

BOMBAY MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

**SPEECH DELIVERED BY Prof. (Dr.) SURESH GHAI
AT THE 55th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BMA**

5th June, 2009 at 4.00 pm at A & N Building

Mr. S Mohan, Members of Executive Committee, Past Presidents, past members of EC and Fellow Members,

It is a privilege to accept the Presidentship of this premier management association. I am honoured and at the same time humbled by the confidence reposed by members.

First of all I would like to place on record the excellent and exemplary services and leadership provided by Mr. S Mohan and his team in steering the BMA during difficult times.

I welcome the new members of EC who take office today; Mr S P Agarwal, who is no stranger to BMA, as the Vice President, Mr. Yogi Shriram, Dr. Monica Khanna, Mr. M D Aggarwal, and Mr. Nilay Yagnik (who has been reelected). Ms. Nirmala Mahendele, continues as Hon. Secretary and Dr. Saxena rejoins the EC in his new role as the Treasurer. Mr. Bhaskar Joshi, Mr. Devender Nath, Mr. Ramakrishnan and Ms. Smita Mahajan continue as the EC members.

I am aware of the excellent work done by the illustrious past presidents in furthering the cause of BMA and will do my best, with the help of my colleagues in the EC and the support, blessings and cooperation of all of you to take it forward.

We are living in turbulent times. The first decade of the new century is almost over. What we are seeing is that parameters and environmental factors change every second; global factors are affecting us more and more. There is a demographic shift to younger population; the number of students passing out of B-schools has gone upto 1.5-2.00 lacs. per annum. Are we tapping them ? Are we relevant to them ? Are we serving our constituency well? We at the BMA need to relook at our goals, objectives and processes.

It will be our endeavour to increase the membership manifold and attract new members especially from young managers and students. On behalf of BMA, I request your help

and cooperation in this task. If each one of us can get one new member, we can double the membership in one year.

While we are finalizing our agenda for the next year with the usual conferences, seminars, MDPs and lecture series, I would request each one of you to suggest new activities which can be taken up by BMA. We have made a calendar for MDP programmes, conferences, seminars and lectures, film discussions etc, which will be circulated to you through website and e-mail. We shall be strengthening the evening programmes and lectures for members at all our centres.

The BMA website is up and e-journal and e-newsletter is being sent to you. We shall be strengthening email facilities and online updating of your details to be in touch with you.

We request your help in sponsoring candidates for these programmes through personal or official sponsorships. Your suggestions for new programmes and the themes are welcome.

We plan to find new ways to be in the public eye. We will have to make ourselves more socially conscious, by doing something for the society at large, whether by partnering with BMC or NGOs or any other organization.

I, as President of Management Week Committee last year had organized functions of "Management Week / Management Day" in many B schools. I would request other B-schools to get involved in the activities of the Management Week and celebrate Management Day with a difference.

I would also invite Directors of the B-Schools to do joint programmes with BMA so that the students and faculty are enriched and have a stake in the BMA; this will enthuse them (faculty & students) to become members of BMA.

I would request members to volunteer their services on BMA Committees so that BMA becomes pro-active and vibrant and serve the members and society better.

It will be our earnest request to the members to attend Fellowship and other BMA functions including the Annual Awards functions in greater numbers.

Let us all join hands and heads together in making BMA a vibrant, most preferred and world-class Management Association.

I once again thank you for gracing the occasion and blessing the new Executive Committee.

Jai Hind