

Press Release

Canada India Healthcare Summit 2021, May 20-21, 2021 – Virtual Conference

Toronto/New Delhi, February 3, 2021: Canada India Foundation (“CIF”), Toronto Rehab Institute – University Health Network (“TRI”), Federation of Indian Chapters of Commerce and Industries (“FICCI) and the Consulate General of India (“CGI”) are pleased to announce the Canada India Healthcare Summit 2021 (“CIHS 2021”), scheduled to take place as a **virtual** event on May 20 and 21, 2021, with Toronto as the hosting venue. The Summit will address the themes of Pandemic Response and Post-COVID Healthcare, Biotechnology and Artificial Intelligence and will also feature the CIF/Kite Institute Powerplay Pitch competition for innovators and start-ups in the healthcare sector.

The current global healthcare crisis, caused by the spread of COVID-19, has resulted in great loss of human life as well as unprecedented disruption of economic activity and social welfare around the world. This has heightened the urgency for democratic countries to work together to develop new approaches to healthcare in the post-COVID world, utilizing new developments in Biotechnology and Artificial Intelligence (“AI”).

This will be the third Canada India Healthcare Summit that CIF will be organizing, coming after its earlier initiatives in 2015 in Toronto and in New Delhi in 2017. “The Summits brought together healthcare experts, governments and business leaders to explore opportunities for Canada and India to work together on the important theme of healthcare”, said Dr. V.I. Lakshmanan, who co-chaired both summits as well as several similar thematic forums held by CIF earlier. “Key partners and participants included the Government of Ontario, Ministry of Ayush (Government of India), Apollo Hospitals, Apotex and many others. The Forums facilitated many new collaborative ventures.” he added.

Among the main deliverables of CIHS 2021 are:

- Enabling private sector, government, universities and research institutions in Canada and India to collaborate in exploring Biotechnology & AI driven healthcare solutions
- Understanding lessons learnt from managing the COVID-19 healthcare crisis
- Leveraging R&D in Healthcare, Biotechnology & AI to create economic opportunities and ensure better universal healthcare
- Helping to shape public policy in Canada and India to provide optimum healthcare to its residents through Public-Private Partnership (PPP)
- Coordinating the CIF/Kite Powerplay Pitch Competition and recognizing the winners of the competition

“The Indian Consulate in Toronto has been very supportive of CIF in all its past Forums and hold the organization in high regard for its passion and ability to bring Canada and India together”, said Ms. Apoorva Srivastava, Consul General of India in Toronto. “The Consulate is very happy to co-organize CIHS 2021, which will showcase India’s accomplishments in healthcare-related emerging technologies”, she added.

“CIF pioneered the organization of high-level thematic Canada India Forums with a public policy focus.”, said Satish Thakkar, Chair of Canada India Foundation, “These forums not only facilitated dialogue among public, industry and academic leaders in the respective fields, but also created opportunities for new business initiatives”. “CIF will continue to leverage these forums and create awareness about the tremendous potential that exists between Canada and India to partner on matters benefitting its citizens”, he added.

Canadian healthcare initiatives to be showcased at the Forum will be led by Toronto Rehab Institute (“TRI”), world leader in new technologies for rehabilitation. “TRI co-organized the 2015 Forum with CIF and looks forward to connecting with India’s technology leaders in healthcare, exploring ground-breaking ways to benefit patients needing rehabilitation” said Anette Larsson, Senior Campaign Director, TRI. “We are particularly excited this year to join hands with CIF to coordinate our highly successful Kite Powerplay Pitch Competition with the Summit”, she added.

A strong delegation of healthcare industry leaders and professionals from India will be participating in CIHS 2021, courtesy of FICCI, India’s leading organization of private sector companies. “FICCI is delighted to accept the invitation of the organizers to lead the Indian delegation”, said Dr. Alok Roy, Chair- FICCI Health Services Committee & Chairman, Medica Group of Hospitals “We hope that the forum will result in healthcare solution providers from the two countries to collaborate using the Public Private Partnership (PPP) model for mutual benefit”, he added.

Preparatory to the Summit, a series of webinars focusing on the specific themes of the Summit will be conducted on February 24, March 10 and March 25. The webinars will be coordinated by Dr. Arun Chockalingam, Chair of the Technical Committee for the Summit and will culminate in a set of White Papers which will be published and presented at the Summit.

The immediate outcome of CIHS 2021 will be the preparation of a policy document, including recommendations for Canadian and Indian governments and healthcare sector, specifically addressing the following:

- Necessity of a rethink to make maintain Canada’s universal system financially viable while maintaining and even raising the bar on the current high standard of delivery
- Need to enhance India’s currently inadequate delivery capacity in primary and secondary healthcare delivery, while exploiting its cutting-edge technological expertise in tertiary healthcare.

A report of the Summit, incorporating healthcare policy recommendations, will be presented to both governments as well as other stakeholders.

Canada India Foundation is a public policy organization, formed to promote stronger relations between Canada and India by emphasizing common public policy perspectives. University Health Network is Canada’s most prominent healthcare network, with the largest research-based hospital program in Canada and including the Toronto Rehab Institute, global leaders in research on physical rehabilitation. FICCI is India’s leading organization representing the private sector companies involved in commerce and industries.

Full details and updates about the Summit will be obtained from the Summit website www.canadaindiahealthcaresummit.org and also from Facebook and Twitter, after February 3.

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