



PRESS RELEASE

The 3rd International Day of Yoga 2017 celebrated in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

The 3rd International Day of Yoga was celebrated in the United Arab Emirates at the iconic Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre on 20th June, 2017. Over 4,000 participants including school and university students, ladies and people of all age groups enthusiastically reached the venue well ahead of the scheduled time.

The highlight of the program was the ushering of the main event with Laughter Yoga which injected a good deal of happiness among the Emiratis dignitaries, diplomatic corps and nationals of several countries and Indians. Various Yoga associations exhibited their different styles of Yoga for diverse requirements. Prime Minister Modi's video message for the International Day of Yoga 2017 was screened which was liked by the participants. A 25-minutes film on Yoga Harmony with Nature was also screened.

In his welcome remarks Ambassador of India Navdeep Suri thanked His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mabararak Al Nahayan, Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development, Her Excellency Sheikha Lubna bint Khalid Al Qasimi, UAE Minister of State for Tolerance, for gracing the International Day of Yoga celebrations in the month of Ramadhan. He also thanked his fellow Diplomats and all participants who had participated in such large numbers in the event. He praised the role of the Yoga Associations in UAE in popularizing Yoga and thanked the sponsors and volunteers profusely without whose support the International Day of Yoga would not have reached the high standard it did.

His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mabararak Al Nahayan, Minister of Culture and Knowledge Development, Her Excellency Sheikha Lubna bint Khalid Al Qasimi, UAE Minister of State for Tolerance, Navdeep Suri, Ambassador of India and other dignitaries joined to light the traditional lamp amid the chanting of the Sanskrit Slokas.

His Excellency Sheikh Nahayan Mabararak Al Nahayan in his speech remarked that, "Yoga embodies unity of mind and body; thought and action; restraint and fulfillment; harmony between man and nature; a holistic approach to health and well-being." He also noted that, "India and the United Arab Emirates have enjoyed a long and fulfilling relationship. We are all thankful for the opportunity presented by this

celebration for promoting the friendship and understanding that exists between our two countries. Let us hope that friendships like ours will be encouraged globally through the celebration of International Yoga Day.”

Her Excellency Sheikha Lubna bint Khalid Al Qasimi in her speech highlighted Yoga’s importance “As a force promoting tolerance, acceptance, and peace in the world and hoped International Day of Yoga will bring inner and outer peace, and lead the way toward more tolerant societies. She drew a parallel between the holy month of Ramadan, efforts of her Ministry of Tolerance and the message of harmony and peace conveyed by International Day of Yoga.”

To honour their support for the event, plaques were presented.

The participants later undertook simultaneous Yogasans under the Common Yoga Protocol, a set of 15 Yoga postures, which was followed all over the world on this day.

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More photographs of the event may freely be downloadable from Embassy’s Flickr handle (Link) <https://www.flickr.com/photos/indembassyabudhabi/>