



## HAI Member Hotels signs MoU to mentor Hospitality Institutes

**New Delhi 1 Oct, 2024-** As the apex body of the Indian hospitality Industry, The Hotel Association of India (HAI), has been collaborating with the Government on Sectoral policy matters for more than two decades. In addition to working to secure for the hotel industry its due place in the country's economy and project its role as a contributor to employment generation and sustainable economic and social development, the Association is constantly making efforts towards achieving its mission to help raise the standards of hoteliering and to build an image for this industry both within and outside the country.

One of the most recent initiatives in this direction by HAI Members has been in supporting the institutes of hotel management under the national council, ministry of tourism, government of India. Eight hotel groups will be mentoring the institutes and have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to that effect. Seven out of nine groups are HAI Members. This collaboration with the hotel groups was announced at the celebratory Event marking the World Tourism Day 2024 at a grand function organised by the ministry. Honorable Vice President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar presided over the event held at the prestigious plenary hall of the imposing Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. People are the backbone of the Industry and the service providers are its brand ambassadors. The image of the Industry is hugely dependent on the professionalism of its human resources. It is important to cultivate the professionals at the start of their careers in their student years.

The HAI Members that have come forward include the Association's founder Members, **The Indian Hotels Company Limited (IHCL), Apeejay Surrendra Park Hotels, The Lalit Suri Hospitality Group** and the **ITC Group of Hotels**. The other Members are the **Lemontree hotels, The Radisson Hotel Group and Marriott International**. The eighth hotel group that signed the MoU is the IHG Hotels & Resorts.

These MoUs between hotel companies and the Council will pave the way for a closer Industry - Academia relationship. Regular and structured interactions between the Industry and the institutes will aid timely interventions in the curriculum, teaching methods, training modules etc. Mentoring by professionals will bridge the gap that currently exists between industry requirements and college pass outs. A better match would also promote satisfaction among both the employers and the job aspirants. This will result in higher retention and career growth. A happy employee also makes for a happy guest.

The event was witnessed by Mr. K.B Kachru HAI President & Mr. Rohit Khosla Vice President HAI, while representing their respective organizations.

Speaking about the occasion, **Mr. K.B. Kachru**, Chairman – South Asia, Radisson Hotel Group, expressed his joy with this collaboration which is in the interest of the Industry as well as the nation that is focusing closely on skilling and employability of the country's youth.

**Mr. Rohit Khosla**, Executive Vice President (Operations) at The Indian Hotels Company Limited, stated, "We are proud and honoured to be a part of this initiative which is synchronous with the Association's mission and is also in line with the values of IHCL.

HAI Member hotels are committed to initiatives that serve the larger interest of the Industry and will continue to support the government at every available opportunity to do so.

### **About HAI**

Established in 1996, Hotel Association of India (HAI) has evolved as an integrated hospitality industry platform to keep pace with the growing buoyancy ushered in by the liberalization of Indian economy in the mid-90s. With its membership extending from major hotel groups; boutique, heritage and small hotels, HAI represents the entire spectrum of the industry. Its Executive Committee is a potent combination of the commitment of hotel owners on one hand and hard-core professionalism of hotel managers on the other. As the apex Industry Body, HAI works in the areas of Promotion of Regional Cooperation and Hospitality Research & Education in addition to taking Industry centric initiatives. By launching Unprecedented 'Social Inclusion' initiatives, HAI also projects the 'Social Face' of the Indian hospitality industry"