

**ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR
2012– 2013**



THE BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

'Royal Exchange', 6 Netaji Subhas Road, Kolkata 700 001

Tel: 91-33-2230 3711 / 3733 / 3746 Fax: 91-33-2230 1289

Email: director_general@bengalchamber.com Website: www.bengalchamber.com

Activities of the Bengal Chamber held between 29th September 2012 and 10th September 2013 have been reported.

(Some events in September 2012, not covered in the earlier year's Annual Report, have been covered in this Report.)

CONTENTS

Annual General Meeting 2012

- Annual General Meeting of The Bengal Chamber, 28th September 2012, Chamber premises

Corporate Social Responsibility

- The Bengal Chamber supporting Aideas Consulting Group on the Human Rights Day Seminar on “CSR and Grass-roots Transformation – Making the Twain Meet”, 10th December 2012, Chamber premises
- The Bengal Chamber supported The IGEP Foundation, in association with the Business Social Compliance Initiative (BSCI), in their Round Table on CSR / Social Compliance, 12th December 2013, Chamber premises
- The Bengal Chamber Serving Humanity Forum presents a Workshop on “Road Emergencies and Our Response” on the occasion of World CSR Day 2013, 18th February 2013, Chamber premises
- Together We Rise – An evening with Vidya Balan also featuring Anjan Dutta for the special children of IICP, 13th July 2013, Town Hall, Kolkata

Economic Affairs

- Union Budget Viewing Session, 28th February 2013, Chamber premises
- Post Budget Seminar on “Union Budget 2013–14: A Thorough Analysis” with KPMG, 1st March 2013, Oberoi Grand, Kolkata
- Interaction with Shri Sumit Bose, IAS, Revenue Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Finance, 5th April 2013, Chamber premises

Education

- A Summit on Future of Education – Education for Life, Education for All, 13th October 2012, S N Bose Hall, Science City
- The Bengal Chamber in association with Calcutta Business School presenting a seminar on “Quality of Work Life and Work Culture: Bengal Perspective”, 11th January 2013, Chamber premises
- Application of Information Technology in Education: Business Session and Exposition, 22nd February 2013, Chamber premises
- An Interactive session in association with Bandhan on “Right to Education” with Dr. Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee, Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics, MIT, 18th March 2013, The Palladian Lounge, Chamber premises
- National Seminar on “Corporate Success, Sustainability and Social Consciousness – Recent Advances in Thoughts and Practices”, 3rd–4th May 2013, EILM Salt Lake Campus
- Interactive Session on Educating the Future Mind – Celebrating the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sir Asutosh Mukhopadhyay, 27th June 2013, Chamber premises

Energy and Environment

- Meeting with Mr. Merin Rajadurai, U.S. State Department, India Desk, 10th October 2012, Chamber premises
- The Bengal Chamber and the European Business and Technology Centre (EBTC) partnering Jadavpur University in presenting the Lecture Series on Sustainability of Indian Energy Sector: Prospects and Challenges”, Inaugural Session on 18th January 2013, Gandhi Bhavan, Jadavpur University Campus
- The Bengal Chamber and the European Business and Technology Centre (EBTC) partnered Jadavpur University in presenting the Lecture Series on Sustainability of Indian Energy Sector: Prospects and Challenges”, Second Session: Lecture on “Solar Photovoltaics – Indian Scenario” by Prof. K . L. Chopra, Former Director, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur; Founder, Thin Film Laboratory, IIT, Delhi, & Microscience Laboratory, IIT, Kharagpur, 22nd March 2013, K P Bose Auditorium, Jadavpur University Campus
- The Bengal Chamber EILM Annual Sit n Draw for Children (Theme: Sun, Earth and our Future), 27th April 2013, Chamber premises
- Interactive Session on “Climate Policy and Legislation – Sharing UK and Global Best Practices” with Sir David King, Former Chief Scientific Advisor and Head of the Government Office of Science (2000–07) for UK Government; Currently Director of Research in Cambridge University and Senior Scientific Advisor to the bank UBS; 2nd May 2013, Chamber premises
- Discussion Forum on Shale Gas: A Game–changer in Energy, 17th May 2013, Chamber premises
- The Chamber supported the Centre for Environment Education (CEE) under the MoEF on their Outreach meet for JSW–The Times of India Earth Care Awards, 14th June 2013, Chamber premises
- The Bengal Chamber partnered Narula Institute of Technology in their UGC sponsored “National Conference on Energy Engineering, Analysis, Audit and Management”, 8th to 10th July 2013
- Ideal Earth – Plants for our Future, programme for schoolchildren with Agri–Horticultural Society of India, 27th July 2013, HBK Hall, Agri–Horticultural Society of India, Alipore, Kolkata
- Jadavpur University in association with The Bengal Chamber and the European Business and Technology Centre (EBTC) presented the next programme of the Lecture Series on “Sustainability of Indian Energy Sector: Prospects and Challenges”: A lecture on “Energy Challenges of India: Contributions of Material Scientist and Technologist” by Mr. Baldev Raj , President, International Institute of Welding, President, Indian National Academy of Engineering, Past President, Indian Institute of Metals, JC Bose Fellow, DST, 22nd August 2013, Jadavpur University Campus
- Energy Sustainability Conclave 2013 (Energy Security – Empowering the Energy Future), 30th–31st August 2013, ITC Sonar, Kolkata

Exhibitions and Trade Fairs

- 11th India International Mega Trade Fair, 14th – 24th December 2012, Science City, Kolkata

Finance and Banking

- Interactive Session with Tiger Hill Capital, 12th April 2013, Chamber premises
- Summit on “Indian Insurance Industry – Road Ahead”, 10th May 2013, Chamber premises

Health

- Application of Technology in Healthcare – Business Session and Exposition for the best solutions, 23rd November 2012, Chamber premises
- Interactive Session: State of Healthcare in West Bengal, 25th January 2013, Chamber premises
- Sunfeast Health and Lifestyle Quiz, 26th April 2013, Chamber premises
- The Bengal Chamber and The Telegraph Panel Discussion on “Comprehensive Healthcare for All – Is India Ready for It?” presented by National Insurance, 11th May 2013, Chamber premises
- Workshop on Electro Magnetic Field (EMF) with Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), 18th July 2013, Chamber premises

HR / IR

- Interactive Session on Fire and Safety Compliance – Challenges and Solutions, 11th September 2012, Chamber premises
- Workshop on Contract Labour Management – Approach and Solution, 18th January 2013, Chamber premises
- Seminar on “Industrial Relations in India – Shifting Paradigms”, 20th April 2013, ITC Sonar
- The Bengal Chamber Award for Best Young HR Professional, 6th September 2013, Chamber premises

Information Technology

- Meeting with Internet Society, 8th October 2012, Chamber premises
- With CSI (Kolkata Chapter)
- The Bengal Chamber was the Technical Sponsor of the Third International Conference on Emerging Applications of Information Technology hosted by the Kolkata Chapter of CSI and being held at ISI, Kolkata during 29th Nov – 1st Dec 2012.
- The Bengal Chamber also supported the Chapter in hosting the 47th Annual Convention of CSI and an International Conference on Intelligent Infrastructure during 1st – 2nd December 2012 at the Science City.
- The Bengal Chamber partnered INFOCOM 2012, 6th – 9th December 2012
- Panel Discussion on ‘India IT – Present and Future’, 18th January 2013, The Palladian Lounge, Chamber premises
- Annual Bengal Chamber IT Quiz, 23rd February 2013, Chamber premises
- The Bengal Chamber partnering Microsoft BizSpark India Challenge 2013 with TiE, 29th May 2013, Chamber premises
- The Bengal Chamber Business-IT Conclave 2013 (New Devices, Mobility and Networking), 19th July 2013, The Park

Infrastructure

- East & North East India Infrastructure Conclave (Investment Strategies for Better Infrastructure), 19th January 2013, Chamber premises

International Relations

- Meeting with the Ambassador of Malta in India, 11th September 2012, The Palladian Lounge
- Interaction with U Kyaw Swe Tint, Consul General of Myanmar in Kolkata, 12th September 2012, Chamber premises
- B2B Meet with Chinese Enterprises, 17th October 2012, Chamber premises
- Meeting with Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Dhaka) on Non Tariff Measures while trading with SAARC Countries, 15th November 2012, Chamber premises
- Meeting with Ms. Rosaline Kwan, Senior Trade Commissioner (Northern India) and Deputy Commercial Program Manager, High Commission of Canada, New Delhi, 11th December 2012, Chamber premises
- Meeting with Ambassador Dan Mozena, U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh on 12th December 2012 at the residence of Mr. Dean R. Thompson, Consul General, US Consulate, Kolkata
- Interaction with Janab Ghulam Muhammed Quader, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce, Bangladesh with Managing Committee Members, 14th December 2012, Chamber premises
- Meeting with Japan Foundry Society, 1st February 2013, Chamber premises
- India Eurasia Business Partnership Seminar, 14th–15th February 2013, Chamber premises
- BCCI Delegation to Myanmar, 20th – 23rd February 2013, Yangon, NPT, Mandalay
- Interactive Session on “Indo–Dutch Business Partnership: Road Ahead” with Mr. Cees Bansema, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of The Kingdom of The Netherlands, 4th March 2013, Chamber premises
- Special Felicitation of Dr. Pradeep Ganguly, Senior Vice President, Prince George's County Economic Development Corporation, 18th March 2013, The Palladian Lounge, Chamber premises
- Interactive Session with Hon'ble Minister of ICT, Republic of Mauritius, 22nd March 2013, Chamber premises
- Interaction with Yasui Architects and Engineers (Japan), 10th April 2013, Chamber premises
- Interactive Session with Ms. Nicola Watkinson, Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner, Austrade, South Asia, 23rd April 2013, Chamber premises
- One–day workshop on Managing Risks in International Trade, 3rd May 2013, Chamber premises
- Interaction with Business Delegation from Myanmar, 10th June 2013, Chamber premises
- Interaction with Mr. John Paul B Inigo, Commercial Attaché, Philippine Trade and Investment Centre (PTIC), Embassy of the Philippines, New Delhi, 10th September 2013, Chamber premises

Marketing and Brand

- Marketing Conclave on “The Changing Face of Brands”, 16th March 2013, Chamber premises
- Media Marketing Conclave – Mediamorphosis: Changing Trends, Changing Minds, 7th September 2013, Chamber premises

MSME Development, Manufacturing and Allied Activities

- The Bengal Chamber Award for Excellence in Manufacturing Practices of MSMEs, 21st November 2012, Chamber premises
- Application of IT in Manufacturing – Bringing forward the best solutions, 12th April 2013, Chamber premises
- Workshop on Lean Six Sigma, 15th–16th May 2013, Chamber premises
- Factory Visit at Linde India Limited, Uluberia Factory, 20th August 2013

Shipping

- Workshop on “Look East Policy – Wake up Call for Ports and Logistics”, 2nd November 2012, Chamber premises
- Seminar on “Importance of Waterways for Economic Development”, 7th June 2013, Chamber premises
-

Skill Development

- Queensland Delegation on Higher Education and VET, 5th December 2012, Chamber premises
- Visit to Ram Krishna Mission Shilpamandira, An Initiative of the Skill Development Task Force, 23rd March 2013
- The Bengal Chamber partnered Don Bosco Liluah in their “Shilpangon 2013” held on 4th May 2013
- Eastern & North Eastern Skill Development Summit: Role of empowering all individuals towards a better India, 26th & 27th July, 2013, Williamson Magor Hall, Chamber Premises, Kolkata (and launch of the first ever Iron and Steel Sector Skill Council)
- Meeting on Collaborative partnership with SkillsTech, TAFE, Queensland, Australia and signing of Letter of Intent by the Bengal Chamber and SkillsTech, 9th September 2013, Chamber premises

Sports

- Felicitation of Olympians, Mr. Joydeep Karmakar and Mr. Rahul Banerjee, 12th September 2012, Chamber premises
- Ideal – Bengal Chamber Golf Trophy & Andrew Yule Sesquicentenary Trophy powered by JIS, 30th November – 1st December 2012, The Tollygunge Club

Taxation and Economic Affairs

- Seminar on Direct Taxes, 21st March 2013, Chamber premises
- Seminar on Service Tax, 19th April 2013, Chamber premises
- Seminar on LTU, 7th May 2013, Chamber premises
- Seminar on Foreign Trade Policy, 28th June 2013, Chamber premises

Think Series

- Black Dog presents Bengal Chamber Think, in association with The Telegraph and Techno India Group and powered by Tower Group – Panel Discussion on “India’s Emerging Relationship with Major Powers”, 16th November 2012, The Palladian Lounge, Chamber premises
- The Bengal Chamber “Think...” session with Mr. S V Bobby Sista, Director, Sista Saatchi & Saatchi Advertising, 29th January 2013, The Palladian Lounge, Chamber premises
- The Bengal Chamber “Think...” session with Prof. (Dr.) Bikash Sinha, Homi Bhabha Professor, Dept. of Atomic Energy at VECC and Former Director, Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics & Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre – “Meeting the growing clean energy needs of India – a new paradigm for prosperity”, 18th February 2013, The Palladian Lounge, Chamber premises
- The Bengal Chamber Think Session with Dr. Lora Saalman, Associate, Carnegie Tsinghua Center for Global Policy, Beijing (on the Cost of Doing Business: India’s Security ‘Protectionism’ and China) presented by Ballantines in association with Future Business School and The Telegraph, 2nd May 2013, Chamber premises
- The Bengal Chamber presented its next “Think...” series lecture on “Civil Society and the Emerging Chaos” presented by Ballantines in association with Future Business School and The Telegraph. Lecture by (Retd.) Justice Asok K Ganguly, Chairman, West Bengal Human Rights Commission, 24th June 2013, The Palladian Lounge, Chamber premises
- The Bengal Chamber presented its next “Think...” series lecture by economist Dr. Omkar Goswami presented by Ballantines in association with Future Business School and The Telegraph, 13th August 2013, The Palladian Lounge, Chamber premises

Transportation Infrastructure and Logistics

- East and North East India Supply Chain and Logistics Summit and Excellence Award 2013, 10th September 2013, Chamber premises

Interactions with Industry Leaders, Foreign Correspondents and Economic Experts, Multilateral Institutions and Senior Government Officials

- Informal Interaction with Padma Bhushan Shri B. Muthuraman, Vice Chairman, Tata Steel Ltd. and Chairman, Tata International Ltd., 11.00 a.m., 9th December 2012, Tata Steel Room, The Palladian Lounge, The Bengal Chamber
- Meeting with Shri Partha Chatterjee, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Commerce and Industry, Information Technology and Electronics, Parliamentary Affairs, Industrial Reconstruction, Public Enterprise, Government of West Bengal on New Upcoming Industrial Policy of Government of West Bengal on 21st January 2012, Chamber premises
- Interaction with Shri Rajiva Sinha, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Micro and Small Scale Enterprises and Textiles, Government of West Bengal, 21st February 2013, Chamber premises
- Interaction with Shri C M Bachhawat, IAS, Principal Secretary, Commerce and Industries, Government of West Bengal, 21st March 2013, Chamber premises
- Interactive Session with Prof. B K Dutta, Chairman, West Bengal Pollution Control Board, 25th April 2013, Chamber premises
- Interactive Session with Her Excellency Nancy Powell, Ambassador of the United States in India on "Strength to strength – Building the US India Economic Relationship for the next century", 21st May 2013, Chamber premises
- Interactive Session with Dr. Krishna Gupta, IAS, Managing Director, West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Limited, 23rd May 2013, Chamber premises
- Felicitation of Padma Shree Dr. H P Barooah, Chairman, B & A Group of Companies and Past President, The Bengal Chamber, 23rd May 2013, Chamber premises
- Felicitation of Mr. Dean R Thompson, Consul General of the United States in Kolkata, 17th July 2013, Chamber premises

Taratolla Initiative

- Meeting with senior Police Officers as part of the Taratala Initiative

Leisure and Entertainment

- Romance with Tagore – Music, Poetry & Fashion (with the Palladian Lounge), 10th September 2012
- Art Exhibition & Auction for Oral School of Deaf (with the Palladian Lounge), 19th September 2012
- Theatre by Ms. Dolly Basu (with the Palladian Lounge) on 29th September 2012: Fairy tale Evening by Little Thespians of Choopkatha under the guidance of Ms. Dolly Basu
- Adda on "Feluda-r-Sathe", 25th February 2013, Chamber premises
- Felicitation of Dr. M. Balmuralikrishna by His Excellency Shri M. K. Narayanan, Governor of West Bengal with performance by the living legend later on followed by Odissi Recital by Madhumanti

Sengupta (with the Palladian Lounge), 13th March 2013

- The Bengal Chamber supported “Raag Anuraag”, a cultural programme, 31st August 2013, G D Birla Sabhaghar, Kolkata

Other Programmes

- Business networking dinner with Lemenox, 14th September 2012
- The Chamber felicitated (with other Chambers) His Excellency Pranab Mukherjee, Hon’ble President of India, 15th September 2012, ICC Auditorium
- Press Conference on the Chamber activities in the year ahead, 31st October 2012, Chamber premises
- The Institute of Cost Accountants of India in association with The Bengal Chamber presented the Seminar on ‘Recent Amendments in Foreign Trade Policy’, 2nd November 2012, J.N.Bose Auditorium, CMA Bhawan, Kolkata
- Book Launch of “Land of Two Rivers– A History of Bengal from the Mahabharata to Mujib” (*Penguin*), 26th November 2012, Chamber premises
- The Bengal Chamber partnered Genesis (5th January 2013, CU Campus, Salt Lake), the one-day symposium organized as part of the 100th Indian Science Congress held in Kolkata
- The Bengal Chamber supporting Bengal Leads 2013 (15th – 17th January 2013) in the Panel Discussions on “Tourism Strategy in West Bengal” and “Integrated Citizen Service Delivery” on 16th January 2013 at Helipad Ground, Haldia
- Seminar on Industry Institute Partnership by George Telegraph in association with The Bengal Chamber, 2nd February 2013, Chamber premises
- The Bengal Chamber supported the “CEO Knowledge Forum” by ICICI Bank, 2nd March 2013, The Park
- B2B Meet with Opturion and Qris Analytics, 5th March 2013, Chamber premises
- Consumer Outreach Programme with TRAI, 7th March 2013, Chamber premises

Press Clippings

Appendices

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BENGAL CHAMBER 2013

The 158th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of The Bengal Chamber 28th September 2012, Chamber Premises

The Public Session of the AGM was graced by Shri Paban Singh Ghatowar, Hon'ble Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region (Independent Charge), Government of India; Janab Ghulam Mohammed Quader, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce, People's Republic of Bangladesh and Shri Partha Chatterjee, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Commerce and Industries, Public Enterprises, Industrial Reconstruction, Information Technology and Parliamentary Affairs. Smt. Abida Islam, Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh Deputy High Commission in Kolkata was also present. Shri Ghatowar spoke on the growth, development and opportunities in the North East and Janab Quader, while highlighting the increased level of cooperation between India and Bangladesh, also brought to board the infrastructure and procedural inadequacies hampering trade. Shri Partha Chatterjee focused on the overall industrial and economic environment in West Bengal and the efforts by the Government to improve the business climate. Procedural simplifications and policy interventions by the Government of West Bengal were highlighted. The Chamber provided a most relevant platform by bringing the representatives of this unique TRIAD - West Bengal, the North East and Bangladesh - together.

