

## The Power of Passion

Media has often asked Dr Madhav Mehra how as a one man he has been able to mastermind , launch so successfully and sustain so many initiatives. Dr Madhav Mehra, is not just the founder President of the Institute of Directors, he is also the founder of the World Council for Corporate Governance, World Environment Foundation, the Golden Peacock Awards, Quality Times, Journal of Corporate Governance, Masterclass for Directors, Gyandeeep Vidya Mandir, International Institute of Management and Governance, University of Corporate Governance, International Academy of Law, S M Charitable Trust and Golden Peacock Awards.

In his defence Dr Mehra says, That is my way of destressing and having fun. "Work drives me further", he told Asian World. He adds, " People are so kind to me. I am so fortunate to have such great and outstanding souls such as former prime ministers like Ola Ullsten of Sweden, Ruud Lubbers of Netherlands, Francisco Balsemao and Jose Socrates of Portugal and Jo Clark. Former prime minister of Canada vigorously supporting our causes and devoting their personal time voluntarily to spread the message. In India we have giants like Justice P N Bhagwati , Justice M N Venkatchaliah, Justice A M Ahmadi, Justice P N Lahoti, - all four former Chief Justices of India heading different initiatives for their own love for a better world. Besides several state governors, chief ministers are passionately involved in our projects.

Dr Mehra is regarded as a the greatest networker and is a classic example of what one man can achieve when driven by the power of passion.

- Dr Madhav Mehra is an internationally renowned management visionary, futuristic thinker and a Corporate Guru. He brings with him 3 decades of experience in quality, environment and governance, woven together in a rich tapster any of directorial, consultancy, teaching and boardroom assignments at cross cultural levels in Europe, USA and Asia. He is one of the most sought after international speaker and trainer. His passionate persuit of his vision of shared prosperity drives his organizations to make a difference.
- Dr Mehra has been crusading for training of Directors for the past 20 years. He is recognized as a master trainer, because he lives what he teaches. He is the secret behind the popularity and Success of Masterclass training for Directors.
- Never a Stereotype – an iconoclast to the core and an evangelist for change, innovation and bridging disparities

- Dr Mehra migrated from quality to Governance and became a votary of Governance all through. He thinks humanities future is linked with the Quality of governance.
- Dr Mehra set up the Golden Peacock Awards, trained assessment teams and then stepped back. Today awards recognition lies in their meticulous selection of criteria and impartial ways in which assessment is carried out. That is why some of the India's most prominent jurists are associated with it.
- He perceives normal corporate tendency for all pervasive human greed and tendency to exercise unfettered power. His mission is to institutionalize mechanisms that disperse authority and dissipate power among stake holders and exercise checks on human greed in a transparent and accountable way. Transparency is the key to Corporate Governance.
- Envisions, engages and energises on principle- based corporate governance. Focus on power of Dissent, Diversity, Difference, Dialogue and Disclosure is the key.
- 'Cut out the crap and get real,' is the message with which he forward the 'World Council for Corporate Governance' (WCFCG) and today the world is echoing what Dr Mehra said nine years ago on the role of transparency.
- Dr Mehra never took easy solutions. He always engineered and improvised new approaches and new thinking. He says "Whenever I got to the intersection of a crossroads– I never faced competition because I never took the easy road, the much traveled road."
- Dr Mehra says "Life has been a joy to me and work my passion only because I love its challenges. They make me better and better every day and in every way".
- IN 1995 he found the Delhi administration demolishing all the slums from Nehru Place where he had opened office after quitting the government job. They were suppose to be rehoused 10 miles away on the bank of Jamuna river. There was neither a school nor a hospital close by. Next year he bought a piece of land from local farmers and built a dispensary. That basic medical centre today treats 9000 patients each month.

- A few years he built another room and started a school. Today that school has over 200 students who come from the lowest strata of slum dwellers. These children are the love of Dr Mehra's life. He has visions to put them in the boardrooms of the world and therefore he is pursuing a project of setting up a University of Corporate Governance that would link up with the school.
- In July 2000 Dr Mehra revisited Palampur where he grew up after 40 years . He found that the fate of mountain people was worsened by encroachments on their habitat, lifestyle and heritage. He wanted to draw world attention to Palampur but its hotels did not have a room that could host a meeting of even 20 people. On 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2000 he got the chief minister lay the foundation of a convention centre where his home stood. On 14 June 2001, he held the third world congress on environment management seating 520 delegates and speakers in the convention hall on 35000 sq ft in a record time of 7 months and 11 days.
- In May 2002 he suffered serious back pain which defied all treatment until he joined LA Fitness Centre and started to do Sun salutations. Yoga cured him completely of the back ache . He wanted the world to benefit. So in 2003 he bought a villa with a hundred trees of almonds, figs, Alfarrobeira, guava, olives, oranges, lemons and vines of grape and palm trees in Loule in Portugal on the south western tip of Europe overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Following year he converted the whole thing into Nirvana Spa offering courses in body, mind and soul - Masterclasses combined with Yoga, Panchakarma and Pranayam. Dr Mehra's catch words are holistic and not piece meal.

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