Making Home exhibition documents history of Ugandan Asian migration

A NEW exhibition about the experiences of Uganda’s Asians aims to encourage people in history and explore its many layers.

Making Home, which opens at the Royal Geographic Society in London on Friday (6), depicts the story of Asian migrants and how their lives changed following their expulsion by the dictator Idi Amin in 1972.

“Migration touches everyone in multicultural Britain and you can always tap into a common experience,” Shah said.

Last year marked the 40th anniversary of the arrival of Uganda’s Asians in Britain. Making Home is the result of one year’s work by the Exiles Project, a community project collecting oral histories of families who made the UK their new home.

Shah said there were plans to develop educational aids that could be used by schools. The testimonies would also be put online.

Organisers said there was interest in the exhibition from India as well as east Africa, while Shah hoped the website would grow into a useful resource for anyone keen on history.

Making Home – Exiles: The Ugandan Asian Story is running until next Sunday (13) at the Royal Geographic Society (IBG Exhibition Pavilion), 1 Kensington Gore, London, SW7 2AR, from 10am-5pm daily, including weekends.

Hinduism encyclopedia ‘a meeting of east and west’

SPIRITUAL LEADER LAUNCHES INTERNATIONAL EDITION OF PUBLICATION IN AMERICA

ACADEMICS, politicians and spiritual leaders gathered in the US last month to celebrate the launch of the international edition of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism.

South Carolina’s Indian American governor Nikki Haley was presented with the first copy of the publication at a special event at the University of South Carolina in Columbia last month (August 25-26).

The 11-volume encyclopedia, a project of India Heritage Research Foundation, said: “The wisdom, truths, teachings and insights of Indian and Hindu culture are not limited to or applicable to only Hindus or Indians. Rather they belong to and can deeply benefit the world.

“It is, therefore, our aim that the richness of this ancient yet timeless culture and heritage should be made available to the entire world, in a way that is authentic, academic, comprehensive and illuminating.”

The project was headquatered at the University of South Carolina during its compilation and editorial stages.

President of the university Dr Harris Pastides said: “It is a deep honour to be participating in the American release of the Encyclopedia of Hinduism.

“This is a remarkable work of scholarship and research. I hope that many in academia and in everyday life will turn to it as a resource to better understand the characters, the tenets, and the impact that Hinduism has had, and is having, in the world.”

Other guests at the launch included Indian social activist and campaigner Anna Hazare; South Carolina congressman Joe Wilson; consul general to India Ajit Kumar; community leader Dr Sudhir Parikh; Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji; Dr Harris Pastides; Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswatiji; Anna Hazare; Dr Meera Narsimhan, dean of psychiatry at the University of South Carolina; Joe Wilson; and Raoul Goff, CEO of Mandala Publishing which has brought out the publication.

“Making Home is the result of one year’s work by the Exiles Project, a community project collecting oral histories of families who made the UK their new home.”

Wilson and Kumar paid tribute to HH Pujya Muniji for his efforts in conceiving the project and bringing it to fruition.

The encyclopaedia was previewed and blessed at a ceremony in India by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and hundreds of India’s most revered spiritual, social and national leaders.

Watch the video of the launch at www.gg2.net/videos.php