The AGM was followed by a Media Interaction.

In the Business Session, Mr. Kallol Datta, Chairman & Managing Director, Andrew Yule & Company Ltd; Dr. Alok Roy, Chairman, Medica Hospitals Pvt. Ltd. and Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Executive Director and Regional Managing Partner (Consulting Leader, National), PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd. were elected the President, Senior Vice President and Vice President respectively.

The Meeting was followed by a Cultural Programme in the evening and the Annual Dinner and Cocktails. The Cultural Programme was on 'Indian Folklore - A Tapestry - Music of Soil, Soul and the River'. The Concept, Script and Direction were by Ms. Subha Pal and the Music and Dance were choreographed by Mr. Subhashish Majumdar. The programme was presented by Corporate Monitor.

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

THE BENGAL CHAMBER SUPPORTING AIDIAS CONSULTING GROUP ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS DAY SEMINAR ON “CSR AND GRASS-ROOTS TRANSFORMATION – MAKING THE TWAIN MEET”, 10TH DECEMBER 2012, CHAMBER PREMISES

Human Rights Day, 10th December 2012, was observed with a day-long seminar, “Corporate Social Responsibility and Grass-roots Transformation – Making the Twain Meet” at The Williamson Magor Hall of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The event was organized by Aidas Consulting Group with the support of The Bengal Chamber, Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan, Young Horizons School, PC Chandra Group, National Insurance Company, National Jute Board, Techno Group, Turtle, Saltee Group, Gujral Distributors, Win Pens among others.

The seminar was an initiative to ensure that CSR actually benefits those that need them most, create a network of like-minded organizations and bodies that will complement and draw from each other to make their efforts structured, result-driven, and impactful. The objective was to unite all the stakeholders who will truly make a difference – the corporate world, the media, the state machinery and finally the youth. The Chief Guest of the seminar was Mr. R. Bandyopadhyay IAS (Retd.) Former Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India, whose wealth of experience in this sphere both as a policymaker and a ringside viewer of the impact of the governmental measures and policies, is unmatched. The Inaugural Session of the seminar was graced by the Guests of Honour, Mr. A. K. Chandra – Group MD, P. C. Chandra Group and Mr. Kallol Datta – President of The Bengal Chamber and CMD, Andrew Yule, Lt. Gen (Retd.) Dr. S. P Datta – President, Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan, and Mr. Anjan Majumdar – MD, Aidas Consulting Group. While Dr. Datta focused on Rotary’s activities and threw light on the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation’s initiatives, Mr. Kallol Datta spoke on the roles of the chambers of commerce in driving and supporting causes that translate into meaningful achievements.

The theme for the first session of the day was, “The Corporate Story – Challenges, Lessons Learnt and the Road Ahead”. Prof Sanjoy Mukherjee of IIM Shillong and Mr. Narendra Shyamsukha, Founder President of Terapanth Professional Forum were the speakers. The session “CSR and the Youth as Agents of Transformation” was addressed by Ms. Seema Sapru, Principal of The Heritage School; Mr. Amitava Bhattacharya, Founder of Banglanatak.com and Mr. Raja Menon, Director of Jeevika Development Society. “CSR and the Role and Function of Media” had stalwarts like Dr. Rudrangshu Mukherjee, Opinions Editor of The Telegraph; Mr. S. V. ‘Bobby’ Sista and Mr. Chandradeep Mitra, CEO PipalMajik and Managing Partner, Anvetion (also Visiting Faculty of MICA and IIM C). The session “Role of an Efficient State Machinery in bringing about Grass-roots Transformation” acquired a new distinction as it had a moderator in the form of Mr. Suparna Pathak, Business Editor, Anandabazar Patrika. Mr. Partha Bhattacharya IPS (Retd.) and Member PSC and Mr. Rupak Barua, COO CMRI were the other speakers. The organizers announced that the residual proceeds of the seminar would be distributed to three

organizations – Village for Integrated Employment for Women (VIEW), Telegraph Education Foundation, and Jeevika Development Society.

THE BENGAL CHAMBER SUPPORTED THE IGEP FOUNDATION, IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE BUSINESS SOCIAL COMPLIANCE INITIATIVE (BSCI), IN THEIR ROUND TABLE ON CSR / SOCIAL COMPLIANCE, 12TH DECEMBER 2012, CHAMBER PREMISES

IGEP (www.igep.org) is a trade promotion organization sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India. Established in 1988 IGEP uses various trade development instruments to promote Indian exports to Germany and to other member countries of the European Union. BSCI is an initiative of European retail companies initiated by the Foreign Trade Association (FTA), Brussels. It has at present more than 1000 European members who are buyers/importers. IGEP Foundation is the official representative of BSCI in India. The BSCI is the leading business-driven initiative for companies committed to improving working conditions in the global supply chain. For BSCI and its 600+ participants, IGEP functions as the contact point, information centre and service provider for all questions and activities related to social compliance and auditing procedures.

THE BENGAL CHAMBER SERVING HUMANITY FORUM PRESENTS A WORKSHOP ON “ROAD EMERGENCIES AND OUR RESPONSE” ON THE OCCASION OF WORLD CSR DAY 2013, 18TH FEBRUARY 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry instituted an annual “Serving Humanity Forum” on the occasion of World CSR Day on 18th February 2012. The inaugural edition of our “Serving Humanity Forum” witnessed a Panel Discussion on “Swami Vivekananda: His ideals for a sustainable India”. This year too, the committee organized a workshop on **“Road Emergencies and our Response”** on the occasion of the World CSR Day, on Monday, 18th February 2013 from 11.00 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. in the Chamber premises.

The workshop had been designed to address road emergency issues and the human factor – guidelines to tackle emergencies without fear, assessing Kolkata’s preparedness to mitigate road emergencies, critical emergency care, trauma care and risk and emergency services.

The workshop was addressed by Shri Madan Mitra, Hon’ble Minister-in-Charge, Departments of Sports and Transport, Government of West Bengal, Shri D Sengupta, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Traffic and Shri Gautam Gupta, Assistant Commissioner of Police, Traffic among others. The noted neurosurgeon and Chairman, Institute of Neurosciences, Kolkata, Dr. R P Sengupta, Dr. Alok Roy, Senior Vice President of the Chamber and Chairman, Medica Hospitals, Ms. Manjula Singh and Mr. Sudip Bhattacharyya of Karma (the trauma care unit run by Medica and Kolkata Police) were the other eminent speakers. The programme was attended by over sixty delegates representing the civil society, corporates and the media. The Chamber would prepare a note on recommendations arising from the deliberations and present the same to appropriate authorities.

TOGETHER WE RISE – AN EVENING WITH VIDYA BALAN ALSO FEATURING ANJAN DUTTA FOR THE SPECIAL CHILDREN OF IICP, 13TH JULY 2013, TOWN HALL, KOLKATA

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry was delighted to host a youth icon of contemporary India, a prolific actor, an ambassador of the country in the international sphere, a champion for women's empowerment, an activist and a torch bearer for Indian women – Smt. Vidya Balan at a very special programme on Saturday, 13th July 2013 (6.30 p.m. onwards) at the historic Town Hall.

The programme was presented with Ananya Onnomon, an organization for socio-cultural activities, with which the Chamber has co-branded its cultural programmes. The event was held in association with The Telegraph. The corporate supporters of the programme included Andrew Yule, Berger Paints, CESC, JIS Group (the Chief Patron and Event Supporter) and KPMG. Advertisement support was provided by Coal India, while Magus Marketing also supported the Chamber along with Merlin Projects.

The evening was dedicated to the special children of the renowned Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy (IICP) for whom the Chamber launched a special fund-raiser drive. IICP is a specialist resource centre for cerebral palsy, working since 1974 for the rights of persons with disability, particularly cerebral palsy.

The Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy is based in Kolkata but works on a national level in partnership with a close network of NGOs in many districts of West Bengal and 11 other States of India. It has vast international linkages and is working with advocacy groups nationally and internationally for the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy offers multifaceted services to infants, children and adults with cerebral palsy and a range of training programmes for persons with disability, parents and family members, professionals, students and personnel working in the community.

The Chamber, on this occasion, raised funds under the realm of its CSR activities for IICP, in recognition of the exemplary work that the Institution has been undertaking for the last four decades. Andrew Yule, led by Mr. Kallol Datta, President of the Bengal Chamber, and CMD, Andrew Yule, sponsored a class to IICP, for which the cost was Rs. 8 lakhs. The first installment was presented to IICP that evening. Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, the Vice president of the Chamber and Partner and Head, Management Consulting of KPMG presented a cheque of Rs. 1 lakh to IICP, which was represented by Dr. Reena Sen, Executive Director and Ms. Jeeja Ghosh, Head Advocacy and Disability Studies, Indian Institute of Cerebral Palsy.

It was a riveting evening with a slew of electrifying performances and culminating with a rare and most engaging conversation between Shri Anjan Dutta, eminent musician, filmmaker and theatre personality and Smt. Vidya Balan, the diva of contemporary Indian cinema, a Kolkata-ite at heart and as much an ambassador for the city as for our nation. A freewheeling conversation which began with a song by the iconic and enigmatic Anjan Dutta, the focus of the discussions

was on Smt. Balan's countless experiences, her unparalleled journey as an artiste and her special Kolkata connect. A 550 plus audience was enthralled by the performances and greatly moved by the special performance by the children from IICP, who in-spite of their physical constraints, put up a truly spellbinding and mesmeric show. Smt. Balan, who presented the children with special medals and chocolates, later thanked the Bengal Chamber for this memorable and noble initiative.

Earlier, the evening commenced with a curtain-raiser dance performance by Srijan Chhanda under the leadership of Odissi dance exponent Shri Rajib Bhattacharya, a special dance performance on Rabindrasangeet by Swagata Mukherjee and Sudipta Das followed by a presentation by Ms. Jeeja Ghosh of IICP. The two halves of the evening were bridged by a special guest performance on Rabindrasangeet by the eminent singer Sasha Ghoshal. The Chamber also felicitated Smt. Balan for her outstanding achievements in cinema and her work in imbining a great wave of positivity in the youth ethos by presenting her with a citation, a replica of the Chamber building and a saree designed by the renowned designer, Smt. Sharbari Datta, who made the presentation personally. The programme, with press advertisements and significant outdoor presence, was a high-visibility event of the Chamber.

ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

UNION BUDGET VIEWING SESSION, 28TH FEBRUARY 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized the Union Budget Viewing Session on 28th February 2013 in the Chamber. Senior members and invitees attended the Session and viewed the Budget speech of the FM, which was followed by an interaction with the media. Members of the electronic and print media covered the programme. They took interviews and bytes of Mr. Kallol Datta, President, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber and other senior members, invitees and experts present. Mr. P K Choudhury, Chairman and Group CEO, ICRA Limited; Mr. Kamal Parekh, Director, Stewart Securities Ltd; Dr. Barsha Khattry, Former Economic Adviser to the UNDP and Columnist, The Independent and Mr. T.B. Chatterjee (Chairperson, Indirect Taxes Committee, The Bengal Chamber), Senior Executive Vice President & Company Secretary, DIC India Limited were among the invitees present.

POST BUDGET SEMINAR ON “UNION BUDGET 2013–14: A THOROUGH ANALYSIS” WITH KPMG, 1ST MARCH 2013, OBEROI GRAND, KOLKATA

KPMG and The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a post budget seminar – “Union Budget 2013 – A Thorough Analysis” on 1st March 2013 at the Oberoi Grand, Kolkata.

Dr. Abhirup Sarkar, Professor, Economic Research Unit, Indian Statistical Institute and Mr. Rajive Kaul, Chairman & Managing Director, Nicco Corporation Limited addressed the Inaugural Session and spoke on the Economist’s and CEO’s Perspectives, respectively. Mr. Girish Vanvari, Co-Head Tax, KPMG (India); Mr. Manish Kapur, Partner, KPMG (India); Mr. Asrujit Mandal, Director, KPMG (India) and Mr. Pratik Jain, Partner; KPMG (India) addressed the technical session on direct and indirect taxation. The technical session was followed by Panel Discussion and Sectoral Perspectives. Mr. Pallav Gupta, Head –Taxation, ITC Ltd. addressed issued related to Direct Tax. The other panelists were Mr. Harsh Vardhan Patodia, President CREDAI Bengal and Managing Director, Heritage Realty Group of Companies; Mr. Naresh Pachisia, Managing Director, SKP Securities, Mr. Saud Siddique, Joint Managing Director, SREI Infrastructure Finance Limited and Mr. Sumit Mazumder, Vice Chairman & Managing Director, TIL Limited. Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber moderated the discussions.

INTERACTION WITH SHRI SUMIT BOSE, IAS, REVENUE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, MINISTRY OF FINANCE, 5TH APRIL 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an Interactive Session with Shri Sumit Bose, IAS, Secretary, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India on 5th April 2013 in the Chamber. Shri Bose addressed on “Fiscal Scenario with a focus on Union Budget 2013–14”. Mr. Sunil Kanoria, Joint Managing Director, Srei Equipment Finance Pvt. Ltd.

and Vice Chairman, Srei Infrastructure Finance Ltd. moderated the open house session. The programme was a great success with nearly 150 invitees attending including some very senior representatives from the industry. The programme was also widely covered by the media. Shri Bose assured the invitees that they could write to his office on issues on concern. Shri Bose also advised the Chamber to submit the Chamber's recommendations on Tax Administration.

EDUCATION

A SUMMIT ON FUTURE OF EDUCATION – EDUCATION FOR LIFE, EDUCATION FOR ALL, 13TH OCTOBER 2012, S N BOSE HALL, SCIENCE CITY

The Education Task Force of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry is committed to providing a platform for all those students, institutions, teaching fraternity who aspire to grow and bring about a difference in our society in the field of Education. The Committee has strived to address a particular need for the sector, and try and deliver solutions.

The objective of the Summit was to address both the Present and the Future of Education .The audience included the teaching fraternity comprising of Professors, Directors, Heads of Departments of various institutions, the students from different universities, colleges, institutions, and of course the Corporates. The eminent speakers for the panel discussion were Mr. Sanjay Kumar Das, Assistant Secretary & State Nodal Officer, Higher Education Statistical Cell, Government of West Bengal; Mr. Charanpreet Singh, Associate Dean, Praxis Business School; Mr. Alope Mookherjea, Past President, The Bengal Chamber and Chairman, Flakt (India)Ltd.; Shri Sunil Mitra, Former Revenue and Finance Secretary, Government of India; Mr. Kalyan Kar, Co-Founder & Managing Director, Infinity Knowledge Ventures Pvt Ltd; Prof. A. Roy, Vice Chancellor, BESU, Shibpur,Howrah; Mr. Sujoy Banerjee, President – Group HR & OD, McNally Bharat Engineering Co Ltd and Mr. Rahul Bose, GMU Learning and Knowledge, IBM Global Business.

The moderators for the Panels were Prof. R.P. Banerjee (Dean & Director, EILM) and Prof. A. Banerjee, Senior Professor (Marketing) IIMC.

THE BENGAL CHAMBER IN ASSOCIATION WITH CALCUTTA BUSINESS SCHOOL PRESENTING A SEMINAR ON “QUALITY OF WORK LIFE AND WORK CULTURE: BENGAL PERSPECTIVE”, 11TH JANUARY 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

It was a day-long programme on different facets of the vast subject. The different panels discussed issues like:

- a. How perception about quality of work life may affect organizational culture?
- b. Do people in Bengal want different returns from work in comparison to their counterparts in other States of India?
- c. How to break work culture inertia and bring breakthrough improvements: interventions, tools and techniques.

Prof. Saugata Roy, Member of Parliament, Member for Industry & IT, Chief Minister’s Advisory Council, Government of West Bengal was the chief guest of the seminar. The seminar was attended by HR professionals, corporates from different levels of management, students, teachers, trade union representatives, entrepreneurs, etc.

The eminent speakers for the various panels were, Mr. Alope Mookherjea, Mr. Dipankar Banerjee, Mr. Kalyan Kar, Dr. Atri Roy Sengupta, Ms. Sujata Roy, Mr. Charanpreet Singh, Mr. Tushar Basu, Mr. Suparno Moitra, Mr. Sidhartha Roy, Dr. Goutam Sengupta, Mr. Santanu Sengupta, Mr. Ramendu Chattopadhyay.

APPLICATION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION : BUSINESS SESSION AND EXPOSITION, 22ND FEBRUARY 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry in association with Lemenz organized a B2B meet, 'Application of Information Technology in Education – Business Session & Exposition' on 22nd February, 2013 at The Palladian Lounge. It was sponsored by Falcon Industries India Ltd, Famocom, Innoraft Solutions Pvt Ltd, Ray Computech, Modular Infotech Pvt Ltd, Indusnet Technologies, Karmick Solutions and Srana Consulting. This programme, a part of a series of such initiatives providing a B2B platform for IT companies with identified sectors, had been organized to know from the sponsors, who were the IT solutions providers, the best-in-class IT products tailor-made for the Education sector. The sponsors made presentations of their products that were being increasingly used in Education in place of the now dated terms like Education Technology; Computer based education and Technology-Enhanced Learning. Different administrative modules that could be used in schools, colleges and institutions were also showcased by the sponsors. The product presentation was followed by networking cocktails. The B2B meet was a resounding success and was attended by faculty members, administrative heads of different schools, colleges and institutes of Kolkata and around.

AN INTERACTIVE SESSION IN ASSOCIATION WITH BANDHAN ON "RIGHT TO EDUCATION" WITH DR. ABHIJIT VINAYAK BANERJEE, FORD FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS, MIT, 18TH MARCH 2013, THE PALLADIAN LOUNGE, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in association with Bandhan Financial Services Private Limited, organized an interactive session on "Right to Education" with the world renowned economist, Prof. (Dr.) Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee on March 18, 2013 at The Palladian Lounge in the Chamber premises from 6.30 p.m. onwards.

