

MAHARASHTRA U. N. ASSOCIATION

UN CHARTER DAY

A stimulating panel discussion was held on Friday the 26th June, 2003 at Godrej Bhawan, to observe the "UN Charter Day" in Mumbai.

The eminent speakers on the panel were Mr. Maarten D. Reuchlin, Consul General of the Netherlands in Mumbai, Mr. Don Cairns, Consul General and Trade Commissioner of Australia and Mr. Aspi Chinoy, Senior Advocate High Court of Mumbai and Supreme Court of India.



Seen in the Pic: From left to right Mr. Maartein D. Reuchlin, Consul General of the Netherlands, Ms. Pheroza Godrej, President MUNA, Hon'ble Justice R.M.S Khandeparker, Ms. Mohini Matur, Executive Chairperson MUNA, Mr. Don Cairns, Consul General and Trade Commissioner of Australia, Mr. Aspi Chinoy, Serior Advocate, Bombay High Court

The Hon'ble Justice, Mr. R. M. S. Khandeparker of High Court, Mumbai was the Chief Guest who presided over the function.

At the outset, Ms. Pheroza Godrej, President, MUNA welcomed the audience. Ms. Mohini Mathur, Executive Chairperson made the introductory remarks. Mr. K. M. Abraham, Vice President, MUNA gave brief of the activities of MUNA.

Mr. Aspi Chinoy made a brilliant presentation and elaborated on United Nation's Charter which talks of "Equality of Nations". He further said that it seeks to bring in forces of multilateralism, peace and justice. It seeks to subject the acts of individual nations to Multilateral / International scrutiny and review and notwithstanding its limitations there is great need for the UN.

Criticism of the UN is based on overblown expectations: the hopeful innocence of dreams! The unfair expectations of history. In an imperfect world the UN performs, and has performed a crucial role.

Mr. Maarten D. Reuchlin, Consul General of the Netherlands, in his very lucid talk said that the values and ideas behind the UN are values like mutual respect, tolerance, and rule of law. He said his country feels they have a responsibility, both individual and collective, for

upholding and protecting these values. His belief is that no country can hope to succeed on its own in whatever policy area and quoted Kofi Annan, the Secretary General of the UN who said "Even the most powerful nations know that they need to work with others in multilateral institutions, to achieve their aims". Mr. Reuchlin said that Netherlands will not shun a single opportunity to stress the importance of the UN in the search of a lasting and just peace in the World and will support it at each opportunity in the usefulness of multi lateralism, primarily and foremost enshrined within the UN.

Mr. Don Cairns, said Australia have a deep commitment to the United Nations and its charter and quoted Australian Prime Minister Mr. John Howard's speech to the United Nations at the Millennium Summit. Excerpts: "Thus issues globally ranging from Ageing and AIDS to Sustainable Development and Terrorism".



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The session was very ably presided over by Hon'ble Justice, Mr. R. M. S. Khandeparker of High Court, Mumbai and his concluding remarks were enlightening.

The function was very well attended by diplomats from different Consulates like Poland, Oman, Haiti, Russia, Sri Lanka and several others. Prominent amongst the participants were Academicians, Industrialists, and Social Activists.