

## Great Lakes Alumnus, only Indian to be selected for International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) – ‘Influential Voices’

May 1, 2014: Great Lakes Alumnus Sijo Kuruvilla George (PGPM 2008), CEO, [Startup Village](#), has been selected by the US Consulate General, Chennai, to the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) - “Influential Voices”. He is one of the 8 participants in the program and also the only participant from INDIA.

As CEO of Startup Village, Sijo provides leadership and vision in setting up the country’s first PPP model Technology Business Incubator. Startup Village is a technology business incubator in Kochi and it is India’s first incubator that is funded jointly by the public and private sector. Sh. Kris Gopalakrishnan, co-founder of Infosys and the most successful IT entrepreneur from Kerala, is the chief mentor at Startup Village.



**Sijo Kuruvilla**

Dr. Bala V Balachandran, Founder & Dean, Great Lakes in his message to Sijo said, “Congratulations on behalf of the entire Great Lakes Family and you deserve every bit. We pray to Lord to bless you and make you win many more accolades and awards. Keep the flag of Great Lakes going sky high”

### **About the ‘Influential Voices’ program:**

The ‘Influential Voices’ program brings eight young leaders to meet with educators, NGO leaders, media practitioners, government officials and community groups to gain practical insights into how coalition building, public private partnerships and social activism promote good governance at the federal, state and local levels. Participants will explore effective grassroots methods of influencing public policy and the skills required to be effective young leaders. In particular, the project will emphasize digital citizenship and mobilization of social media for advancing political and social interests.

### **About IVLP:**

The IVLP is US Department of State’s premier professional exchange program. The participants are current and emerging leaders who travel to the US for programs that



reflect their professional interests and US foreign policy goals. Launched in 1940, the IVLP strengthen US engagement with countries around the world and cultivate lasting relationships by connecting current and emerging foreign leaders with their American counterparts. More than 200,000 International Visitors have engaged with Americans through the IVLP, including more than 335 current or former Chiefs of State or Heads of Government. <http://eca.state.gov/ivlp/about-ivlp>

**We convey our Heartiest Congratulations to Sijo and wish him many more accolades!!**