Prof. Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee is the Ford Foundation International Professor of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology MIT, USA. Prof. Banerjee is a co-founder of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab. A Member of the Consortium on Financial Systems and Poverty, Prof. Banerjee is a Past President of the Bureau for the Research in the Economic Analysis of Development, a Research Associate of the NBER, a CEPR Research Fellow, International Research Fellow of the Kiel Institute, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Econometric Society and has been a Guggenheim Fellow and an Alfred P. Sloan Fellow. He is also the author of "Poor Economics: A Radical Rethinking of the Way to Fight Global Poverty", Public Affairs, New York, 2011 which has made headlines all over the world. Prof Banerjee made a presentation on "Right to Education" where he highlighted the

opportunities and pitfalls of the present system based on detailed systemic studies and surveys by experts in the area. Other dignitaries present at the programme were Hon'ble (Retd.) Justice Asok Kumar Ganguly, Chairman, West Bengal Human Rights Commission; Mr. Kallol Datta, President, The Bengal Chamber; Dr. Alok Roy, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. P. Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber; Prof. (Dr.) R P Banerjee, Chairman, Education Task Force, The Bengal Chamber, Director & Dean, Eastern Institute for Integrated Learning in Management; and Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, Chairman & Managing Director, Bandhan Financial Services Pvt. Ltd. The programme was well attended and had an audience of around one hundred.

NATIONAL SEMINAR ON "CORPORATE SUCCESS, SUSTAINABILITY AND SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS – RECENT ADVANCES IN THOUGHTS AND PRACTICES", 3RD–4TH MAY 2013, EIILM SALT LAKE CAMPUS

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry partnered EIILM in their National Seminar on "Corporate Success, Sustainability and Social Consciousness – Recent Advances in Thoughts and Practices", 3rd and 4th May 2013 at the EIILM Salt Lake Campus, organized by EIILM, UGC and Vidyasagar University. The seminar was addressed by educationists like Prof. (Dr.) R P Banerjee, Director and Dean, Eastern Institute for Integrated Learning in Management (EIILM) and the Chairman of the Education Task Force of the Bengal Chamber; Prof. (Dr.) M N Bandhopadhyay, Director, N.I.T, Calicut; Prof. (Dr.) Pulak Mukherjee, Director, School of Natural Product Sc, Jadavpur University; Dr. S N Nagendra , Chairman, Scintilla BIO–MARC Pvt Ltd. and others. The Chief Guest of the Seminar was Mr. P. Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber.

INTERACTIVE SESSION ON EDUCATING THE FUTURE MIND – CELEBRATING THE 150TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF SIR ASHUTOSH MUKHOPADHYAY, 27TH JUNE 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber, in association with Eastern Region Council of The Institute of Cost Accountants of India, organized an Interactive Session on "Educating the Future Mind", celebrating the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sir Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay on 27th June 2013 in the Chamber premises.

Going beyond the usual role of being the vanguard of industry and commerce, the Chamber has been deeply associated with the educational and cultural developments of the city. It was therefore a most opportune time to organize an Interactive Session to discuss and brainstorm issues related to education. The Interactive session was organized with an objective to pay homage to the legendary Sir Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay who became a Fellow of the Calcutta University and soon transformed it from an examining body into a great teaching and research centre. He was Vice-Chancellor of the University from 1906 to 1914 and again from 1921 to 1923 but led the University affairs throughout his life. An outstanding academic himself, he had an eye for talent and gifted Dr. C.V. Raman and Dr. S. Radhakrishnan to the nation.

We were privileged that Justice Chittatosh Mookerjee who is also a descendent of Sir Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay kindly graced the occasion and shared his perspective on the vision of Sir Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay. We were also delighted to have Prof Sugata Marjit, Chairman, West Bengal State Council for Higher Education; Prof. Y S Rajan, Senior Scientist, Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO); Dr R.P. Banerjee, Chairman, Education Task Force, The Bengal Chamber and Director & Dean, Eastern Institute for Integrated Learning in Management (EILM); Prof. Malabika Sarkar, Vice Chancellor, Presidency University; Prof. Abhijit Chakrabarti, Vice Chairman, West Bengal Council for Higher Education; Prof Somak Ray Chaudhury, Head of the Department of Physics, Presidency University; Mr. Ashok Mukherjee, Chairman, EIRC Institute of Cost Accountants of India; Dr. Partha Ghosh; Shri E Islam, Director, Birla Industrial and Technology Museum; Dr. Bikash Sinha, Homi Bhabha Professor, DAE, Former Director, VECC and SINP; Shri T C A S Prasad, Central Council Member, Institute of Cost Accountants of India; Mr. Rahul Bose, Education Planning Consultant, Asia Pacific Learning Services, IBM Global Business Services and Prof A K Das, JIS as speakers. The eminent speakers shared their views on the subjects, Excellence in Education – Sir Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay’s vision and new era realities; Developing an integral personality – the vision of Sir Ashutosh Mukhopadhyay, Creativity and Knowledge – The Role of Education and Thoughts Expectation Beliefs and Ideals of the Young Mind.

The programme was extremely interactive in nature and was attended by over one hundred delegates.

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

MEETING WITH MR. MERIN RAJADURAI, U.S. STATE DEPARTMENT, INDIA DESK, 10TH OCTOBER 2012, CHAMBER PREMISES

Mr. Merin Rajadurai from the India Desk of the United States State Department, Washington, D.C. met Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, Co-Chairperson, Energy and Environment Committee and Managing Director, Ghosh, Bose and Associates Pvt. Ltd. and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh of the Bengal Chamber Secretariat to discuss a wide spectrum of issues ranging from the business climate, economic reforms, energy and sustainability issues confronting the State and the Country. Ms. Sangita Dey Chanda, Economic Specialist, US Consulate General, Kolkata was also present at the meeting.

THE BENGAL CHAMBER AND THE EUROPEAN BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY CENTRE (EBTC) PARTNERING JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY IN PRESENTING THE LECTURE SERIES ON SUSTAINABILITY OF INDIAN ENERGY SECTOR: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES", INAUGURAL SESSION, 18TH JANUARY 2013, GANDHI BHAVAN, JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

Jadavpur University in association with The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and European Business and Technology Centre (EBTC) is organizing a year-long lecture series to explore and address the issue of "Sustainability of Indian Energy Sector: Prospects and Challenges". National policy makers, technologists as well as industrial organizations would be invited to deliver lectures in this programme to present their views. Participants would also be from different groups – academia, industry, business entrepreneurs, young and future professionals, and students of different levels as well as citizens representing civil society. Format would be in the form of lectures followed by panel discussions in interactive mode and some will be in workshop mode. A comprehensive compilation of this series of presentations and interactions would be documented into edited volume(s) for future reference.

The lecture series would be a part of the World Bank funded programme of the Government of India implemented through the Government of West Bengal: 'Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP), Phase II'. An MOU to this effect had been signed between the State of West Bengal and Jadavpur University on 6th September, 2011. As one of the 'Industry Institution Interaction' of that program, this lecture series would be organized.

The Inaugural Programme was held on 18th January at Gandhi Bhavan, Jadavpur University from 10.30 a.m. till 1.45 p.m. Mr. I A Khan, Adviser (Energy), Planning Commission of India and Dr. R R Sonde, Executive Vice President, Research, Technology and Innovation, Thermax Limited were the Inaugural Speakers. **Mr. Arun Kumar Mukherjee, Chairperson, Energy and Environment Committee**, The Bengal Chamber addressed the programme along with Prof. Souvik Bhattacharyya, Vice Chancellor, Jadavpur University. Mr. Suman Lahiri, Regional Manager, EBTC was among the other speakers. Mr. Khan focused on the challenges and constraints for the Indian energy sector confronted with dwindling supply of coal and depending mostly on

thermal energy sources for its electricity. Dr. Sonde spoke about new energy technologies for India covering a gamut of concepts and practices and also delved deep into energy policy issues.

THE BENGAL CHAMBER AND THE EUROPEAN BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY CENTRE (EBTC) PARTNERED JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY IN PRESENTING THE LECTURE SERIES ON SUSTAINABILITY OF INDIAN ENERGY SECTOR: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES”, SECOND SESSION: LECTURE ON “SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAICS – INDIAN SCENARIO” BY PROF. K . L. CHOPRA, FORMER DIRECTOR, INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, KHARAGPUR; FOUNDER, THIN FILM LABORATORY, IIT, DELHI, & MICROSCIENCE LABORATORY, IIT, KHARAGPUR, 22ND MARCH 2013, K P BOSE AUDITORIUM, JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

THE BENGAL CHAMBER EIILM ANNUAL SIT N DRAW FOR CHILDREN (THEME : SUN, EARTH AND OUR FUTURE), 27TH APRIL 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in association with the Eastern Institute for Integrated Learning in Management (EIILM) and Towards Life Foundation, organized the third edition of its annual “Sit ‘n’ Draw” Competition on Saturday, 27th April 2013 in the Chamber. Apart from EIILM, the programme was sponsored by Royal Sundaram General Insurance Company Limited, Seahorse Ship Agencies, Batanagar Institute of Engineering Management and Science (BIEMS), Bengal NRI Complex Limited, Coca Cola (Soft Drink Partner), Aviva Life Insurance (Life Insurance Partner) and The Palladian Lounge (Venue and Hospitality Partner). Thanks to such partners, the programme was most successful and was an occasion of colour and happiness in the 160 year–old institution that is the Chamber. More than 335 children, from 20 schools, aged between 5 years and 10 years (including underprivileged children) participated in the Sit n Draw. The renowned sculptor, Shri Tapas Sarkar and the renowned designer Smt. Sharbari Datta were the Guests of Honour on the occasion. They interacted with the children and presented the certificates of participation to all participating children.

The Chamber’s objective was to imbibe in our children and future generations the importance of a sustainable natural environment, which will, in turn, help create a secure future for the generations to come. The theme therefore, was, "Sun Earth and our Future."

Like last two years, all the drawings would be reviewed by a special panel of judges and the winners (80 selected drawings) would be awarded special certificates at the Bengal Chamber's flagship Energy Sustainability Conclave on 30th and 31st August 2013 at the ITC Sonar. The schools (of the winners) would be informed accordingly.

INTERACTIVE SESSION ON “CLIMATE POLICY AND LEGISLATION – SHARING UK AND GLOBAL BEST PRACTICES” WITH SIR DAVID KING, FORMER CHIEF SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR AND HEAD OF THE GOVERNMENT OFFICE OF SCIENCE (2000–07) FOR UK GOVERNMENT; CURRENTLY DIRECTOR OF

RESEARCH IN CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY AND SENIOR SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR TO THE BANK UBS, 2ND MAY 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber, in association with British Deputy High Commission in Kolkata and Jadavpur University, organized an Interactive Session on “Climate Policy and Legislation – Sharing UK and Global Best Practices” with Prof. Sir David King, Fellow of the Royal Society; Foreign Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; Former Chief Scientific Adviser and Head of the Government Office of Science, UK Government; Director of Research at the Department of Chemistry, University of Cambridge; first Director, Smith School on 2nd May 2013.

The programme was graced by Ms. Rachel Brass, First Secretary, Energy, Climate and Growth Unit, British High Commission–DFID India, New Delhi; Mr. Sanjay Wadvani, British Deputy High Commissioner, Kolkata and Prof. (Dr.) Souvik Bhattacharyya, Vice Chancellor, Jadavpur University. The objective was to provide a forum for discussing and brainstorming Climate Change mitigation and the response of business, government, policymakers, academia, media and civil society. The session gave stakeholders the opportunity to consult one of the world’s foremost climate policy and technology experts on making the right decisions to secure a low carbon future. Sir David King spoke about the Challenges of 21st Century – minerals, food production, water resources, energy security and supply, health and development, eco systems, etc.

The programme was a great success with participation of around 150 delegates.

DISCUSSION FORUM ON SHALE GAS : A GAME – CHANGER IN ENERGY, 17TH MAY 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Energy and Environment Committee of The Bengal Chamber organized a Discussion Forum on “Shale Gas: A Game–changer in Energy –In the context of Energy Security, Economic Opportunities and Technology” on 17th May 2013 in the Chamber, as a curtain raiser to the Bengal Chamber’s Energy Sustainability Conclave on 30th and 31st August 2013.

We believe Shale Gas does have the potentiality to radically alter the energy supply scenario in India and in the context of energy security, economic opportunities and technology, Shale Gas is a game–changer in energy. According to some newsreports, Shale Gas reserves in Bengal’s Ranigunj are estimated at close to a very high 50 trillion cubic feet. A recent report by America’s Energy Information Administration has estimated that India has 290 trillion cubic feet of Shale Gas in–place reserves with a technically recoverable resource of 63 trillion cubic feet for four of the 26 sedimentary basins it studied. According to the US Energy Information Administration, Shale Gas will meet 14 per cent of the world’s gas needs by 2030. Shale Gas development is being referred as “the biggest energy innovation of the decade.”

Naturally, therefore Shale Gas can unlock tremendous possibilities for the economy of West Bengal, the Eastern Region and in fact, India as a nation and greatly and positively impact our

energy consumption dynamics. There are, however, issues (like hydraulic fracturing or fracking, horizontal drilling, land availability, etc.) to reckon with in the context of extraction of this gas. While the draft Shale Gas Policy is being examined by various Ministries, we believe this was a most opportune time for an in-depth discussion on this topic such that Industry, Academia, Researchers and the Government could be made aware of the opportunities existing and where we are headed.

The basic objective of the forum was to explore the potentiality of Shale Gas as a major primary energy source for the future and in the context of Shale Gas deposits being discovered in West Bengal. Going ahead, the seminar proceedings would greatly help us in clearing our perspectives on the policy, cost, technology, environmental impact and overall potential of this new and exciting alternative energy source.

Shri Partha Chatterjee, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Departments of Commerce and Industries, Information Technology & Electronics, Parliamentary Affairs, Industrial Reconstruction and Public Enterprise, Government of West Bengal graced the programme as the Chief Guest. Shri Sudhir Vasudeva, Chairman & Managing Director, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd was the Keynote Speaker. The other distinguished speakers of the Inaugural Session were Mr. Prashant Modi, President and Chief Operating Officer, Great Eastern Energy Corporation Ltd. and Prof. B K Dutta, Chairman, West Bengal Pollution Control Board who spoke on "Industry perspective: Shale Gas - a cost and technology perspective" and "On Environmental Impact and Safeguards" respectively.

The Technical Session included Shri Sanjay Chawla, General Manager - Shale Gas, Directorate General of Hydrocarbons addressing "The Shale Gas Story: Current and Prospective Realities"; Mr. Manas Das, DGM (BD), GAIL (India) Ltd addressing "GAIL's experience on shale gas activities in US" and Mr. Devesh Sharma, Managing Director, Aquatech Systems (Asia) Pvt. Ltd. addressing "Experiences in Shale Waste Water Management".

Mr. Arun Kumar Mukherjee, Chairperson, Energy and Environment Committee, The Bengal Chamber moderated the sessions. The programme was a great success with around 200 attendees and high visibility in the media. It was decided that the Chamber would prepare a note on the opportunities and hurdles based on the discussions at the programme and present the same to the Government of West Bengal.

THE CHAMBER SUPPORTED THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT EDUCATION (CEE) UNDER THE MOEF ON THEIR OUTREACH MEET FOR JSW-THE TIMES OF INDIA EARTH CARE AWARDS 14TH JUNE 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

THE BENGAL CHAMBER PARTNERED NARULA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY IN THEIR UGC SPONSORED "NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENERGY ENGINEERING, ANALYSIS, AUDIT AND MANAGEMENT", 8TH TO 10TH JULY 2013

IDEAL EARTH – PLANTS FOR OUR FUTURE, PROGRAMME FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN WITH AGRI-HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF INDIA, 27TH JULY 2013, HBK HALL, AGRI-HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF INDIA, ALIPORE, KOLKATA

The Agri-Horticultural Society of India and the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presented a first-of-its kind environment science project exposition for schoolchildren titled, “Ideal Earth: Plants for our Future” on Saturday, 27th July 2013, at the HBK Exhibition Hall of the Agri-Horticultural Society, 1, Alipore Road, Kolkata 700 027. The sole objective was in keeping with the larger focus of the Chamber to promote sustainable practices to the young generation.

The Chamber for the last three years has been continuously working with schools and their students in order to create an initiative to imbibe in our children and future generations the importance of a sustainable natural environment, which, in turn, will help to create a secure future for the generations to come. Our Sit-n-Draw competition for the schoolchildren is organized every year with huge success on the occasion of World Environment Day and Earth Day, which is highly appreciated by the children, parents and schools.

The basic objective of this competition was to bring together the schools and their students in order to create a platform for exchanging ideas and sharing skills with the focus on sustainable living. Our motive was to bring together the students and create a synergy for a universal cause, which will ultimately enhance creativity and scientific skills. The project was about integrating green development and sustainable living in our daily existence.

The categories of competition was divided into three levels, namely, Soil and Land use, Environmental Issues and Development of Forestry and was supported by International Combustion (India) Limited, McLeod Russel India Limited, Eastern Institute for Integrated Learning in Management and Unify Enterprises. A total of ten schools were selected to the final round of the competition out of which Shri Shikshayatan School was declared to be the Winner along with Radcliffe as the First Runners-Up and The Heritage School as the Second Runners-Up. The competition was judged by Mr. Arun Kumar Mukherjee, Chairperson, Energy and Environment Committee of the Bengal Chamber and Mr. Suman Lahiri, Regional Manager, European Business and Technology Centre. Smt Sharbari Datta, famous designer, Mr. Alope Mookherjea, Chairman, Solyvent Flakt (India) Private Limited, Past President, The Bengal Chamber and Shri Barun Chanda, an eminent film personality were the Guests of Honour on the occasion. The programme also witnessed two beautiful dance performances. The first performance was by the students of Towards Life Foundation and the other by the students of Nriyter Anginay.

JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE BENGAL CHAMBER AND THE EUROPEAN BUSINESS AND TECHNOLOGY CENTRE (EBTC) PRESENTED THE NEXT PROGRAMME OF THE LECTURE SERIES ON “SUSTAINABILITY OF INDIAN ENERGY SECTOR: PROSPECTS AND CHALLENGES”: A LECTURE ON “ENERGY CHALLENGES OF INDIA: CONTRIBUTIONS OF MATERIAL SCIENTIST AND TECHNOLOGIST” BY MR. BALDEV RAJ ,

**PRESIDENT, INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF WELDING,
PRESIDENT, INDIAN NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING,
PAST PRESIDENT, INDIAN INSTITUTE OF METALS, JC BOSE FELLOW, DST, 22ND AUGUST 2013,
JADAVPUR UNIVERSITY CAMPUS**

ENERGY SUSTAINABILITY CONCLAVE 2013 (ENERGY SECURITY – EMPOWERING THE ENERGY FUTURE), 30TH–31ST AUGUST 2013, ITC SONAR, KOLKATA

The Bengal Chamber presented the sixth edition of the annual Environment and Energy Conclave on 30th and 31st August 2013 at the ITC Sonar, Kolkata. Titled, “The Energy Sustainability Conclave 2013”, the focus this year was, “Energy Security – Empowering the Energy Future”. The Conclave, over the years, has become one of the leading annual platforms in the country for discussing and brainstorming environmental challenges and the response of Business, the Government, the Academia and the Civil Society.

