

COMING TOGETHER

MARKING A STEP CHANGE IN THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE UAE PROFESSIONAL HOUSEKEEPERS GROUP, A NETWORKING EVENING BROUGHT PROFESSIONALS TOGETHER.

Founded in May 2003, the UAE Professional Housekeepers Group is committed to provide a platform for exchange of best practices as well as provide the ability to network among housekeeping professionals in the UAE.

To do this, it is working on developing a regional association of housekeeping professionals, encouraging UAE nationals to consider a career in the hospitality profession, providing a forum for the exchange of information and ideas, promoting leadership, education, resources and opportunities and actively contributing to the implementation of environmental friendly work practices

As well as ensuring that UAE housekeepers are not only up to date with the latest developments in the cleaning industry but are also aware of the latest trends for guest amenities and operating equipment, a key on-going role of the Group is to share experience and best practice amongst members.

The first major stage in this

development was a networking evening, sponsored by Rikan, held at the Al Murooj Rotana in Downtown Dubai on the 26th November - the first of a regular series.

Chairwoman and driving force behind the Group, Tatjana Ahmed, welcomed the 40 or more housekeepers to the evening and gave a brief update on some other activities, before Russel Stokoe, Marketing Manager (Key Accounts) from Rikan gave a brief presentation in which he stressed that, despite the sponsorship, Rikan staff were there to enjoy the evening rather than make a sales presentation.

He then called for volunteers for an ice bucket challenge - this challenge, sometimes called the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge, involves dumping a bucket of ice water on someone's head to promote awareness of the disease amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and encourage donations to research. Five brave souls volunteered to take the challenge with Rikan committing to donate Dhs 500 for

each of them. Doused in icy water, the volunteers were:

- **Venkatesh Parthasarathy**, Assistant Executive Housekeeper, First Central Suites
- **Lakmal Mawella**, Housekeeping Manager, The Palace Down Town
- **Kiran Patil**, Assistant Housekeeping Manager, Grand Hyatt Dubai
- **Dilshan Fernando**, Housekeeping Manager, M5 Services
- **Satheesh Ghandi**, Assistant Housekeeping Manager, Park Hyatt Abu Dhabi

Each was also given a voucher to spend on Rikan products. The money raised is being given to a charity of the UAE Professional Housekeepers Group's choice. After a relaxed tone had been set for the evening, attendees then enjoyed a buffet meal and the opportunity to mingle and network. The next event is being held on the 14th of December, venue in Dubai to be confirmed.





THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Tatjana Ahmed
Grand Hyatt Dubai
Chairwoman and founding member

Jeanette Clift
Al Bustan Rotana Hotel
Secretary and founding member

Laetitia Lasry
The Palace Dubai
Members Secretary

Nadine O'Connor
Jumeirah Creekside Hotel
Treasurer

Pamini Hemaprabha
Kempinski Hotel Mall of the Emirates
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