

HCL Technologies' CEO Vineet Nayar to Be Honored at Asha for Education, NYC/NJ's 'Evening of Hope' Benefit Dinner

NEW YORK, Oct. 9, 2009 -- Asha for Education (Asha) is excited to announce that Mr. Vineet Nayar, CEO of HCL Technologies, will be the recipient of the 2009 "Beacon of Hope" award at the 'Evening of Hope' benefit dinner on November 4th, 2009 at Manhattan Penthouse. In recognition of his philanthropic contributions and outspoken advocacy for reforms in the Indian educational system, Mr. Nayar is to be feted at the New York City/New Jersey chapter's benefit dinner, where he will be the guest speaker.

The 'Beacon of Hope' award recognizes individuals dedicated to catalyzing socio-economic change in the most underserved communities in India. Award nominees are visionaries and risk-takers who are motivated by a passion for human rights and furthering the cause of education –thereby helping to address society's most pressing concerns. These individuals, through their life and actions, bring hope and empowerment and serve as an inspiration to others.

Mr. Nayar has served as an exemplar, speaking out about the reforms needed in the educational system, and the future viability of education for students in a competitive global landscape. Asha welcomes the opportunity to have Mr. Nayar speak at the evening dinner.

Amid incredible challenges of inadequate resources and societal norms faced by local groups in India working towards improving the lives of underprivileged children, the contributions of individuals such as Mr. Nayar's serve as a luminous beacon of hope.

The 2009 'Evening of Hope' benefit dinner promises to be a fun-packed evening with a cocktail hour, energizing live music by the classical duo Tiger Lilies, a sumptuous dinner and the award ceremonies. A benefit auction to help further the cause of Asha's focus projects will also be held during the course of the evening.

The dinner event will be attended by 150-200 guests, representing notable members of the New York-New Jersey Indian community and other individuals and organizations interested in or already involved in improving India's socio-economic condition. The last 'Evening of Hope' dinner held in 2007 at the Waldorf-Astoria featured honorees, award-winning journalist P. Sainath and Infosys co-founder S. Gopalakrishnan.

Awardee Bio

Vineet Nayar is chief executive officer of HCL Technologies, Ltd., (HCLT), one of India's largest and fastest-growing global information technology services companies with 55,000 employees spread across 20 countries and one that has become recognized around the world for its management practices. Vineet joined HCL in 1985 after earning his MBA from XLRI, one of the leading business management schools in Asia. In 1993, he started up his own company, Comnet, where he pioneered many of the innovative management practices like "Employee First, Customer Second" which is now taught as a case study at Harvard Business School.

In 2005, he became president, and later CEO, of HCL Technologies. In 2008, HCL Technologies was named the Number One Best Employer in India by Hewitt Associates and BusinessWeek listed it as one of the twenty most influential companies in the world. Fortune Magazine has articulated his leadership style as "The World's Most Modern Management" and the London Business School calls him "the leader of organizational Innovation."

Vineet has not restricted his value driven leadership to the corporate world. He established a non-profit organization called SAMPARK in 2004, which has a vision of "creating a million smiles." SAMPARK is working with ill equipped schools in India to improve the quality of education through teach the teacher program, investing in basic infrastructure and creating science labs in schools. SAMPARK also funds engineering education for students from these schools by providing scholarship to meritorious students, thereby increasing the opportunity for young and bright minds to pursue education in engineering.

About Asha for Education

Established in 1991, Asha for Education (Asha) is a secular, volunteer run non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with 73 chapters globally and 45 in the US. With over 1500 active volunteers today, Asha has raised nearly \$15 million as of 2008 and supported more than 400 different projects spanning 24 states in India, while maintaining minimum overhead. In terms of project funding, almost \$3,000,000 has been disbursed to these projects in the past year alone.

By pioneering bold new initiatives in the field of education, Asha is making a difference in the lives of underprivileged children of India. Asha has been a top-rated nonprofit on many Charity Navigator lists, including "10 Slam Dunk Charities."

For more information about Asha for Education, please visit the NYC/NJ chapter website at <http://www.ashanet.org/nycnj>. For ticket purchase details and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Remya Thomas, Benefit Dinner Event Coordinator at nycnj@ashanet.org or 972-369-5900

Asha for Education NYC/NJ

Press Contact:
Bhinish Shah
Benefit Dinner Communications Coordinator
Email: nycnj.publicity@ashanet.org
Tel: 1-732-429-2119

HCL Technologies Ltd.

Press Contact:
Kirsten Paragona
Director, External Communications
Email: kparagona@hcl.in
Tel: 1-978-356-3342