The focus of the Conclave is and has always been Climate Change mitigation and action on the ground in the context of burgeoning needs of incremental energy consumption (albeit efficiently) and the need to adopt sound environmental management practices so as to minimize the environmental footprint, especially in business and industrial operations. A melting pot of experiences and best practices, the Conclave is addressed by thought leaders in energy and environment policy, senior officials of the Government, overseas Governments and Embassies, leading academics and CEOs from all over the country with delegates and speakers from India and abroad. This year apart from CEOs from leading players in energy and senior Government minister and officials, speakers from 4 overseas countries participated.

Worldwide, in the context of a global slowdown and the impasse over Climate negotiations, the need is more than ever to devise strategies, practices and technologies at the micro and macro level, which will help us get over the problem of supply side constraints in energy, the most essential driver of growth. Both conventional and unconventional and renewable sources of energy have their pluses and bottlenecks. In this scenario, to talk about sustainability in the Indian energy sector is to talk about Energy Security of India, an issue of paramount importance for the nation both in the realms of economic and strategic contexts.

Each day presented a different theme and the discussions for the Day focused on the chosen theme for the Day. Day 1 (30th August) had the theme, “Sustainable Energy – An interplay of source diversification, uninterrupted supply, and low carbon cost effective technology”. The Conclave was inaugurated by Shri Manish Gupta, Hon’ble Minister-in-Charge, Power & Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Government of West Bengal following which the audience was captivated with the Inaugural Panel Discussion on “Energy Security: The intersection of demand, energy markets, and supply routes”, which was addressed by Dr. Kirit S Parikh, Former Member, Planning Commission and Chairman, Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe); Shri Sunil Mitra, Former Revenue and Finance Secretary, Government of India and Former Power

Secretary, Government of West Bengal and Mr. Phil Marker, Counselor and Head, Energy, Climate and Growth Unit, British High Commission, New Delhi.

Plenary Session 1 was a first-of-its-kind Business Leaders' Panel Discussion on "Energy as corporate security measure: Experiences and insights". The focus was on the fact that while energy efficiency and cost management continue to be the rallying cry for large companies that have created some sort of energy management strategy, the issue of energy security is becoming a larger factor among companies developing a corporate energy strategy. The discussion was chaired by Mr. Sumit Mazumder, Vice Chairman and Managing Director, TIL Limited and Past President, The Bengal Chamber. The high-powered panel comprised of Ms. Nicola Watkinson, Senior Trade & Investment Commissioner, South Asia, Australian Trade Commission; Mr. Sanjib Bezbaroa, Vice President – Corporate EHS, ITC Limited; Mr. Shishir Joshipura, Managing Director & Country Manager, SKF India Limited and Mr. Sandipan Chakravorty, Managing Director, Tata Steel Processing and Distribution Limited.

The next Plenary Session was an Expert Panel Discussion on "Energy, the Environment and Economic Growth". The cultivation of sustainable markets for energy including renewable energy, energy efficiency and natural gas solutions requires an integrated policy approach that includes incentives, standards, stable investment climates, research and development and public education. It also requires a wholesome approach to renewing the way we think about energy, from a perspective of economic growth, environmental protection, national security and quality of life. The focus of the panel discussion was to bring to board the interplay of energy elasticity of GDP with economic growth trends, the need for and status of evolving environmental regulations and environmental management norms in industrial projects. This unique session was chaired by Mr. Alope Mookherjee, Chairman, Solyvent Flakt (India) Private Limited & Past President, The Bengal Chamber with the panelists being Dr. Suman K Mukerjee, USAEP Environmental Fellow; & Principal, Dean and Senior Professor, Bhavans Institute of Management Studies and Dr. Ketan Shukla, IFS, Deputy Director General, Mahatma Gandhi Labour Institute; Former Secretary, Gujarat Electricity Regulatory Commission. Dr. Mukerjee spoke from the perspective of an environmental economist, while Dr. Shukla addressed in his capacity as a former bureaucrat in a key office in India's leading State in terms of economic development.

Plenary Session 3 was the bridge between Day 1 and Day 2 (31st August) for which the theme was, "Technology for energy security – Making the conventional out of the unconventional". Since the focus of Day 2 was largely on technology issues, Plenary Session 3 dealt with "Power from conventional and renewable sources in a world still dominated by fossil fuels". It is estimated that USD 30 trillion worth of fossil fuels are still buried in the earth and almost 2800 gigatonnes of carbon locked up in fossil fuels underground. Many are saying we can emit another 565 gigatonnes of CO₂ and still keep the warming to 2^o C. In the year 2011–12, approximately 31.6 gigatonnes of CO₂ were emitted worldwide. Atmospheric CO₂ concentration during pre-industrial times was 280 ppm, which has risen to above 400 ppm currently. Almost 26% of this increase is attributed to the energy (generation) sector (with 19.4% from industry

and 13.1% from transport). Although electricity generation from hydro plants have exceeded expectations due to improved rains, the social cost and the human displacement and high gestation period of hydel projects are bottlenecks at times. This leaves nuclear and renewables. If the former is always embroiled in controversies on safety and technology, the latter is still governed by relatively higher costs. On the brighter side, India has an installed renewable generation capacity of around 12.5% representing almost 400% increase in the past 5 years alone. The renewable energy sector is seen as a significant player in grid-connected power generation and investments in renewable energy grew by 25% last year. In this background, Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, Managing Director, Ghosh Bose and Associates Pvt. Ltd. made a presentation on, "Mitigation options in Indian power generation", while Mr. Saunak Saha, Manager - Climate Change and Sustainability Service, Ernst & Young LLP talked about "Renewable energy in India - Options, technology and a cost-benefit analysis". The session was chaired by Prof. B K Dutta, Chairman, West Bengal Pollution Control Board.

The Inaugural Session for Day 2 commenced with an address by Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director General, Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Ministry of Power, Government of India who, in keeping with the theme, spoke about "Energy security through innovative technologies in the context of Indian needs and circumstances".

Dr. Mathur's engrossing theme address was followed by the presentation of the Chamber's first ever Young Energy Researcher Award. This year, the Chamber launched this special initiative, through which we would be acknowledging and facilitating the achievements of a Young Energy Researcher for his or her outstanding work at the grass-roots. In 2013, "The Bengal Chamber Young Energy Researcher Award" went to Shri Senthil A Kumar, an outgoing student in the Master of Public Systems Management programme at the Indian Institute of Social Welfare and Business Management (IISWBM). The award was presented to Shri Senthil Kumar for his outstanding achievements in grass-roots energy technology adaptation. Senthil, during his Summer Project, worked at Tirla Kocha, a remote un-electrified village about 26 km from Ranchi. He went to Ramakrishna Mission, Morabadi and met Swami Shashankananda Maharaj, the sevak Secretary of the Ashram. He was guided to choose his Summer Project topic as he was looking for some application work that would bring direct benefits to its users. The plight of the villagers of Tirla Kocha, particularly the children, moved his heart to find a solution and he could implement it by his own efforts and resources. His friends, faculty and Ramakrishna Mission, Morabadi provided him with moral support and guidance, when necessary. He identified a community centre at Tirla Kocha, estimated the demand, designed a suitable Solar Photovoltaic (SPV) System, purchased the major components from Kolkata, purchased some components, such as sulfuric acid from the nearest market, took them to the site, fabricated and commissioned the SPV system with lights and fans. The system was working in the community centre (a single room hut) and helped the children with light and little amount of air at night and other times when needed in building their character and capacity through studies, yoga, cultural programmes, etc. The monks of the Mission, Professors from IISWBM who visited the site and faculty examiners who evaluated his Summer Project report were all in praise for this extraordinary work.

On the heels of the presentation ceremony came the Power Sector CEO Panel Discussion on, “Power in India – Growth amidst constraints” chaired by Dr. Mathur. The focus was on cost of energy, reliability of energy supply, carbon emissions, regulatory compliance, energy price volatility, predictability and the coming of age of utilities. The bottom line is, because of their energy density and ease of use, fossil fuels remain the best energy source. As opposed to an installed generating capacity addition of 69231 MW target for the 11th Plan, that for the 12th Plan is 118536.6 MW of which 72,340 MW (61%) would be thermal. It is also estimated that in 2012, 2017 and 2030 thermal electricity generation would have a share of 70%, 69% and 58% respectively. India, as we all know, depends greatly on fossil fuel sources, mostly coal. The problem of efficiency, including that of below-average PLF, is omnipresent. In fact, up to December 2012, the all-India thermal PLF (based on coal / lignite based thermal power stations only) for 2012–13 was 69.63% down from 73.32% achieved in 2011–12. Added to this, the problem of availability of coal, the volatile price and the increased dependence on the import of coal are grim reminders of the fact that electricity in India is anything but sustainable. Both the panelists, namely, Dr. Rajiv Mishra, Executive Director, PTC India Limited and Mr. Siddharth Mehta, CEO, India Power Corporation Limited spoke from their personal experiences and apart from generation, focused on distribution and power trading.

Plenary Session 4 was all about “Experiences in Technology and Energy Efficiency”. Chaired by Mr. P S Bhattacharyya, Former Chairman, Coal India Ltd; currently Executive Director Deepak Fertilisers & Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd, Pune, the session explored best practices in technology development across the world. The speakers were Dr. Ing.Jörg-W. Fromme, Managing Partner, DFIC, Germany (Former Head of International Division WestLB Group; Former Chairman of Board of German Russian Consultant Nishinovgorod; Former Advisor of Jordanian Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources) who spoke on “Energy efficiency and renewable energy: German experience with increasing competitiveness of industries”; Mr. Alok Goel, Country Manager, India & South Asia Region, Ballard Power Systems, Canada (Techno economic feasibility of hydrogen fuel cells); Shri A K Debnath, Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Limited (CMPDI) (Sustainable mining in India); and Mr. Saibal Sen, General Manager and Head of Business Development for India, Steel Plantech India Pvt. Ltd. (Utilization of waste heat recovery in steel industry).

Plenary Session 5 was also the Concluding and the Valedictory Session on “The future of Power in India”, which was moderated by Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Managing Director, Enfragy Solutions India Pvt. Ltd. The Valedictory speaker was Dr. Bikash Sinha, Homi Bhabha Professor, DAE, Former Director, Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics and Variable Energy Cyclotron Centre, Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India. The session discussed the technology, economics and safety aspects of nuclear power with focus on India – from fission to fusion; from reactor to fast breeder technology and the realities and myths of nuclear safety. The session also covered the latest groundbreaking technologies as well as on-the-ground applications, which could be escalated even at the rural level and reduce dependency on conventional fuels. Dr. Sinha spoke from the heart and from his experience as one of the

leading physicists in the world. He dispelled the myths surrounding nuclear energy and spoke about the desired fuel mix incorporating renewables and nuclear energy.

The Conclave which was attended by over 250 participants from industries, government agencies, academia, researchers, NGOs and students on each day, concluded with the presentation of special merit certificates to select schoolchildren (including underprivileged children) who had participated in the annual Bengal Chamber Sit n Draw Competition, held on 27th April 2013 on occasion of Earth Day and World Environment Day.

EXHIBITIONS AND TRADE FAIRS

11TH INDIA INTERNATIONAL MEGA TRADE FAIR, 14TH – 24TH DECEMBER 2012, SCIENCE CITY, KOLKATA

The annual fair was organized by G S Marketing partnered by the Bengal Chamber. With over 500 participants, over 150 overseas companies from 10 foreign countries including Bangladesh, Thailand, Pakistan, Nepal, Myanmar, Egypt, Ghana, Turkey, Iran and Kenya, the trade fair was actually of mega proportions.

FINANCE AND BANKING

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH TIGER HILL CAPITAL, 12TH APRIL 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber organized an interactive session with Dr. Indranil Ghosh, CEO and Founder of Tiger Hill Capital, UK at the “Tata Steel Room” of The Bengal Chamber on 12th April 2013. The interactive session was attended by delegates from the finance and agriculture sectors. Dr. Ghosh delivered his address with a presentation on various investment strategies and case studies of Tiger Hill Capital.

SUMMIT ON “INDIAN INSURANCE INDUSTRY – ROAD AHEAD”, 10TH MAY 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a mega Summit on “Indian Insurance Industry: Road Ahead” on 10th May, 2013 at the Chamber Premises, Kolkata.

Mr. Kallol Datta, President of the Chamber; Mr. P Roy, Director General; Mr. Jagdish Singh, Chairman Finance and Banking Committee and Head Treasury, ITC Ltd. opened the Inaugural Session. KPMG Advisory Services Pvt. Ltd. was associated as the Knowledge Partner. Mr. Sudhin Roy Chowdhury, Member (Life), Insurance Regulatory Development Authority (IRDA) graced the occasion as Chief Guest and Mr. Sushobhan Sarker, Managing Director, Life Insurance Corporation of India addressed the Conference Theme as Conference Chairman. The day-long conference witnessed various eminent speakers namely, Mr. U S Roy, Director, IndiaFirst Life Insurance, Mr. Srinivasan Iyengar, COO, Reliance Life Insurance Co. Ltd., Mr. Suresh Mahalingam, CEO, Tata AIA Life Insurance Co. Ltd., Mr. Debshankar Mukhopadhyay, Corporate Vice President & Head Banca, Max Life Insurance Co. Ltd., Mr. Girija Kumar, Director & GM, National Insurance Co. Ltd., Mr. Jimmy John, Representative for South Asia, Asia Insurance Review, Mr. Shashwat Sharma, Partner, KPMG Advisory Services Pvt. Ltd. and Mr. Yash Prasad, Chief Agency Officer, Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance Co. Ltd. among others. The event also witnessed great response from delegates across the sectors as participants.

HEALTH

APPLICATION OF TECHNOLOGY IN HEALTHCARE – BUSINESS SESSION AND EXPOSITION FOR THE BEST SOLUTIONS, 23RD NOVEMBER 2012, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in association with Lemenox Solution, organized a B2B meet, 'Application of Technology in Healthcare – Business Session & Exposition' on 23rd November 2012 at the Williamson Magor Hall. The meet was sponsored by EMN Corporation, Healthcare Utility Services Pvt. Ltd., Binary Spectrum Softech Pvt. Ltd., TechnoCrazz, TouchStone and Kloudz Computing Pvt. Ltd.

Nowadays Information Technology is redefining how healthcare functions in our society. This programme had been organized to know from the sponsors, who are the IT solutions providers, the best-in-class IT products tailor-made for the healthcare sector. The welcome address was given by Mr. R. Udayan Lahiry, President & CEO, Medica Hospitals Pvt. Ltd. & Member of the Health Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry. The sponsors then made presentations of their products related to the healthcare industry. The product presentation was followed by networking cocktails. The B2B meet was a resounding success and was attended by the major healthcare units of Kolkata which included hospitals, nursing homes, diagnostic centres and also some doctors.

INTERACTIVE SESSION: STATE OF HEALTHCARE IN WEST BENGAL, 25TH JANUARY 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Health Committee of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an 'Interactive Session: State of Healthcare in West Bengal' with Smt. Chandrima Bhattacharya, Hon'ble Minister of State, Department of Health and Family Welfare, Government of West Bengal. Shri Satish Ch. Tewari, IAS, Principal Secretary for Health and Family Welfare also joined the Interactive Session as the Guest of Honour. The Session was attended by the leading healthcare units of Kolkata and also by some eminent doctors. It was an initiative to bring together the healthcare units, the decision-making persons related to healthcare, the Hon'ble Minister of State and the Principal Secretary so that they could discuss the issues related to the challenges and opportunities in healthcare in the State. The Hon'ble Minister, during her speech, spoke about some of the recent developments in healthcare in the State like mother and childcare projects across the State from March, mobile outpatient clinical services like on boats in the Sunderbans area and other issues. There was also a Q/A session with the representatives of healthcare units.

SUNFEAST HEALTH AND LIFESTYLE QUIZ, 26TH APRIL 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized the 5th Sunfeast Health & Lifestyle Quiz, on 26th April 2013 in the Chamber premises.

Encouraged by the great response from quizzers, corporates and the medical fraternity, the Health Quiz has become an annual signature event of the Chamber. The inaugural edition of the

Bengal Chamber Sunfeast Health and Lifestyle Quiz was launched in November 2007 and the event was structured to offer infotainment of a high order. Title-sponsored by Sunfeast, the Quiz helps the Kolkata corporate community to connect with their friends and colleagues. The co-sponsors this year were Medica Superspecialty Hospital, Woodlands, VLCC, 6, Ballygunge Place and The Wall.

Mr. P. Roy, Director General, welcomed all the participants and the Quiz Master, Mr. Charanpreet Singh who was assisted by Mr. Kinshuk Biswas. 28 teams participated. The Winner of the event was Calcutta National Medical College (CNMC) Alumni Association. The First Runner up was CMRI and the Second Runner Up was Saturday Club. Prizes were presented by Dr. Alok Roy, Senior Vice President of the Chamber and Chairman – Health Committee. Participants had great fun at the Quiz which was followed by a party at the Palladian Lounge.

THE BENGAL CHAMBER AND THE TELEGRAPH PANEL DISCUSSION ON “COMPREHENSIVE HEALTHCARE FOR ALL – IS INDIA READY FOR IT?” PRESENTED BY NATIONAL INSURANCE, 11TH MAY 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Health Committee of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and The Telegraph jointly organized a Panel Discussion on ‘Comprehensive Healthcare for all – Is India ready for it?’ on 11th May, 2013 at the Chamber premises. The programme was presented by National Insurance Company.

Dr. Kunal Sarkar, Senior Vice Chairman & Senior Consultant Cardiac Surgeon, Medica Superspecialty Hospital and Member – Health Committee of The Bengal Chamber was the Chairperson of the Panel Discussion.

Dame Ruth Carnall, CEO, NHS London, UK (one of the most respected senior executives of the National Health Service, honoured by the Queen for her contribution to healthcare management) was the guest speaker who shared the British experience in comprehensive healthcare. The NHS was created out of the ideal that good healthcare should be available to all, regardless of wealth and is a publicly funded system. She presented the objectives, challenges and the major initiatives taken for successful healthcare delivery.

The other Panelists were Shri Satish Ch. Tewary, IAS, Principal Secretary, Health and Family Welfare Department, Government of West Bengal; Prof. Sougata Roy, Member of Parliament; Prof. Bibek Debroy, Economist; Prof. Bhabotosh Biswas, President, IACTS, Professor & HOD, Cardiothoracic Vascular Surgery ; R G Kar Medical College & Hospital; Dr. Rupali Basu, CEO – Eastern Region, Apollo Gleneagles Hospital; Mr. Rupak Barua, COO, The Calcutta Medical Research Institute; Ms. Swati Bhattacharjee, Chief Reporter – Districts, Ananda Bazar Patrika; Dr. Sujit Kar Purkayastha, Medical & Joint Managing Director, Peerless Hospital & B K Roy Research Centre and Mr. Subir Bhattacharyya, GM, National Insurance Company. The panelists shared their viewpoints on whether comprehensive healthcare was still a distant dream, what improvements had taken place in healthcare in the recent years and what needs to be done.

