreneur in the fields of education and technology. He has founded many businesses over a 20 year career, in the UK and overseas. His last two businesses were acquired by major UK public companies, where he went on to run major divisions. Mehool was recently voted in the Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Technology. Mehool works with a number of charities. He was previously Chairman of 'Young Jains' and since 2003 has been a Trustee and Director of the Institute of Jainology, a global Jain organisation and umbrella organisation of all Jains in the UK. As executive director of the ground-breaking JAINpedia.org project, he was key in the development of an online Jain Encyclopaedia.

Information about the policy, programme or initiative

1. Please describe a policy, programme or initiative that the Nominee has launched or spearheaded to advance the company's efforts to champion interfaith understanding and peace (max 300 words)
   Mehool conceived the 'JAINpedia project' in his role as the Director of the Institute of Jainology (IoJ). Although Jainism had become recognized as a major religion in the UK, there was little authentic material widely available in contemporary English. The project's aim was to bring access to original Jain material to increase knowledge and inter-faith understanding. Using the people, experience and skills within his e-learning Company, Mehool devised a 12-year program to create the most authoritative online Jain encyclopedia using the collections of the major Institutions in the UK. This included the British Library, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Boliden Library, Oxford and the Wellcome Trust Library, The IoJ had previously catalogued the Jain collections at the British Library. Although this brought awareness, it didn't bring access to the material. Mehool worked with the Institutions and received permission to digitize their collections and create JAINpedia - a rich online resource has been created with over 5,000 folios from the Jain collections.The digitized images were then given context with commentaries from contemporary scholars, in audio and video material and in translations of the original texts. The JAINpedia site also has material suitable for primary schools. His Royal Highness Prince Charles launched the project at the V&A Museum. Following this, JAINpedia was launched in the Institutions, giving them a chance to showcase their collections; in schools to encourage them to teach Jainism; and in Jain temples in the UK to encourage the local communities to visit them.In the three years that the site has been online, over 3million pages have been view in almost all major countries of the world.

2. Which category or categories does the policy, programme or initiative fall into:
   ☐ Core business
   ☒ Social investment & philanthropy
   ☐ Advocacy and public policy engagement
   ☐ Partnership and collective action

3. Does the policy, programme or initiative address any of the following related to Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB)[1]:

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[1] Article 18 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: "Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either

☐Promote sustainable and innovative business through protecting Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB)

☐Non-discrimination and/or non-harassment on the basis of religion or belief

☐Religious accommodation and inclusion

☒Protecting and promoting freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) in the community

☒Other (describe below, max. 25 words)

Developing inter-faith understanding through the use of digital technology to make original Jain texts available globally with contemporary translations and commentaries.

4. Please describe the objective of the policy, programme or initiative and the need, goal or gap that it was designed to address. (max 200 words)

Before JAINpedia, there was no access (other than for academics) to the rich Jain collections in national museums and libraries. JAINpedia's three principal aims were to bring access to this material through digitization, translation and modern commentaries, increasing knowledge among Jains and non-Jains, and offering academic quality resources. At the heart of JAINpedia are the high-quality digital photographs of selected items from leading cultural and research institutions in the UK. These digitised gems of Jain collections have been acquired by the Institute of Jainology from the project content partners: the British Library, the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Wellcome Trust Library and the Bodleian Library at the University of Oxford.Most of the thousands of images are of manuscripts but statues and other artefacts will be included in due course. Most of them have never been on public view before. Each image is copyrighted to the holding institution and full credits are given.To help JAINpedia users understand the images, there is a host of contextual content to explain what is on display. There are now four main types of contextual content: theme articles, manuscript descriptions, timeline and an e-Library.

5. How was the policy, programme or initiative implemented? What role did the Nominee play? (max 200 words)

Mehool is the Executive Director for the JAINpedia project. He led the project and the team throughout the development and implementation phases. He negotiated a funding package of US$1.3M from the UK Government's Heritage Grants and the Jain community. He led the selection of the JAINpedia team: Kings' College London to digitize the rare and ancient material, Prof. Nalini Balbir of the University of Paris as Editor in Chief, and a team of project managers, event managers and the social media team. He has personally managed the project over the period, ensuring that it met both its time and cost targets.

6. What were/are the most persistent challenges in implementing the policy, programme or initiative? How were they/are they being overcome and what was the role of the Nominee? (max 200 words)

There were a number of major challenges with a project of this scale. The original material was up to 1,000 years old, sometime frail and in many cases untouched for many years. The total quantity of material also amounted to several hundreds of thousands of folios. There were also no standards at that time for digitizing and digitally displaying such material. The JAINpedia team initially worked with the institutions to select the most suitable manuscripts and artefacts from their collections. These were then checked and where necessary, preserved. The digitization was completed to the highest resolution possible ensuring that no damage came to the folio. Working

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alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance."

with Kings College London, the JAINpedia team set standards for both the digitization and the display of the material online. This project has been seen as ground-breaking in its field.

