

**OPPI 42<sup>nd</sup> AGM – 20<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2008,**  
**The Taj Mahal Palace & Tower, Apollo Bunder, Mumbai**

**Opening Remarks by Mr. Tapan Ray**

On behalf of OPPI, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of OPPI.

OPPI established in 1965, is a premier association of research based international and large pharmaceutical companies in India and is also a scientific and professional body. It caters to the needs of Research based Pharmaceutical Industry thereby creating and sustaining an environment conducive to innovation and growth, simultaneously, facilitating industry and stakeholders partnership through various advisory and consultative processes to achieve the Healthcare objectives of the Nation.

OPPI functions mainly on the following areas:

1. Continuous dialogue with the stakeholders;
2. Actively engage in knowledge creation & knowledge sharing with value addition;
3. Engage in 'Corporate Academia' Interaction

OPPI identifies itself with the country's national healthcare objectives and encourages its members to make substantial contributions to social concerns and actively promotes Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

We are, indeed, privileged to have with us this morning, Shri Ashok Kumar, Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizers, as our Chief Guest.

Although Shri Ashok Kumar needs no introduction to any of us, many of you may not know that Shri Ashok Kumar started his career as a college teacher. A 1974 batch Bihar cadre IAS officer with an admirable record of both National and International experience, Shri Ashok Kumar is currently heading the new department that entirely focuses on the development of Indian Pharmaceutical Industry.

Shri Ashok Kumar is well known for his efficiency and transforming the working of all the Departments and Ministries that have been given to him. The most recent example is the transformation he brought about in the NPPA, which has been awarded an ISO 9001: 2000 Certification. As the Chairman of NPPA, he converted the opaque Authority into a transparent one.

Sir, I would also like to reiterate today, on behalf of the entire industry, how delighted we are to have you as the Secretary of the newly formed Department of Pharmaceuticals. The Department of Pharmaceuticals, as we all know, will also be responsible for the promotion and co-ordination of drug research, manufacturing and skilled manpower development. The administrative charge of NPPA and five public sector drug manufacturing units have also been vested with the new department.

Those of us who have interacted with Shri Ashok Kumar have witnessed that his exceptionally bright mind shines as much as his glittering and distinguished career. We are most grateful to you Sir, for kindly accepting our invitation and are quite hopeful that under your dynamic leadership the Pharmaceutical Industry in India will be a force to reckon with in the global arena and will play a critical role along with the Government and all stakeholders to help achieving the Healthcare objectives of the nation.

We are thankful to Shri G.S. Sandhu, Joint Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Shri Arun Jha, Member Secretary NPPA, Shri Paresh Johri, Deputy Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals and our distinguished panel of Speakers for kindly agreeing to be with us this morning.

We welcome Mr. B.N. Singh, President, IDMA and Managing Director, Alkem Laboratories.

Our hearty welcome goes to Dr. N. M. Kondap, Vice Chancellor, and Dr. M.N. Welling Pro-Vice Chancellor of NMIMS University.

We had our Statutory AGM yesterday and I am pleased to announce the results of the election of Office Bearers. We have positions of 1 President and 4 Vice Presidents.

You all will be happy to know that the current President, Mr. Ranga Iyer has been, once again, unanimously elected as President of OPPI for the year 2008-09. Hearty congratulations Ranga. Ranga, as you all know, is the Managing Director of Wyeth Ltd. He has very ably represented OPPI on the Ms. Satwant Reddy

Committee on National Pharmaceuticals Policy and championed the OPPI Code of Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices. Armed with a post graduate degree in Commerce and an MBA in Finance from Bombay University, Ranga plays an active role in public affairs and is represented on the Managing Committee of Bombay Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The next positions are of 4 Vice-Presidents:

Dr. Girish Telang, our charismatic and senior most Vice President has been re-elected as a Vice President. Girish is a qualified medical doctor from Grant Medical College, Mumbai, with a 5 year stint in the Indian Army. Currently Girish is the Managing Director of Roche and is Chairman of our Medical Committee, which has been spearheading the interaction of OPPI with the Government and other stakeholders in the Regulatory Reform process of our country.

The next position of Vice President is held by Mr. Kewal Handa who has also been re-elected as Vice President. Kewal is the Managing Director of Pfizer. He is a recipient of India CFO – 2004 Award for Excellence in Finance by the International Market Assessment Group when he was CFO of Pfizer. A Post Graduate in Commerce and a qualified Management Accountant and Company Secretary, Kewal has very ably led our Pricing & Taxation Committee as Chairman in the past and represented OPPI on the Satwant Reddy Committee on National Pharmaceuticals Policy. Kewal is also the President of Indian Management Association.

Dr. Shailesh Ayyangar, who has also been re-elected as Vice President for the year 2008-09, is the Managing Director of Aventis Pharma Ltd. of the Sanofi Aventis Group. Shailesh is a topper of IIM, Ahmedabad. He is the Chairman of OPPI's Sales Force Effectiveness Committee.

Last, but not the least, Mr. Sandeep Gupta has been newly elected as Vice President of OPPI. Sandeep is currently the Chairman & Managing Director of Eli Lilly & Company (India) Pvt. Ltd. Before taking over this assignment in March 2006, Sandeep was the President & General Manager of Eli Lilly Philippines where he spent about three years. Sandeep completed his Masters of Management Studies (M.M.S) from BITS, Pilani and started his career in marketing research. Sandeep was also elected to the Board of Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP) in 2005

Please join me in congratulating all these gentlemen and I am sure with their collective expertise and wisdom OPPI will continue to enjoy its leadership position.

With these words, I once again welcome you in the 42<sup>nd</sup> AGM of OPPI, this morning.

Thank you very much.

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