The Panel Discussion was attended by the leading healthcare units of Kolkata, some eminent doctors, policy initiators in healthcare, journalists and also by the general public. There was also a Q/A session with the audience.

WORKSHOP ON ELECTRO MAGNETIC FIELD (EMF) WITH CELLULAR OPERATORS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA (COAI), 18TH JULY 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in association with Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), organized a Workshop on Electro-Magnetic Fields (EMF) & Cellular Telephony on 18th July, 2013 at the Chamber premises.

The debate on the alleged harmful effects of EMF emissions from mobile towers has escalated in the country, leading to concerns and activism in several regions. The Bengal Chamber, therefore, provided a forum for COAI to meet with the industry, medical fraternity, academia, government and civil society to openly discuss the issues involved.

At the Inaugural Session, Justice (Retd) Bhagabati Prosad Banerjee was the Chief Guest. Special addresses were made by Mr. Atanu Ghosh, DDG, Kolkata TERM Cell and Mr. Dipankar Dan, Scientist D, SAMEER Kolkata Center.

The Interactive Session was chaired by Mr. Vikram Tiwathia, ADG, COAI. The other Panelists were Mr. P Ramakrishna, Advisor, COAI; Mr. Apurba Das, DDG, West Bengal TERM Cell; Prof. (Dr.) Shyamal Kumar Sarkar, HOD of Radiation Oncology, Medical College Kolkata; Prof. (Dr.) Bhabotosh Biswas, Prof & HOD, Cardiothoracic Vascular Surgery, R G Kar Medical College & Hospital; Prof. Bhaskar Gupta, Ph.D Engg, Electronics & Telecommunication Engg Dept., Jadavpur University; Dr. Amlan Chakrabarti, Associate Professor, A.K. Choudhury School of Information Tech., University of Calcutta; Prof. Susanta Sen, Institute of Radio Physics and Electronics, University of Calcutta and Dr. Ashish Kumar Sanyal, Chief Scientist, West Bengal Pollution Control Board.

While the COAI presented their case that EMF emissions at the operating levels of intensity are not harmful, doctors and researchers did not share the confidence of cellular operators that there are no health hazards associated with mobile towers.

The Workshop was attended by over 150 delegates who included local authorities, academia, medical fraternity, citizen's groups, students, Government officials and the Media. There was also a Q/A session with the audience. The Workshop was followed by lunch.

HR / IR

INTERACTIVE SESSION ON FIRE AND SAFETY COMPLIANCE – CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS, 11TH SEPTEMBER 2012, CHAMBER PREMISES

The HR/IR Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry in association with PAB Engineers organized an Interactive Session on Fire & Safety Compliance – Challenges & Solutions on 11th September 2012 at the Williamson Magor Hall in the Chamber premises.

The session discussed the responsibilities and liabilities of different stakeholders in recent incidents of devastating fires – the Owners / Promoters / the Occupiers, the Workers, the Civic bodies or the Administration. The session talked about the aspects that have now acquired immense urgency in larger public interests.

Shri D.P. Tarenia, IPS, The Director General, West Bengal Fire and Emergency Services, was the Chief Guest who enlightened the delegates on the present scenario of fire and emergency services in West Bengal.

Expert speakers like Mr. Ashoke Kumar Ghosh, Managing Partner, PAB Engineers spoke about Electrical Power as a base of all operations. Mr. Manik Ghosh, Ex-Chief Engineer WBSEDCL focused on Electrical Power & Safety. Shri K Basu, General Manager Marketing, PAB Engineers discussed Routine Maintenance Electrical System for Safety in Buildings / High Rise Buildings & Complexes, Mr. T K Mozumdar , Ex DDG DGMS Dhanbad, Advisor PAB Engineers made a presentation on Health Safety Management Productivity and business effectiveness. Mr. Swapan Bose, Ex-General Manager EIL, Advisor, PAB Engineers spoke about Construction & Maintenance Safety. Shri Anindya Sen, Managing Director, Flexitech Services Pvt Ltd., discussed Fire Safety covering Hydrants / Clearances on all the sides of Buildings / Highrise Buildings. Apart from these several case studies were also discussed.

Around 60 delegates from industry actively participated in this Interactive Session and made it successful.

WORKSHOP ON CONTRACT LABOUR MANAGEMENT – APPROACH AND SOLUTION, 11TH JANUARY 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The HR/IR Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a Workshop on “Contract Labour Management – Approaches and Solutions” on 18th January 2013 at the Williamson Magor Hall in the Chamber premises.

The workshop had the privilege of having Shri Purnendu Bose, Hon’ble Minister of Labour, Government of West Bengal as the Chief Guest. The Hon’ble Minister shared his valued views on the role of the organization and the contractors in the growth of the workers. Other eminent speakers were Mr. S. C. Jain, Legal Advisor, Labour Laws, Mr. R.N. Mishra, Head – HR/IR Legal,

Tata Steel Limited, Mr. Anupam Anand, Director (Personnel), Hindusthan Copper Limited, Mr. P.K. Sahu, General Manager (HR & IR), Tata Steel Processing and Distribution Limited, Mr. Sukumar Mitra, Sr. General Manager – Plant HR, Haldia Petrochemicals Limited and Mr. Subhashis Das, Vice President – Corporate HR and Personnel, Berger Paints Limited.

The workshop discussed the various methods of engaging contract labour through contractor in an organization, be it the private sector or public sector under the aegis of the Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act, 1970. It also provided the practical guidelines to the emerging dimensions in Employee Relations, identified IR issues that are of importance to organizations at micro and macro levels and right guidelines to develop a right mindset for engaging with contract labour.

Around 70 delegates from industry actively participated in this workshop.

SEMINAR ON “INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS IN INDIA – SHIFTING PARADIGMS”, 20TH APRIL 2013, ITC SONAR

This was a mega programme organized by the HR / IR Committee of the Bengal Chamber. The inaugural session commenced with the Welcome Address by the President of the Chamber, Mr. Kallol Datta and thereafter Mr. Somesh Dasgupta, Chairperson, HR/IR Committee addressed on the theme of the seminar. Mr. Vineet Kaul, Chief People Officer, Hindalco, Mumbai delivered the Keynote Address and talked about the change in the work culture justifying the theme, “shifting paradigms”. He mentioned that Industrial Relation is a management responsibility and good communication between the Government, the Management and the Unions play a very important role in resolving issues and continuing work in harmony. He stressed on a few points like increased use of contract labour, focus on variable pay and focus on skill development as means to improve Industrial Relations. Mr. Sharad Patil, Director General, Employers Federation of India made a presentation on “Violence Free Workplace” and mentioned a few points, like Recognition, Ethical Practices and avoiding delaying tactics in resolving issues as very important in keeping away violence at workplace. Mr. P. Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber delivered the formal Vote of Thanks.

There were four technical sessions:

Technical session I: “Achieving Competitive advantage through Industrial Relations” was chaired by Dr. K K Chaudhuri. Other speakers were Mr. Shitanshu Prasad, Executive Director P&A, SAIL; Mr. B.N. Sarangi, President Group HR, Adhunik Group of Industries; Mr. Sujoy Banerjee, President–HR & OD, McNally Bharat Engineering Company.

Technical Session II: “Managing workforce diversity in cross cultural environment” was chaired by Mr. K Mohanchandran, General Manager, Taj Bengal. Other speakers were Ms. Sreela Dasgupta, Associate Vice President – Head (Diversity & inclusion), TCS, BPO; Prof. Jittu Singh,

Professor (OB) & Chairman–International Relations, XLRI Jamshedpur and Mr. Sridhar Ganesh, Director – HR, Murugappa Group.

Technical Session III: “Role of HR in managing enterprise risk” was chaired by Mr. P.P. Sahoo, Director (HR & CA), Balmer Lawrie. Other speakers were Mr. R.P. Singh, Director – HR IFFCO and Mr. Nadeem Kazim, Director (Personnel), Exide.

Technical Session IV: “Leveraging Human Resource Development for effective Industrial Relation” was chaired by Mr. R. Mohan Das, Director (Personnel), Coal India. Other speakers were Mr. Divesh Kumar, Director – HR of Apeejay Surrendra Group; Mr. Gautam Ray, Executive Director (HR & Admn.), CESC Ltd and Mr. G N Mattoo, Sr. Vice President – HR, Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.

The programme was attended by around 180 delegates.

THE BENGAL CHAMBER AWARD FOR BEST YOUNG HR PROFESSIONAL, 6TH SEPTEMBER 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The award ceremony for Best Young HR Professional was held on 6th September, 2013 at the Williamson Magor Hall at 4 p.m. There were six finalist viz., Mr. Vijay Prakash Singh, ITC Khidderpore Factory; Ms. Prakiti Ojha, Balmer Lawrie & Co. Ltd.; Mr. Arijit Majumdar, Tata Steel Processing & Distribution Limited.; Mr. Rahul Shankar, Tata Consultancy Services Limited; Mr. Abhishek Dutta, Quaker Chemicals Ltd. and Mr. Devi Prasad Panthala, Tata Steel Processing & Distribution Ltd. Four judges viz., Mr. Dipankar Banerjee, Professor, Eastern Institute of Management; Mr. Sujoy Banerjee, President – Group HR & OD, McNally Bharat Engineering Co. Ltd.; Mr. Anupam Anand, Director (Personnel), Hindusthan Copper Limited and Mr. Arunava Bhattacharya, Director – HR, Cognizant Technology Solutions Pvt. Ltd., viewed the presentations. Mr. Rahul Shankar of Tata Consultancy Services Ltd. was adjudged the winner and Mr. Arijit Majumdar and Mr. Devi Prasad Panthala both from Tata Steel Processing and Distribution Ltd., become 1st Runner–Up and 2nd Runner–Up respectively. The winner and runners–up trophies were handed over to the recipients by Mr. P. Roy, Director General while Mr. Somesh Dasgupta, Chairperson, HR/IR Committee presented mementos to the judges. There were all together 14 participants, so all the eight other participants were also handed over mementos and certificates of participation by the Chief Judge, Mr. Dipankar Banerjee, Professor, Eastern Institute of Management.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

MEETING WITH INTERNET SOCIETY, 8TH OCTOBER 2012, CHAMBER PREMISES

Internet Society met The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 8th October 2012 at 6 p.m. in the Chamber. The meeting was attended by Mr. Rajneesh D Singh, Regional Bureau Manager, Asia, Internet Society; Mr. Andrew Dvorshak, Director, Membership and Services, Internet Society and Mr. Anupam Agarwal, Chairperson, Internet Society, Kolkata Chapter. The Chamber was represented by Mr. K K Mahapatra, Head – INFOCOM and GM – IT Business, ABP Pvt Ltd; Mr N K Ghosal, NKG and Associates and Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Senior Programme Manager, The Bengal Chamber. Mr. Mahapatra and Mr. Ghosal are key resourcepersons of the Information Technology Committee of the Chamber.

Internet Society proposed to the Chamber to sign an MOU with them on joint initiatives and activities. The Internet Society engages in a wide spectrum of Internet issues worldwide. Their objective is ensuring a healthy, sustainable Internet is available to everyone – today and for the next billion users.

WITH CSI (KOLKATA CHAPTER)

– THE BENGAL CHAMBER WAS THE TECHNICAL SPONSOR OF THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EMERGING APPLICATIONS OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY HOSTED BY THE KOLKATA CHAPTER OF CSI AND BEING HELD AT ISI, KOLKATA DURING 29TH NOV – 1ST DEC 2012

– THE BENGAL CHAMBER ALSO SUPPORTED THE CHAPTER IN HOSTING THE 47TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF CSI AND AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INTELLIGENT INFRASTRUCTURE DURING 1ST – 2ND DECEMBER 2012 AT THE SCIENCE CITY.

THE BENGAL CHAMBER PARTNERED INFOCOM 2012, 6TH – 9TH DECEMBER 2012

PANEL DISCUSSION ON 'INDIA IT – PRESENT AND FUTURE', 18TH JANUARY 2013, THE PALLADIAN LOUNGE, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Information Technology Committee of The Bengal Chamber commenced its activities this year with the Panel Discussion on India IT – Present and Future on 18th January 2013 at The Palladian Lounge in the Chamber. The Discussion was moderated by Mr. Bikram Dasgupta, Chairman & CEO, Globsyn Group. The Panelists included Mr. A Lahiri, Past President, The Bengal Chamber; President, The Chatterjee Group and Director and CEO, SkyTECH Solutions Pvt. Ltd; Mr. Govind Seshadri, AVP, Cognizant Business, Consulting – Customer Solutions Practice, Cognizant Technology Solutions India Limited; Mr. Indranil Chatterjee, Assistant Vice President– Consulting and Enterprise Solutions, Mahindra Satyam; Mr. Rajarshi Sengupta, Executive Director, Deloitte & Touche Consulting India Pvt. Ltd; Mr. Subhankar Pal, Vice President –

Technology, Credit Suisse Private Banking, USA and Shri Susanta Majumdar, IAS, Secretary, Information Technology and Electronics Department, Government of West Bengal.

The focus of the discussions was on the challenges and opportunities for Indian IT businesses in the context of contemporary economic phenomenon, global politics, new and emerging markets and adaptability to new ground realities. The programme was a great success with participation of around hundred delegates and an enthusiastic interactive session.

ANNUAL BENGAL CHAMBER IT QUIZ, 23RD FEBRUARY 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Information Technology Committee of The Bengal Chamber organized the fourth edition of the annual Bengal Chamber IT Quiz on 23rd February in the Chamber.

Over forty teams participated from corporates, colleges and regular quizzers of the city. Mr. Charanpreet Singh was the Quiz Master.

While the theme for the Quiz was 'IT', the questions covered a wide spectrum of interest areas — with each question having an IT angle but not necessarily technically oriented to IT technical issues/processes. This quiz has a unique positioning of its own – a little away from the more familiar general and business quizzes, which makes it all the more interesting and enjoyable.

The finalists included teams from mJunction, SAIL, ITC Infotech, TCS and two mixed teams of quizzers – Technologically Challenged and Trivia Unlimited. The Winners were Trivia Unlimited and the 1st Runners Up and 2nd Runners Up were Technologically Challenged and TCS respectively.

The programme was graced by Shri Hira N Sengupta, Chairman, WEBEL.

THE BENGAL CHAMBER PARTNERING MICROSOFT BIZSPARK INDIA CHALLENGE 2013 WITH TIE, 29TH MAY 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry partnered Microsoft BizSpark Challenge 2013 with TiE on 29th May 2013 in the Chamber.

Microsoft BizSpark India Startup Challenge 2013 is a unique platform to identify and promote upcoming startups with a promising product in the focus areas of connected devices and continuous services across India by submitting their business ideas on Cloud Computing and Mobility. Microsoft BizSpark India Startup Challenge 2013, for the first time, is being organized in 10 different cities with a national grand finale in Bangalore. The Kolkata edition was held in the Chamber.

From the city an online start-up launched by two city youths quitting their cushy private bank jobs has made it to the national finals. The company started operations in January through the

website, www.little1.in. It made the cut from among 10 regional finalists. The team received a cheque of \$4,000 (Rs 2,20,000) for their idea. A three-year sustainable development programme with Microsoft awaits them if they clinch the national title.

Tookitaki, an advertisement optimization company, came second from eastern India and walked away with a prize of \$2,000 (Rs 1,10,000).

Mr. R N Lahiri, Chairperson, IT Committee of The Bengal Chamber and Dr. Suryanil Ghosh, Chairperson, Bengal Chamber Entrepreneurship Development Cell were present.

THE BENGAL CHAMBER BUSINESS-IT CONCLAVE 2013 (NEW DEVICES, MOBILITY AND NETWORKING), 19TH JULY 2013, THE PARK

The Information Technology Committee of The Bengal Chamber organized the fourth edition of the Business-IT Conclave on 19th July 2013 at The Park, Kolkata.

The Inaugural Session of the Conclave was addressed by Shri Susanta Majumdar, IAS, Secretary, Information Technology and Electronics, Government of West Bengal; Mr. Prabir Kumar Das, Managing Director, West Bengal Electronics Industry Development Corporation Ltd. and Mr. Rajasekaran Balasubramaniam, Chief Technology Officer, Cognizant Technology Solutions India Limited.

The two Technical Sessions were on “How new businesses connect?” and “Future of Remote Infrastructure”. The Session on “How new businesses connect?” was chaired by Mr. S. Radhakrishnan, Managing Director, Descon Limited and Past President, The Bengal Chamber. The speakers included Mr. Kattayil Rajinish Menon, Director App Ecosystems & Startup Strategy, Microsoft Corporation India Pvt Ltd; Mr. Rajarshi Chatterjee, Vice President, Atos India; Mr. Dhruv Dhawan, Product Head, Enterprise Mobility, Airtel Business; Mr. Gunjan Sachdev, General Manager and National Business Head, Panasonic India, Systems Solution Division. The Session on “Future of Remote Infrastructure” was chaired by Mr. Hirak N Sengupta, Chairman, West Bengal Electronics Industry Development Corporation Ltd. The speakers included Mr. Shivaji Basu, Head-Strategy Office, ION, Tata Consultancy Services; Mr. Sandipan Sarkar, Executive Architect, Global Government Centre of Competence, IBM and Mr. Ganesh Iyer, Area Sales Manager- North & East, VMware India.

The Chamber believes in creating relevant and meaningful forums for members and industry at large. Keeping this in mind, dedicated B2B Sessions were organized as a part of the Conclave.