7. What are the key lessons learned from launching the policy, programme or initiative? (max 200 words)

    There were a number of key lessons learnt during this initiative. Working with public institutions requires time and patience. Each institution has unique ways of working and timeframes, budget constraints which must be understood. Digitizing rare and ancient material is difficult and requires a great deal of specialist knowledge. It is important to preserve this material. There is a great deal of global interest in rare and ancient religious material. However there is very little knowledge in either language or history to fully appreciate it. Therefore was important to build digital websites both display this material well, but also to offer modern translations and commentaries as well links to modern reference material to bring context and understanding. Finally, there will always be delays and setbacks, and having a great team makes a big difference.

Impact and Reporting on Progress

1. How do you monitor and evaluate progress on the policy, programme or initiative? If relevant, what indicators and metrics are used? (max 200 words)

    During the initial development period, the project had formal milestones and budgets which were reported against, on a monthly basis. This monitoring ensured that the project kept to its target and that early interventions were taken where necessary. During implementation phase, when the project was being launched in UK institutions, visitor numbers to the institutions were monitored, social media was also monitored for 'likes'. Currently the site and social media are monitored and for the period ended October 2015, the numbers were: JAINpedia pages viewed: 2,861,205, Unique Visitors: 152,047, Social Media Followers: 8,028

2. What outcomes or impact have been reached to date? Please be as specific as possible and supply available data. (max 200 words)

    Since the start of the JAINpedia project, it is estimated that 500 primary schools in the UK have started to teach Jainism. Over 5,000 visitors came to see the JAINpedia exhibitions at the national Institutions and to date 200,000 unique visitors have viewed 3.25m pages on the JAINpedia website.

3. Is the Nominee's company reporting on its practices, policies, programmes and/or initiatives to champion interfaith understanding and peace? If so, please provide relevant weblink(s) for posting on the Awards' website. If integrated into the company's corporate sustainability report, Global Compact COP or GRI Report, please indicate relevant pages and/or sections. (max 200 words)

    The IoJ reports on all its activities on its websites to drive inter-faith understanding and peace. There are: www.jainology.org – the website of the Institute of Jainology; www.jainpedia.org – the JAINpedia project website.

Additional Information:

1. Are there additional actions the Nominee has taken on an individual level to support interfaith understanding and peace within the organization? If so, please specify. (max 200 words)

    Mehool has over the past 10 years led many delegations to promote interfaith harmony. In 2011, he led the Jain delegation to the Vatican to promote peace (expressed through a joint communique) and is planning to do so again this year to discuss preservation of the environment. Similar inter-faith delegations have been held with the Dalai Lama, the Archbishop of Canterbury and various Hindu organizations. Many have led to visits to Jain temples in the UK. On a personal level, Mehool has a doctorate in Jainism and has taught and lectured widely on the subject to raise understanding and harmony.

2. How has the Nominee taken action to support and promote the UN Global Compact's Ten Principles? If so, please specify. (max 200 words)

    The Company's Board has passed the following resolution; Responsible Business Principles1.1
    The Responsible Business Principles include four guiding principles (a) Business Integrity. To be open and honest in all its dealings, while respecting commercial and personal confidentiality and to operate in accordance with all legal and regulatory requirements. (b) Fair dealing. To be objective, consistent and fair with all its stakeholders. (c) Good citizenship. To be a good corporate citizen, demonstrating integrity in each business and community in which it operates. (d) Respect. To respect the dignity and well-being of all its people and those with whom it is involved. 1.2 The Company agrees (a) to provide safe and healthy working conditions for its employees and contractors; (b) to encourage the efficient use of natural resources and promote the protection of the environment; (c) to treat all employees fairly in terms of recruitment, progression, remuneration and conditions of work, in accordance with applicable equalities legislation; (d) to allow consultative work-place structures and associations which provides employees with an opportunity to present their views to the management; (e) to take account of the impact of its operations on the local community and seeks to ensure that potentially harmful occupational health and safety, environmental and social effects are properly assessed, addressed and monitored; (f) to uphold high standards of business integrity and honesty, and to operate in accordance with law and good practice (including those intended to fight extortion, bribery and financial crime).

Please provide any additional information to be considered. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Nominations team nominations@religiousfreedomandbusiness.org
Click here to enter text.