



Rio Congress opens to Samba beats, IFA President Porus Kaka passes baton

Foretold is forewarned... while previewing the Rio Congress, we did predict that if past is prologue, the Brazilians know how to put up a show! Even by those high standards, the Opening Ceremony of Rio Congress yesterday evening exceeded all expectations!

The songs & dances and the acrobatics.. in short on display was the rich Brazilian culture that mesmerised the packed auditorium at the Windsor Convention Centre! And just when the participants thought it was all over for the night and were about to trudge downstairs to enjoy their drinks, in walked the Samba girls & boy! that surely proved the highlight of the Opening Ceremony, as their breathtaking, livewire performance had the audience all rushing in to click photographs that would serve as a memory for the wonderful opening to the 71st Congress of IFA!



Well, at what was his swan song last night, **IFA President Porus Kaka** hit the ball out of the park for an 'un-Bradmanesque' ending to his successful tenure as IFA President. His speeches are never short of humour and rarely disappoint.. Mr. Kaka hit all the right notes last evening as he declared the IFA Rio Congress open, briefed the audience about the stellar work done in the last 4 years by IFA, passed the baton to his successor **Mr. Murray Clayson** and had the audience in splits when he equated MLI with "speed dating."



Mr. Kaka proudly informed the audience that this was the first IFA Congress with a complete BEPS focus and had high words of praise for the scientific programme on offer over the next 4 days. He termed the CbCR as a 'game changer' and brushed off the debate over 'Public CbCR', warning the MNCs that "if it is out there, it will leak." He rather urged the global corporate giants to be transparent and to be mindful that the perceptions will be shaped by the 'Court of Public Opinion.' Mr. Kaka's humorous touch hit the right buttons



when he compared the MLI likes and dislikes of various jurisdictions to "speed dating" and wished that he were a fly on the wall when the discussions took place... of course only to satisfy his professional curiosity!

IFA President Kaka, renowned senior advocate in tax back home in India, then reflected on this 4 years' tenure, a highly successful one of that. He presented his impressive report card to the delegates, telling them that the activities of IFA were at their highest over the past couple of years, that the 5 Annual Regional Conferences held in different continents, had now become a norm, the finances of IFA were in great shape and above all, expressed personal satisfaction over IFA's diversity and inclusiveness in the changing world order of international tax, which was reflected in IFA electing Mr. Kaka to the post 4 years back, the first Asian to do so in the organisation's 7 decades history!



Mr. Kaka then introduced his successors to the gathering - he will be succeeded by **Mr. Murray Clayson (UK)** and the next chair of the prestigious Permanent Scientific Committee shall be **Mr. Robert Danon (Switzerland)**.

The Chairman of the Brazilian chapter of IFA, Mr. Gustavo A. M. Brigagão welcomed the audience to the 'Rio Experience' and shared that it was an emotional moment for Brazilians to get a chance to host the IFA Congress after a gap of almost 30 years.

The scientific programme will kick-start from Monday. Stay tuned to Taxsutra's in-depth coverage of the technical sessions, in conjunction with Knowledge Partners DTS & Associates.