INFRASTRUCTURE

EAST & NORTH EAST INDIA INFRASTRUCTURE CONCLAVE (INVESTMENT STRATEGIES FOR BETTER INFRASTRUCTURE), 19TH JANUARY 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber organized a mega conclave on infrastructure titled East & North East India Infrastructure Conclave on 19th January 2013 in the Chamber premises. The Conclave was an initiative to discuss the crucial issues in urban infrastructure mainly town planning and connectivity across the East and North East part of India. The objective was to discuss the emerging crucial issues by providing a platform to the policy makers and service providers to interact and decide on a level playing field for all. The Inaugural Session of the Conclave was graced by Chief Guest, Dr. Prem Kumar, Hon'ble Minister, Urban Development & Housing, Government of Bihar and Prof. Saugata Roy, Hon'ble Member of Parliament along with Mr. Jyotirmoy Chakraborty, IAS, Secretary, Urban Development, Government of Assam. While Prof. Roy discussed about various steps taken by JNNURM and the measures taken by the State, Dr. Kumar discussed various schemes and policies undertaken by his Ministry for the development of the housing and urban infrastructure in Bihar. Mr. Chakraborty also delivered a detailed picture of the various activities and initiatives taken by the Government of Assam. Session 1 focused on the Sustainable Cities in India & Project Financing. There is a tremendous pressure on civic infrastructure systems like water supply, sewerage and drainage, solid waste management, etc. These issues were discussed in details by eminent speakers like Ms. Antara Acharya, CEO, ADDA; Mr. Sudip Datta, Senior Vice President, ILFS, Mr. Dilip Sen, Executive Director (D-T), CESC; Mr. D K Das, Head of Marketing, Tata Steel Tubes SBU; Mr. Rajat M Chatterjee, DG Operations, Water Supply, Sewerage Drainage & Solid Waste Management, KMDA; Mr. Partha Pratim Chaudhury, Senior Vice President, Infrastructure Project Development, Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited and Mr. V G Kannan, President & COO, SBI Caps. In addition to the gap in available infrastructure to meet the requirements of urban centers in India, there is a daunting shortfall in available funds for improving and maintaining basic urban infrastructure. The Session on Connectivity and Project Financing highlighted these issues pertaining to Roads, Waterways among others. The Session was addressed by eminent speakers like Mr. Praful Tayal, CMD, Central Inland Water Transportation Corporation India Ltd, Col. Ajay Ahluwalia, CGM & RO, NHAI, Mr. A K Mahapatra, Head – Eastern Region, Srei Infrastructure Advisory and CEO, Bengal Srei Infrastructure Development Limited. The Senior Vice President of the Bengal Chamber, Dr. Alok Roy; Prof S S Chakraborty, CMD, CES India Pvt Ltd. & Chairman, Infrastructure Committee of the Bengal Chamber and Mr. P K Bandyopadhyay, Co Chairman, Infrastructure Committee, The Bengal Chamber & President, McNally Bharat coordinated the entire programme. The Conclave was well attended by various participants including very senior corporate and media members.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR OF MALTA IN INDIA, 11TH SEPTEMBER 2012, THE PALLADIAN LOUNGE

Her Excellency Theresa Cutajar, Ambassador of Malta in India met Mr. P Roy, Director General of the Bengal Chamber to discuss possible areas of cooperation with India and West Bengal and in which the Bengal Chamber could play a proactive role. The meeting was hosted by The Palladian Lounge.

INTERACTION WITH U KYAW SWE TINT, CONSUL GENERAL OF MYANMAR IN KOLKATA, 12TH SEPTEMBER 2012, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an Interactive Session with U. Kyaw Swe Tint, Consul General, Myanmar Consulate General in Kolkata with the Chamber's Managing Committee on 12th September 2012 at the Chamber, as part of Chamber's Global Trade and Investment Series of interactions. U. Kyaw Swe Tint addressed the members on 'Business Opportunities with Myanmar from this part of the country'.

His address highlighted the following points:

Myanmar is a fast changing country. Myanmar is peaceful and diverse with 135 different ethnic nationals in the country with so much to offer in terms of natural resources and energetic manpower in building a modern industrialized nation through agricultural development, and all-round development of other sectors of the economy in the sphere of democratization. Being rich in natural resources and having 11.379 million hectares of Net Area Sown, Myanmar grows not only perennial plants, but also crops, such as rice, pulses and beans, fruits and vegetable and exports those products to international markets. Apart from four main rivers within the country, Myanmar has sea territory in the Bay of Bengal and consequently it is able to export fishery products, including fresh water fish and sea water fish. Myanmar also exports varieties of forestry products, including world famous teak. More than half of the country's area is still covered with natural forest along with the permanent forest estate area of 72764.83 square miles. Myanmar also possesses vast resources of oil and gas. Jade and gems and other semi precious stones are auctioned at gems emporiums held twice a year. Currently, there are more than 70 Indian companies and 65 Myanmar companies actively engaged in various trade and investment categories, namely, construction materials, timber and logs, pharmaceuticals, small machineries, agricultural and industrial developments, engineering, electrical equipments, transport facilities, motor vehicle production, energy sector, computer and software, information technology outsourcing, graphics arts, hospital equipments, gems and jewelry.

Since 18 industrial zones along with 9589 small and medium sized enterprises have been established in different parts of the country, Myanmar has lucrative potentials in trade and investment sectors. Myanmar encourages foreign investors to invest in various sectors of Myanmar's economy. While Myanmar government is encouraging the private investment and entrepreneurial activity, the economy is being opened for foreign trade and investment. In order to oversee and administer the Foreign Direct Investment, the Myanmar Investment Commission was formed and it acts as the initial approving authority for investment proposals. Foreign investors can set up their business in the form of a foreign owned or a joint venture with any partner, a private company, a cooperative society or a state owned enterprise. In all joint ventures the minimum share of the foreign party is 35 percent of the total equity capital. Fairly trained manpower and skilled labour are available in Myanmar. Myanmar people are industrious and quick learners, thus representing a strong labour force. The labour cost in Myanmar is comparatively lower than that of other neighbouring countries. The country's banking system and the physical and digital infrastructural systems are being improved. Currently, the Government has been reviewing all the trade, investments, export import regulations and existing economic policies in order to be in line with the prevailing global condition and making necessary amendments, enacting new laws and regulations to create friendly investment environment to attract more foreign investors to Myanmar.

B2B MEET WITH CHINESE ENTERPRISES, 17TH OCTOBER 2012, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in association with the Chamber of Chinese Enterprises in Kolkata, supported by the Consulate of People's Republic of China in Kolkata, organized a "B2B Meet with Chinese Enterprises" on 17th October 2012 from 6 pm at the Chamber.

Sectors represented were power, mining, electrical, tourism, and water treatment among others. The objective of the Meet was to provide a platform to have one-to-one discussions between the Chinese and Indian companies. Companies like Dongfang Electric (India) Private Limited, China First Metallurgical Construction India Private Limited, China Eastern, Shangdong Electric Power Construction No.2 Company, Cimm Group, Sepco1 Electric Power Construction Corporation, Jiangshu Hongda Special Steel Machinery Plant Co Ltd. were some of the Chinese companies. Indian companies included Andrew Yule and Company Ltd, Exide Industries Ltd, McNally Bharat Engineering Company Ltd, G S Marketing and others.

MEETING WITH METROPOLITAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DHAKA) ON NON TARIFF MEASURES WHILE TRADING WITH SAARC COUNTRIES, 15TH NOVEMBER 2012, CHAMBER PREMISES

Mr. Shaquib Quoreshi, Secretary, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Dhaka met The Bengal Chamber representatives to know about the views of the Chamber and business community in India, in this case, of West Bengal, on the prevailing Non Tariff Measures that they face while trading with SAARC countries.

MCCI has been engaged by German International Development Cooperation (GIZ) to conduct a comprehensive analysis and documentation of prevailing non-tariff measures (NTMs) in the SAARC countries.

Both exports and imports were their concern. Discussions were on the specific NTMs businesses here face at the border, due to procedural and administrative bottlenecks. Cross-cutting problems restricting trade, such as banking procedures, infrastructure and quality related issues, including HS Classification were also discussed.

Mr. Quoreshi has taken back the information, which MCCI would work on at their end and would make a presentation in New Delhi sometime in March 2013.

The meeting, which was a very focused endeavour, was attended by:

Mr. Sitansu Banerjee, Whole time Director, Howrah Mills Company Limited

Mr. Abinash Gupta, Chief Executive Officer, Keventer Food Park Infra Limited

Mr. Shubhobrata Dasgupta, Marketing Manager, Pailan Food Limited

Mr. Somobrata Dutta, Managing Consultant, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. P. Vinod, Manager, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Dipankar Chakrabarti, Director, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Vinod Jain, Chairman, Safechem Industries

MEETING WITH MS. ROSALINE KWAN, SENIOR TRADE COMMISSIONER (NORTHERN INDIA) AND DEPUTY COMMERCIAL PROGRAM MANAGER, HIGH COMMISSION OF CANADA, NEW DELHI, 11TH DECEMBER 2012, CHAMBER PREMISES

Ms. Rosaline Kwan, Senior Trade Commissioner (Northern India) and Deputy Commercial Program Manager, High Commission of Canada, New Delhi visited The Bengal Chamber on 11th December 2012. Mr. Arjun Dutta, Trade Commissioner, Canadian Trade Office, Kolkata and Mr. Subroto Haldar, Assistant to Honorary Consul, Consulate of Canada were present with her. From The Bengal Chamber, the Meeting was attended by Mr. P Roy, Director General, Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director, Mr. Arnab Chakraborty, Assistant Director, Ms. Somdutta Mazumder, Senior Business Development Manager and Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Senior Programme Manager.

Ms. Kwan and her team were briefed about the Chamber activities. They particularly took interest in Energy and Environment, Information Technology, Infrastructure and Education in all of which the Chamber has mounted significant activities, programmes and projects.

MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR DAN MOZENA,

U.S. AMBASSADOR TO BANGLADESH, 12TH DECEMBER 2012, AT THE RESIDENCE OF MR. DEAN R. THOMPSON, CONSUL GENERAL, US CONSULATE, KOLKATA

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry was invited by Mr. Dean R. Thompson, Consul General, US Consulate, Kolkata to meet Ambassador Dan Mozena, U.S. Ambassador to Bangladesh on 12th December 2012 at the Consul General's residence. The objective of the meeting was to learn from the Ambassador about the investment climate in Bangladesh and the opportunities and challenges of doing business there. Discussions were on banking, infrastructure, capital markets development, business practices, procedural issues like visa processing and sector wise investment opportunities. Readymade garments manufacturing, Information Technology, Telecommunication, Agro based industry, leather industry got special mention among others.

INTERACTION WITH JANAB GHULAM MUHAMMED QUADER, HON'BLE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, BANGLADESH WITH MANAGING COMMITTEE MEMBERS, 14TH DECEMBER 2012, CHAMBER PREMISES

Janab Ghulam Muhammed Quader, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce, Bangladesh addressed the members of the Managing Committee of The Bengal Chamber on 14th December 2012. He had a very candid discussion with the members on opportunities and challenges in doing business in Bangladesh. He talked about infrastructure, power, labour, governance and other aspects. Mr. Nasir ud din Sheikh, Chairman, Standing Committee on Fairs and Exhibitions (2012), The Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry was also present at the meeting.

MEETING WITH JAPAN FOUNDRY SOCIETY, 1ST FEBRUARY 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

Mr. Daisuke Nishiyama from the Japan Foundry Society, Inc. met Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber and Mr. Monideep Majumder, Chief (Corporate Planning & Marketing), Corporate Quality Head, Tata Metaliks Limited to discuss possible business opportunities. Mr. Munehaya Shimada, Chief - Business Management Department; Mr. Osamu Kobayashi, Chief - Machine Department and Mr. Akira Watanabe, Chief - Engineering Management Department, Chuo Malleable Iron Co. Ltd. were present.

INDIA EURASIA BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP SEMINAR, 14TH – 15TH FEBRUARY 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber with the support of Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India, organized the “India–Eurasia Business Partnership Seminar” in Kolkata. India’s diplomatic ties with the Eurasian region are about 20 years old. India enjoys a warm and growing relationship with these countries but the same is yet to be reflected in trade and business. Presently, trade with the Eurasian region stands at nearly 2% of India’s total trade. The region has vast potential with rich mineral resources and well developed agriculture sector. A recent market survey report shows that traditional and non–traditional products produced in the Eastern Region have good demand in the Eurasian market. These diversified products range from jute bags, textiles, small leather goods, tea, pharmaceuticals and herbal products, home decoratives, kitchen appliances, traditional handlooms, handicrafts and gift items to various engineering items used for infrastructure development, road construction machines, transmission line fittings, hospital equipment, chemicals and allied products. Besides, there is demand for IT sector and other services sectors.

The seminar was addressed by Mr. Ajay Bisaria IFS, Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs; Mr. Percy Singaporita, Former MD, Tata Global Beverages & Advisor, Tea Board; H.E. Mr. Doulat O. Kuanyshev, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of the Republic of Kazakhstan; H.E. Mr. Oleksandr Shevchenko, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Embassy of Ukraine; Mr. Bakur Kvaratskhelia, Charge de Affairs, Embassy of Georgia; Ms. Irina K. Bashkirova, Consul General Kolkata, Consulate General of the Russian Federation; Mr. Toghrul Aliyev, Attaché of the Embassy for Economic Affairs, Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan; Mr. Sitaram Sharma, Honorary Consul, Kolkata, Republic of Belarus and Mr. S K Ghosh Asst. General Manager, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation Ltd & Mr. Subhendu Ghosh, Sr. Manager, Asia Minerals India Pvt Ltd.

BCCI DELEGATION TO MYANMAR, 20TH – 23RD FEBRUARY 2013, YANGON, NPT, MANDALAY

India – Myanmar relationship has always been very cordial. In recent times, Myanmar’s announcement of democracy and post election in 2010, India’s association with Myanmar has become more crucial from political and bilateral trade and investment angle. To boost up this union between the two countries Dr Manmohan Singh, Hon’ble Prime Minister, Government of India also visited Myanmar in 2011 and post PM’s visit Myanmar has become one of the most attractive destinations for Indian companies for foreign trade and investment. The bilateral trade volume has increased from USD 1.206 billion in 2009/2010 to USD 1.371 billion in 2011–2012. In the list of foreign investment of existing enterprises in Myanmar, India ranks 9th among 21 countries with an investment of USD 209 million in 7 projects; however this is far short of the actual potential.

BCCI organized, with the help of Indian Embassy in Yangon and Consulate General of India, Mandalay a 16 member delegation to Myanmar to understand the opportunities available there

for Indian companies especially from the Eastern Region for trade and investments in Myanmar. The delegation was led by Mr. Sourav Daspatnaik, Chairman, BCCI Skill Development Task Force and also Regional President (East) & National Board Member National HRD Network. The other members of the delegation included Mr. C S Ghosh, CMD, Bandhan Financial Services, Ms Arpita Sen, Asst. GM, Bandhan Financial Services, Mr. A K Nandi, President, McNally Bharat Engg Co Ltd, Mr. Subir Bose, Director, Berger Paints Ltd, Mrs Reshma Kaur, National Business Development Manager & Alternative Director, Berger Paints Ltd, Mr. Kanwardip Singh Dhingra, National Business Development Manager– Industrial Business Line & Alternative Director, Berger Paints Ltd, Mr. Gautam Ghosh, ED, Klystron Electronics Pvt Ltd, Mr. Subhendu Moitra, VP, SBI Capital Markets, Mr. Inderjeet Singh Gill, Regional Manager–South & South East Asia, Roughton International Ltd (UK), Mr. Venkata Krishna Adavi, Regional Manager–South & South East Asia, Roughton International Ltd (UK), Mr. Vishal Kapoor, Director, UGI Engineering Works Pvt Ltd, Mr. S Chakraborti, VP–Marketing, UGI Engineering Works Pvt Ltd, Mr. O P Agarwal, President, Rukhma Investment & Finance Pvt Ltd & Ms. Ivy Majumder, Deputy Director, BCCI.

The delegation visited UMFCCI in Yangon to discuss with the senior office bearers of the Chamber the business scenario of Myanmar and it was followed by a B2B meeting. The welcome address was given by Mr. Aung Lwin, Vice President, UMFCCI. During his speech he had mentioned BCCI and UMFCCI's association was established by a MoU in 1996 and since then both the Chambers are facilitating bilateral trade and investment in both the countries. He also briefed the delegation about Myanmar which has primarily an agro-based economy. However the government in order to build an industrially developed prosperous country in the shortest time frame possible was implementing plans to develop the industrial sector simultaneously along with the priority agricultural sector. It had promulgated SEZ laws and Dawei deep sea port laws. The old foreign investment law had been revised and re-written in order to be more investment friendly for foreign investors. The new foreign investment law was enacted on 2nd November 2012 and its rules and regulations on 31st January 2013. He also mentioned that new SEZ laws, the Dawei Deep Seaport Law and the changes introduced in the foreign investment law had paved the way for increased participation of foreign investors. There are vast opportunities for trading and investment in the industrial sector particularly in developing value added production industries for food, agro products, labour intensive industries, resource based industries and others.

The delegation also visited Nei Pyi Taw, the capital city of Myanmar and met H.E Dr. Pwint San, Hon'ble Deputy Minister of Commerce, H.E Mr. Aye Myint, Hon'ble Minister of Industry and H.E Mr. Kyaw Lwin, Hon'ble Minister of Construction to discuss the opportunities of bilateral trade & Investment policies in Myanmar. The Union Ministers gladly welcomed the delegation and requested them to send their proposals to the concerned department for the evaluations. The ministers also nominated the nodal officers from the Ministry to handle BCCI's proposals. The Industry Minister emphasised on skill development based investments in Myanmar from India and also requested the delegation and BCCI to submit some innovative proposals. Mr. Sourav Daspatnaik proposed an advanced workshop to train Ministry of Construction officials to upgrade the assessment skills of the officials for better town planning, architectural design,

technical knowhow, funding criteria etc which the Minister happily accepted and requested for a comprehensive proposal. The delegation also met H.E Dr. V S Seshadri, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, who kindly briefed the delegation about the possible business opportunities in Myanmar.

The delegation's final destination was Mandalay where the Indian delegates got the opportunity to meet H E Mr. Aung Moun, Hon'ble Mayor of Mandalay & Minister for Development Affairs of Mandalay Region. HE Mr. Aung Moun welcomed the delegation and also assured to provide all kinds of support for investment in the Mandalay Region. Consulate General of India, Mandalay organised a seminar with Mandalay Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Monywa Chamber of Commerce in Mandalay which was addressed by H.E. Dr. Myint Kyu, Minister of Electricity and Industry, Mandalay Region Govt & H.E. U Than Htike, Minister of Forestry, Mining & Energy, Sagaing Region Govt. The Bengal Chamber also signed 2 MoUs with Mandalay Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Monywa Chamber of Commerce. The BCCI hosted a Dinner at Mandalay for the local delegates and Dr. Madan Mohan Sethi, Consul General of India also joined the Dinner.

INTERACTIVE SESSION ON "INDO-DUTCH BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP: ROAD AHEAD" WITH MR. CEES BANSEMA, DEPUTY HEAD OF MISSION, EMBASSY OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS, 4TH MARCH 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber organised an interactive session with Mr. Cees Bansema, Deputy Head of the Mission along with Ms. Maya Acharya, Senior Advisor- Trade & Infrastructure of Embassy of The Kingdom of The Netherlands on 4th of March, 2013. Mr. Namit Shah, Hony. Consul of The Netherlands, Kolkata also participated in the interaction. Senior industry players from infrastructure, agriculture, and shipping joined this interactive session and discussed various opportunities for doing business in The Kingdom of The Netherlands. Around 15 high profile delegates actively participated in this interactive session.

SPECIAL FELICITATION OF DR. PRADEEP GANGULY, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, 18TH MARCH 2013, THE PALLADIAN LOUNGE, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry hosted a special felicitation of Dr. Pradeep Ganguly, Senior Vice President, Prince George's County EDC. Dr Pradeep Ganguly holds an MA in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics where, as a merit scholar, he studied under Nobel Laureate Dr. Amartya Sen, Dr. Jagdish Bhagwati, Dr. A.M. Khusro and others. Dr Pradeep Ganguly was felicitated by Hon'ble (Retd.) Justice Asok Kumar Ganguly, Chairman, West Bengal

Human Rights Commission. Mr. Ramendu Chattopadhyay, Chairperson, West Bengal Foreign Investment Taskforce, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Kallol Datta, President, The Bengal Chamber; Dr. Alok Roy, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber; and Mr. P. Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber were also present on the occasion.

Dr Pradeep Ganguly has an M.Phil. in Regional Development from JNU, and a Ph.D. in Applied Economics from Clemson University, USA. He founded MKK-USA, a non-profit organization that provides educational support and humanitarian aid. Prior to joining PGC-EDC, he served as Director of the Montgomery County Department of Economic Development, an international business consultant, Chief Economist and Director of Research at the Maryland Department of Business & Economic Development, and Extension Associate at the University of Maryland-College Park. He has also taught as graduate and undergraduate faculty at Prince George's Community College, Tri-County Tech (S.C.), Bowie State University, and the University of Maryland-University College (graduate management program).

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH HON'BLE MINISTER OF ICT, REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS, 22ND MARCH 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

Hon. Tassarajen Pillay Chedumbrum, Minister of ICT, Republic of Mauritius met Mr. Kallol Datta, President, The Bengal Chamber, Mr. P Roy, Director General and select senior members of the Information Technology (IT) Committee of the Chamber on 22nd March 2013 in the Chamber premises.

A delegation from Mauritius attended the meeting with the Hon'ble Minister. The delegation included:

Ms. Pratima Sewpal, Manager, International Business Services, Board of Investment

Mr. Rajnish Hawabhay, Director, Central Informatics Bureau

Mr. Oliver Lew, Managing Director, Harel Mallac Services

Mr. Michel Tesseydre, Managing Director, Expand Technology

Mr. Viren Bissoonauth, Managing Director, Anglo African

Mr. Gary Allagapen, Executive Director, Enterprise Information Solutions

From the Chamber, Mr. R N Lahiri, Chairperson, IT Committee was present. The other invitees to the meeting included:

Col. A K Nath, Executive Director, Centre for Development of Advanced Computing

Mr. Rajarshi Sengupta, Executive Director, Deloitte & Touche Consulting India Pvt. Ltd.

Col. Gurusaday Batabyal, Executive Director, Development Consultants Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. S K Mandal, Director, Infocus Technology Private Ltd

Mr. Aditya Gupta, IRC Group

Mr. D K Dutta, Deputy General Manager – C & IT, Steel Authority of India Limited

Mr, Kunal Bhattacharya, CIO, West Bengal Electronics Industry Development Corporation Ltd.

The Hon'ble Minister spoke about the emergence of ICT in the economic scenario of Mauritius. The Ministry was formed in 1997. The Government's vision is to develop this segment as the pillar of the economy by 2015. It now stands third. Mauritius offers cost competitiveness and multi-linguist resources, creating a favourable platform for the global market. The Government's effort is to create a conducive environment for any industry to set up operation. ICT Academies on PPP model are established to cater to the needs of the industry. The country is launching its digital signature in a few months time. The government portals have been revamped for providing e-services to the public. The strategy of the government is to develop the country as fully computer literate. Towards this end, internet facility at the primary schools are provided free of cost. 75% of digital migration has already been achieved. It is anticipated that 100% will be achieved by July 2013. The government in Mauritius provides all support to set up business – easy and fast incorporation, visa on arrival, no requirement of local partner, no interest on foreign exchange in reclamation of profit.

The Hon'ble Minister invited the members of the Chamber to visit Mauritius and participate in ICT Investment Programme in June 2013.

INTERACTION WITH YASUI ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS (JAPAN), 10TH APRIL 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

West Bengal Foreign Investment Task Force of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an Interactive Session with Yasui Architects and Engineers on 10th April 2013 in the Chamber. Mr. Yoshihiko Sano, President and Mr. Toshihiro Shono, Board Director in charge of international projects visited the Chamber. Their objective was to explore possibility of business ventures in West Bengal / India. The meeting was attended by Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. Ramendu Chattopadhyay, Chairperson, West Bengal Foreign Investment Task Force, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, Co-Chairperson, Energy and Environment Committee, The Bengal Chamber and Managing Director, Ghosh, Bose & Associates Pvt. Ltd.; Dr. Madhumita Roy, Head- Architecture Department, Jadavpur University; Mr. Mahendra Sureka, President-Corporate Affairs, Infinity Infotech Parks Ltd and Mr. Dipten Basu, Consultant, Tower Group and Former Deputy General Manager – India Trade Promotion Organization.

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH MS. NICOLA WATKINSON, SENIOR TRADE AND INVESTMENT COMMISSIONER, AUSTRALDE, SOUTH ASIA, 23RD APRIL 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

An important focus for Ms. Nicola Watkinson was to develop a new proactive marketing strategy for attracting investment. She also coordinated several bilateral businesses between Australia

and other countries. The focus of the interactive session with her was to discuss such business opportunities, share technical knowledge, skills and infrastructure facilities with the overarching objective of creating cross-country B2B linkages.

The interactive session was attended by representatives from sectors like logistics, mining, steel and education. Skill development was a focus of the discussions. Improvement of waste management and cultural tourism were also highlighted.

ONE-DAY WORKSHOP ON MANAGING RISKS IN INTERNATIONAL TRADE, 3RD MAY 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

A few years ago the world faced its biggest financial crisis since the era of the Great Depression of the 1930s. The impact of the downturn was felt by everyone around the globe. Even to this day, it's not 'business as usual' for most. Consequently, risk management and the fight for survival are an essential part of our lives today.

The on-going instability affects everyone across industries and across geographical boundaries. The affected ones include traders, bankers, financial institutions, manufacturers, exporters and importers, transport operators, insurers and others. The economy has come under considerable strain; inflation poses a serious threat, the GDP shows a negative growth, and trade and commerce suffer badly as risks in international trade go up manifold.

This programme had been organized in the light of this scenario. The objective was to strengthen the foundation of those engaged in international trade, so that they could identify certain risks well in advance, and operate from a position of strength. Payment, documentation and shipment risks were taken up for discussion at this one-day programme. The faculty for the workshop was, Mr. Rupnarayan Bose, former Managing Director of Fina Bank, Nairobi, Managing Director of TransAfrica Bank, Kampala, and GM, Treasury and International Banking, Diamond Trust Bank, Nairobi, Kenya. Earlier, he was with the State Bank Group for 18 years, working in various capacities including as head of Trade Finance, International Banking and Treasury.

In areas of commercial banking his specialization includes foreign exchange, documentary credits and ICC Rules. The author of three books on documentary credits, international banking and UCP 600, he has lectured extensively in India and East Africa on international and commercial banking, and has also published over 50 articles in leading trade publications in India and overseas. He is also a visiting faculty at the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT), Calcutta campus and National Institute of Bank Management (NIBM), Pune.

INTERACTION WITH BUSINESS DELEGATION FROM MYANMAR, 10TH JUNE 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

A delegation from Myanmar visited the Chamber on 10th June 2013 to meet Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber and other Secretariat Members. Anchored by Mr. Sourav Daspatnaik, President – Eastern Region and National Board Member, National HRD Network and Chairperson, Skill Development Task Force of The Bengal Chamber, the visit was a follow-up to the immensely successful Bengal Chamber delegation to Myanmar led by Mr. Daspatnaik earlier this year.

In the meeting, the Chamber was requested to take up the following matters with the Government and other relevant authorities:

- Border Trade Regulations
- Connectivity – by land, water and air. To facilitate trade between Myanmar and this part of the country, frequent and low cost air connectivity is important. It was proposed that the Chamber could discuss the issue with SpiceJet and Indigo. The condition of the Trilateral Highway connecting India, Myanmar and Thailand has to be improved.

The potential areas of bilateral trade were discussed. Healthcare and Education could be focus sectors. Medical Tourism from Myanmar and visit to Myanmar by teams of doctors and medical experts from Kolkata could be facilitated. Management Development Programmes between educational institutes in Myanmar and Kolkata were also being explored.

INTERACTION WITH PHILIPPINE TRADE AND INVESTMENT CENTRE (PTIC), EMBASSY OF THE PHILIPPINES, NEW DELHI, 10TH SEPTEMBER 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

His Excellency Benito B. Valeriano, Philippine Ambassador to India and his wife; Mr. Edwin Gil Q. Mendoza, Second Secretary and Consul, Mr. John Paul B. Inigo, Commercial Attache, and other representatives from the Embassy of Philippines, New Delhi visited The Bengal Chamber on 10th September 2013. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Arun Kumar Mukherjee, Chairperson – Energy & Environment Committee of The Bengal Chamber and was attended by the representatives from different sectors of industry. Mr. John Paul B. Inigo, Commercial Attache made a presentation on enhancing the economic relations between Philippines and India. He focused on the areas of investment in Philippines and how to increase exports from Philippines to India. The objective of the meeting was to discuss how to improve trade and investments between the two countries. Mr. John Paul B. Inigo invited all the members present at the meeting to visit Philippines particularly the IFEX, the exhibition organized by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) of Philippines.

INTERACTIONS WITH INDUSTRY LEADERS, FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS AND ECONOMIC EXPERTS, MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS AND SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

INFORMAL INTERACTION WITH PADMA BHUSHAN SHRI B. MUTHURAMAN, VICE CHAIRMAN, TATA STEEL LTD. AND CHAIRMAN, TATA INTERNATIONAL LTD., 11.00 A.M., 9TH DECEMBER 2012, TATA STEEL ROOM, THE PALLADIAN LOUNGE, THE BENGAL CHAMBER

The President, Director General, a few members of the Managing Committee and members of the Secretariat met Padma Bhushan Shri B. Muthuraman, Vice Chairman, Tata Steel Ltd. and Chairman, Tata International Ltd. The discussion covered a number of topics and contemporary issues of importance. Shri Muthuraman was in the city to address the PanIIT Global Meet and kindly spared a few minutes to visit the Chamber.

MEETING WITH SHRI PARTHA CHATTERJEE, HON'BLE MINISTER-IN-CHARGE, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONICS, PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, INDUSTRIAL RECONSTRUCTION, PUBLIC ENTERPRISE, GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL ON THE UPCOMING INDUSTRIAL POLICY OF GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL ON 21ST JANUARY 2012, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presented its recommendations to Shri Partha Chatterjee, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Commerce and Industry, Information Technology and Electronics, Parliamentary Affairs, Industrial Reconstruction, Public Enterprise, Government of West Bengal on the upcoming Industrial Policy of Government of West Bengal on 21st December 2012. The meeting was attended by Dr. Alok Roy, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber, Mr. B D Bose, Past President, The Bengal Chamber, Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber, senior members of the Chamber and members of the media.

Shri Chatterjee took note of the points mentioned in the presentation. He also raised his queries on certain points.

INTERACTION WITH SHRI RAJIVA SINHA, IAS, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF MICRO AND SMALL SCALE ENTERPRISES AND TEXTILES, GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL, 21ST FEBRUARY 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

Shri Rajiva Sinha, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Micro and Small Scale Enterprises & Textiles, Government of West Bengal was present at the Managing Committee meeting held on 21st February. He observed that the State Government was willing to work closely with the Industry. There existed a "Trust Deficit" factor and the Industry Bodies should come forward to bridge this gap. Within the fixed policy framework there were a lot to explore if the Government and the Industry partnered each other. Industry should not become too much dependent on Policy and Subsidies. This Donor and Recipients relationship becomes a stumbling block for

growth. Instead, Industry should come forward as one and come up with solid plans so that the State Government can take necessary action on an urgent basis. He also mentioned that the growth of the Industry could only happen when Industry, the Department of Micro and Small Scale Enterprises & Textiles and Department of Commerce and Industries combined together and considered it as joint initiative. There was also a serious concern regarding skill development of not less than one million unskilled labour and Industry should advise various strategies to meet this demand. Shri Sinha has also recommended that Knowledge Development, Skill Development and Cluster Development were three pillars for sustainable growth. The State Government was willing to take any advice, take necessary actions and formulate plans if there was a proper identification of 5 clusters in the State with identified investors and viable projects.

INTERACTION WITH SHRI C M BACHHAWAT, IAS, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIES, GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL, 21ST MARCH 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

Shri C M Bachhawat, Principal Secretary, Commerce and Industries, Government of West Bengal addressed the members of the Managing Committee of The Bengal Chamber on 21st March 2013.

He spoke about land acquisition and the fact that the Government is looking into the matter to simplify the process. He also discussed the upcoming Industrial Policy. The members discussed their feedback on the draft policy the Chamber had received from the office of Shri Saugata Roy, Hon'ble Member of Parliament. Mr. Kallol Datta, President, The Bengal Chamber reiterated the Chamber's various suggestions to attract new investment to the State. For example, the Government might consider providing a tax holiday with a penalty clause in case the organization leaves the State after the period. This will also lead to employment generation from new businesses.

The members discussed the issues confronted by them. Shri Bachhawat assured them with all possible help from his office.

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH PROF. B K DUTTA, CHAIRMAN, WEST BENGAL POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD, 25TH APRIL 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

Prof. B K Dutta, Chairman, West Bengal Pollution Control Board (Special Invitee to the Energy and Environment Committee) had kindly spared time from his busy schedule and interacted with members of the Managing Committee of the Chamber. Prof. Dutta spoke about the environmental management practices and the state of the environment in the context of industrial operations in West Bengal. The case for lifting of moratorium for industrial investments in Haldia was also discussed.

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH HER EXCELLENCY NANCY POWELL, AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES IN INDIA ON “STRENGTH TO STRENGTH – BUILDING THE US INDIA ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP FOR THE NEXT CENTURY”, 21ST MAY 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber organized an Interactive Session with Her Excellency Nancy Powell, US Ambassador to India, on 21st May 2013. The theme of the session was, “Strength to Strength – Building the US India Economic Relationship for the next Century”.

Her Excellency met the business leaders of this region to talk about business, and about economics. Confirming that her top priority as Ambassador remains improving the already vibrant U.S.–India economic and business relationship, she reiterated that India & US must continue to work together to overcome barriers to trade and investment.

She observed that while for some people, Bengal is not the first location that comes to mind for a speech about business and the national economy – (they would think Mumbai, Bangalore, or Tamil Nadu) – for her, Kolkata makes sense. For while the policy headlines may come out of New Delhi and the business headlines may come out of Mumbai, it is increasingly apparent that what actually happens in India happens outside of New Delhi and Mumbai. The deeper economic, political, and social movements – the ones that actually determine where this continental nation is heading – take place in Raipur, Ranchi, Patna, Durgapur, Siliguri, and Kolkata.

Kolkata, according to her, is special in its own right, and seems a particularly poignant place for a speech with this topic, because this is where Indo US economic relationship took its first halting steps, with blocks of ice from Walden Pond in Massachusetts that sailed around the world, from one of the world’s newest countries to one of its oldest civilizations, as ballasts in trading ships.

According to Her Excellency, the benefits to India have been large – the U.S. is the second largest destination for Indian exports – and widespread. The openness of the U.S. economy has been the driving force behind some of the highest paid, most sought after jobs in India. According to her, one can see this in the gleaming office towers in Bangalore, Pune, and here in Kolkata, many of which depend on the United States for their business. It has created jobs and improved incomes in some of the oldest, hardest professions, like the foundries in Howrah that depend on the openness of the U.S. economy as a market for their cast iron products, or the thousands of potato farmers in West Bengal who have seen their incomes rise thanks to the infusion of American capital into this economy.

However, she also mentioned that the road to higher growth will require more economic opening and more foreign investment. Since GDP growth is not an end in its own right, since the ultimate goal is to raise standards of living and to eradicate poverty, opening the economy and bringing in more foreign investment take on a new urgency. One cannot defeat poverty without growth. One cannot have growth, certainly not enough growth to lift hundreds of millions of people out of poverty, without an economy that is more open and that does more to encourage foreign investment. Further, by creating the kind of open economy that welcomes

investment, India Inc will have the confidence to start pouring in the billions of rupees that are currently sidelined.

According to the Ambassador, currently, tariff and non-tariff barriers are too high, preventing India from obtaining the latest and best technology and the most advanced equipment it needs to meet its objectives. India loses because American companies do not get a chance to compete, because India does not receive the much-needed capital to grow, and because the best products, technology and prices that the world has to offer remain out of reach.

She also mentioned that strengthening regional connectivity with Bangladesh and Burma, such as building the infrastructure linkages that could open new markets for Indian goods and services eastward, could benefit from the simple legislative decision to allow foreign direct investment in the insurance sector. How? Because India's infrastructure is deeply in need of funds and allowing foreign investment would usher in global, long-term investments of equal duration to the infrastructure projects India so desperately needs and for which India's banking sector is limited in its ability to finance. Everyone wins – increased market access for producers in the region, increased employment as a result of more efficient spending and project investment, and improved prices, convenience, and choices for consumers.

The United States and India, according to her, share similar goals in that both countries want to encourage domestic manufacturing and industry. As India seeks to grow its manufacturing sector, developing manufacturing zones and clusters, providing incentives to manufacturers, and collaborating with industry and academic leaders are all approaches that India support and are looking at closely in the United States as well. She was of the opinion that the most effective way to grow India's manufacturing sector in both the short-term and the long-term was to make investment in India more attractive, both for domestic and foreign firms alike.

The Ambassador was hopeful that, as more and more Indians recognize the myriad ways that India – Indian companies and Indian citizens – have benefitted from the growing economic relationship with the United States, we will see more connectivity, more business, and more exchanges of ideas.

She hoped that The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Kolkata's other premier business chambers will look for ways to engage with the National and State Governments in India to help an economic environment that will provide the openness and attraction for foreign investment that India needs.

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH DR. KRISHNA GUPTA, IAS, MANAGING DIRECTOR, WEST BENGAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED, 23RD MAY 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

Dr. Krishna Gupta, IAS, Managing Director, West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Limited interacted with the Managing Committee Members of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 23rd May 2013 in the Chamber. The discussions focused on the draft Investment and Industrial Policy of West Bengal – 2013 released by the Government of West Bengal. Members brought up their queries which Dr. Gupta took note of. He also advised

the Chamber to submit its comments to the State Government based on the feedback from the members.

FELICITATION OF PADMA SHREE DR. H P BAROOAH, CHAIRMAN, B & A GROUP OF COMPANIES AND PAST PRESIDENT, THE BENGAL CHAMBER, 23RD MAY 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

Dr. Hemendra Prasad Barooah, a legend and a pioneer of the Indian tea industry, an architect of the modern North East, an iconic business leader and philanthropist was felicitated by the Bengal Chamber on 23rd May following the meeting of the Managing Committee. Dr. Barooah, the first alumnus of Harvard University from North East India (following his MBA from Harvard Business School in 1949) has been conferred with the Padma Shree by the Government of India in 2013 in recognition of his distinguished service in the fields of Trade and Industry, which is a matter of immense pride and happiness in all of us.

Commemorating this occasion, the President of the Chamber, Mr. Kallol Datta felicitated Dr. Barooah in the presence of Members of the Managing Committee and Past Presidents including Dr. Abhijit Sen, Mr. Sumit Mazumder, Mr. S B Ganguly and Mr. Sandipan Chakravorty.

FELICITATION OF MR. DEAN R THOMPSON, CONSUL GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES IN KOLKATA, 17TH JULY 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

Mr. Kallol Datta, President welcomed Mr. Dean R Thompson who had arrived in Kolkata on August 3, 2011 and would be leaving on July 31, 2013. Mr. Datta added that the Chamber had the pleasure and privilege of interacting with Mr. Thompson and his team on a number of occasions. He had redefined and greatly enhanced Indo-American Business-to-Government and Business-to-Business connectivity in the Eastern Region. Mr. Datta hoped that Mr. Thompson would be back in India as an Ambassador of the US.

Mr. Dean Thompson thanked the Bengal Chamber for the support it had provided during his tenure especially to the various business delegations and requested the Chamber to continue to support the business community of the United States.

A special memento was presented to Mr. Thompson and also to Mr. Richard Craig, Principal Commercial Officer, US Commercial Service, Kolkata by the President.

LEISURE AND ENTERTAINMENT

ROMANCE WITH TAGORE – MUSIC, POETRY & FASHION (WITH THE PALLADIAN LOUNGE), 10TH SEPTEMBER 2012

In our endeavor to pay homage to Kabiguru Rabindranath Tagore for his immense contribution to the lives and culture of the Bengali people and in broader sense to all Indians in the field of art, culture and literature to the world we organized a concert of Music, Poetry, Fashion & Romance with Tagore. Honourable Transport Minister Shri Madan Mitra graced the occasion as chief guest along with Shri Shuvaprasanna.

ART EXHIBITION & AUCTION FOR ORAL SCHOOL OF DEAF, 19TH SEPTEMBER 2012

“Ode to Brush”, an art exhibition and musical evening in association with Gallery Katyun. The Concert was in aid of The Oral School for deaf children, who also presented a small performance before the piano recital and recitation by Miss Rajlakshmi & Saira Shah Halim respectively. Her Excellency Smt. Padmini Narayanan, Shri Shuvaprasanna & Japanese Consul General Mr. Mitsuo Kawaguchi graced the occasion as Guest of Honours.

THEATRE BY MS. DOLLY BASU (WITH THE PALLADIAN LOUNGE) ON 29TH SEPTEMBER 2012: FAIRY TALE EVENING BY LITTLE THESPIANS OF CHOOPKATHA UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF MS. DOLLY BASU.

Cultural evening of drama based on Fairy Tale Stories performed by Little Thespians (Children with Special Needs) of Choopkatha under guidance of Ms. Dolly Basu on 29th September 2012. Shri Biswadip Gupta, Past President, The Bengal Chamber graced the occasion as chief guest along with his wife.

ADDA ON “FELUDA–R–SATHE”, 25TH FEBRUARY 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

Continuing our tradition of paying homage to and remembering the legend Satyajit Ray, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Ananya Onnomon organized an adda session with the director and leading actors of the Feluda movie series. The programme, “Feluda–r–Sathe” organized on 25th February 2013 at the Williamson Magor Hall of the Chamber, was the third such programme following similar adda sessions organized with the leading actresses and actors of the films by the maestro in 2010 and 2012.

Shri Soumitra Chattopadhyay, Shri Sandip Ray, Shri Sabyasachi Chakraborty and Shri Shaheb Bhattacharya were the panelists. Shri Saswata Chatterjee and Shri Siddhartha Chatterjee also shared their views through individual audio recordings. Shri Barun Chanda hosted the panel discussion as the moderator and anchor. The programme was an informal discussion, in the mood of an “adda”, with the panelists being the leading actors of the “Feluda” movies. The panelists shared their anecdotes and experiences of working with the maestro and recounted some of the many memories of their days in Ray films.

The programme was attended by over 250 invitees and went on for over 2 hours. The audience was enthralled, to say the least, to hear from the legendary actors and Shri Sandip Ray about how they used to prepare for Ray’s films, their interactions with Satyajit Ray and their countless experiences and stories from those days as well as their experiences in the context of the film industry in general. The programme was extensively covered by members of the media.

13th March 2013

Felicitation of Dr. M. Balmuralikrishna by His Excellency Shri M. K. Narayanan, Governor of West Bengal with performance by the living legend later on followed by Odissi Recital by Madhumanti Sengupta. The event was supported by Descon, Allahabad Bank, National Insurance Co. Ltd, P & M Communications, A.L. Logistics Pvt. Ltd, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Open Doors.

THE BENGAL CHAMBER SUPPORTED “RAAG ANURAAG”, A CULTURAL PROGRAMME, 31ST AUGUST 2013, G D BIRLA SABHAGHAR, KOLKATA. SHRI M K NARAYANAN, GOVERNOR OF WEST BENGAL WAS THE CHIEF GUEST.

MARKETING AND BRAND

MARKETING CONCLAVE ON “THE CHANGING FACE OF BRANDS”, 16TH MARCH 2013 CHAMBER PREMISES

Rebranding has been the catchphrase in a fast-changing market even before the term became a cliché at board meetings. Nothing epitomises this better than Marlboro’s dramatic change from a woman’s cigarette of the 1920s to something that portrays all things macho — the Marlboro Man.

To share such stories of change in advertising and marketing strategies, the Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry and **Tata Steel**, in association with **The Telegraph**, organised a conclave on Changing Face of Brands at Williamson Magor Hall, The Bengal Chamber, on March 16, 2013.

Brand is as old as the branding iron that left the owner’s mark on an ancient peasant’s sack of cereal, Alexander’s swift Mesopotamian horses and the distinctive seal on a Roman slave’s nape. Even religion is a brand, minus the branding iron! It is “an idea” beyond a company trademark and keeps evolving with the times.

Brands can be anything from Tata Tea to the International Red Cross to any religion on earth, said ad guru S.V. ‘Bobby’ Sista, a former board member of the Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI). “Brands have always belonged to the man and woman on the street,” Sista said, explaining the intricacies of brand building in the modern context — changing the target audience or roping in a new set of consumers before being outmaneuvered by rivals.

“Brands are moving to become social movements,” said Madhukar Sabnavis, Vice-Chairman and Country Head of Discovery and Planning at Ogilvy & Mather India. To contextualise his point, he cited Tata Tea’s Jago Re campaign and ABP Ananda’s Cholbe Na initiative, aimed at promoting civic awareness in Calcutta by converting the cholbe nas to cholbes. He said such brand advertisements had become facilitators of social change and gained the young generation’s thumbs-up. Another example is the Dove Campaign for Real Beauty — telling women to preen their natural looks instead of mimicking airbrushed models shown in advertisements. Gone are the days when brands flagrantly pushed their wares without a social message for the audience.

Sourabh Mishra, group CSO of Bates CHI and Partners, India, summarised the seminar with a simple question and a ready answer: “Would I miss that X brand if it ceases to exist? Brands always exist in a certain context in people’s lives. The real test of a brand’s strength lies in the relevance of it in these fast-changing times.”

Other than Sista, Sabnavis and Mishra, the line-up of speakers included Sunil Alagh, founder and chairman of SKA Advisors; Anoop Hoon, President (Marketing and OD) of Century Ply; Debashish Choudhury, Chief of Business Process Enhancement, Tata Steel; Madhumita Basu, Senior Vice-President (Marketing) of Lafarge India Pvt. Ltd; and Sanjay Datta, Marketing Research and Developmental Manager of ITC Ltd.

Kiran Khalap, Founder of Chlorophyll; Ashish Anupam, Chief of Marketing and Sales at Tata Steel; Bharat Dabholkar, founder of Vajra Communications; Raghu B. Viswanath, MD of Vertebrand Management Consulting Pvt. Ltd; Mohit Hira, senior VP and Regional Business Director of JWT; and R. Seshadri, MD of Anugrah Madison Advertising Pvt. Ltd also spoke at the seminar.

MEDIA MARKETING CONCLAVE – MEDIAMORPHOSIS: CHANGING TRENDS, CHANGING MINDS, 7TH SEPTEMBER 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber organized yet another Flagship Marketing Conclave titled on Mediamorphosis | Changing Trends. Engaging Minds – an unique Media Conclave on September 07 2013, at Kolkata.

Today, brand building is turning on its head. The consumers are savvy and choose what they wish to see or hear, as well as when and how they would like to see and hear. In short, they decide how they expose themselves to marketing communication and choose media judiciously. The whole brand communication process is therefore undergoing a sea change. From the one-way messages and mediums, consumers are seeking interactivity with brands, as they would with their friends and acquaintances. They look for ways and means of expressing their opinions and receiving inputs relevant to their needs. In short, both communication methods and media habits are on the threshold of major changes in India.

The Indian Media scenario today is at a state of flux. While the advent of the independent TV channels was first denounced as 'invasion from the skies', it is now accepted as an integral part of the Indian Media scene. It is standing at an inflexion point with 'digital' being the buzzword. Every segment across the industry (television, radio, advertisement, films, print) is getting digitized in its own way and thereby leading to development of new media.

Globalization of Media, changing landscapes and political environment also had a key role in face-lifting the Indian media a little further. One may also mention of how the launch of Hong Kong based Star TV with its 39-nation footprint transformed the face of Indian television, with its multiple channels and aggressive marketing. Every epoch in media has a different story to say, a different approach to keep the viewer engaged.

We therefore conceived this Media Conclave, where we had eminent Media, Marketing and Advertising professionals delving deep into India's Media Marketing scenario – and talking on the changes in Indian Media Scenario – from a conventional Media Plan to a Media Plan of tomorrow. Sharing knowledge on how brands are better engaging or are planning to engage with their consumers across different Media.

Post the Welcome Address by Dr. Alok Roy, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber, Mr. Sidhartha Roy, Chairperson of the Brand & Marketing committee, started off the proceedings, which was followed by the Opening Keynote Address by Mr. Sam Balsara – Chairman & MD of Madison World. Mr. Balsara embarked on his speech with a **10 pointer plan to face challenges of today's marketing world** – "There are tremendous changes in the consumer behavior, consumer

thinking & therefore in the media world. What should advertisers do in order to win in spite of the massive changes that are happening? The bottomline is slowdown or no slowdown, recession or no recession, whatever the oil price may be, the most risky decision is to slowdown on advertng. That is an honest home truth that fortunately a lot of our enlightened advertisers learnt the hard way in earlier recessions that India passed through. Therefore they are wiser for it". He recommended the use of multimedia effectively, which increases both the effectiveness & efficiency of advertising. Exposure, according to him, must be augmented with experience, because reach alone cannot influence the purchase decision. "We are beginning to see there is a softening of demand in the FMCG market also. You can postpone buying a car or a fridge, but you generally buy toilet soaps or toothpaste. The demand has not gone down but early signs of softening are showing up" – Mr Balsara reiterated. He also stressed on more focus on earned media – word of mouth, YouTube, social networking, etc. Advising advertisers to support those categories which show high responsiveness to the media spent, he advised marketeers to focus on impact properties to break the clutter. Sighting example of different Indian states, he suggested to take advantage of states like Jharkhand & Bihar which are gaining higher literacy levels, and concentrate more on print & television in those Markets.

According to him, a good advertising decision is a mix of data & gut.

The first Panel, which deliberated on "New Trends. New Preferences" had Abhijit Saxena CEO Mobilux, Adhijit Dasgupta, former station director, Doordarshan Kendra Kolkata, Dnyanada Chaudhuri, COO Madison Media, Suresh Balakrishna – CEO Lintas Media, Sumit Roy, founder director Unibrands & Mohit Hira – Senior VP and Head of digital, JWT.

The moderator – Ms. Dnyanada Chaudhari prefaced the discussions with examples of the advertiser's disorientations with changing mindsets of the consumers.

Mr. Abhijit Saxena took the stage endorsing advertising through "**social media via mobile – socially mobile**". India being the 3rd amongst the Facebook users & second in terms of Twitter user base, mobile applications play a very important part in the lives of today's youth, who are mainly the decision makers. It is important to know that social media & mobile apps are the responsive media, be it a mood, a problem or a happy moment, each of which finds a home in the platform. By advertising more in these media, the brand delves more into the conversation of the youth and thereby how a brand is established.

Mr Abhijit Dasgupta, who followed Mr Saxena, mainly focused on the ethics of media trade. The discussion was mainly where the today's media is heading, how is it exploiting as well as exploring the platforms of today & tomorrow.

Mr Sumit Roy Founder Of Unibrands introduced a very interesting concept of word of mouth as a media, sighting examples of Google & Harley Davidson. An enlightened discussion was on the word "prosumer" created by author Aldous Huxley referring to the professional consumers. The word has inquired two meanings– "there is a prosumer camera, which both professional & the consumer can happily use. **The word is very important to the world of word of mouth**". In America, there are word of mouth practitioners who recommends brands without being paid for it. Prosumer is the strongest influencer, who can be a friend, relative or an associate. Recalling

David Ogilvy's famous saying " unless your brand has an a idea it will pass like a ship in the night", he said that unless the brand has an idea, it will sink like a ship in the night.

Mohit Hira chose the title-"**Disintermediation: Interruption and the internet**. Mohit elaborated on the lines of past & present saying "there was a time when roti kaapda ,makan were needed. Today it is about mobile , internet & free wifi & ho sake toh thora free apps bhi de dena." Internet has changed our behavior & our interaction with the brand, so no brand can be built without the digital component. Infact, according to Mohit, brands can be destroyed simply by an overnight conversation on the social media. The internet has interrupted the conventional marketing & advertising & will continue to do so.

Mr Suresh Balakrishnan, while agreeing with Mr Hira, added that **the traditional media would flourish, along with the growth of digital media**. Digital media will sway, by embracing the technology. According to him, today you have ad breaks which are measured. And now you also have IPTV coming in with movies on demand & movies without ad breaks. Digitalization, according to him, enables precise targeting , as the advertisers can focus on the market , by choosing whether the ad will be played in Delhi, Hyderabad, Bangalore or nationally.

The Second panel, which elaborated on "Reaching Consumers When They Are Most Receptive" featured Mr Amit Kumar Gope, National Head - Marketing, Century Ply , DD Purkayastha, MD & CEO of ABP, Sumit Roy & Rohit Ohri , Chairman Dentsu India Group. The Session was again Moderated by Dnyanada Chaudhuri.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr Rohit Ohri, Chairman, Dentsu India, spoke about Candian Communicaion theorist Marsall Mc Luhan, who coined the phrase "the media is the message, today the message is the medium". In a multi screen media environment with the consumers holding the reins to each of the multiple screens, there is no predicting the most opportune moment or location to connect to the consumers. "**You should create a message that scores an engagement, interest & revelance**". It is how a 5 minutes 21 second British airways ad" Visit Mum" created a wave amongst Indians, without ever being on air, even once. According to Rohit, a connect to the emotional plane of the consumer is very important. A brand like Aamir Khan who could make hordes of Indians watch television on 11am Sunday. Communication is important, but it should be finely crafted. So advertisers should stop interrupting & be what consumers are interested in.

Mr DD Purkayastha defined the route to success of ABP brand. "We have been successful in reaching out to readers, viewers, listeners & advertisers". As the MD of the most diversified media house in the country he said "**I often say we are not in the print business we are in the business of content**". He talked about the boutique of offerings from the ABP group & pointed out how the distribution routes are. The customization of the product is based on the consumer lifecycle & preferences- telekids , young metro for school kids, Businessworld catering to the business segment of the industry, TV channels like ABP news, ABP Ananda & ABP Majha. Sananda, according to him, is a supplement targeted to every member of the family based on what matters the most.

The last speaker on this Panel, Mr Amit Kumar Gope, came up with on ground examples & challenges which is faced by a brand. **He felt most of the advertisements are urban , to which the semi urban population cannot relate to.**” Hamilton drives a car that has more logos than fuel in it”, SRK swears by Lux, Amitabh Bachchan has Navratna Hair Oil & Akshay Kumar fights for undergarment. Mr Gope raised the question whether a Vodafone logo on a Hamilton evokes sales & numbers in semi urban areas? He also questioned the role TV plays in deciding whether we want Surf or Tide as a brand preference? The advertisers, according to him, are concentrating more on urban consumers than on the rural consumers. He provided three hypotheses–

1. point of purchase is grossly underutilized as a consumer contact point when they are most receptive.
2. Mom & pop stores provides amazing scope of reaching the consumer when most receptive
- 3. Internet & mobile will drive the consumer interaction in a major way in near future.**

MSME DEVELOPMENT, MANUFACTURING AND ALLIED ACTIVITIES

THE BENGAL CHAMBER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MANUFACTURING PRACTICES OF MSMEs, 21ST NOVEMBER 2012, CHAMBER PREMISES

The MSME Development and Manufacturing Committee of the Bengal Chamber organized the fifth edition of the annual “The Bengal Chamber Award for Excellence in Manufacturing Practices of MSMEs” with the participation of senior representatives from the Government and Industry along with the Academia on Wednesday, 21st November 2012 at 10.00 a.m. at Williamson Magor Hall, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The focus of the event is to create a benchmark for the small scale industries, especially the micro, small and medium enterprises by giving exposure to the best manufacturing practices adopted and implemented by their counterparts so that they could learn, adopt and implement these practices in their respective organizations, which would help them to achieve better productivity as well as quality at lesser cost.

This is an annual event of the Chamber and it is being organized to reward the MSMEs for their “Excellence in Manufacturing Practices” in spite of the severe logistical and infrastructural constraints they come across. The focus is also to give exposure to the MSMEs and extend them the opportunity of networking with the larger organizations. The event helps the large scale industries to contribute in their continuous endeavour in developing or upgrading their vendor base by inducting quality vendors for furthering growth and development of their businesses.

This year, our award programme was presided over by Mr. Kallol Datta, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, who commenced the session by giving a Welcome Speech. Mr. P Roy, our Director General was the Master of Ceremonies for the Inaugural Session.

The key speakers were:

Shri Partha Chatterjee, Hon’ble Minister-in-Charge, Commerce and Industries, Public Enterprises, Industrial Reconstruction,

Information Technology, Parliamentary Affairs, Government of West Bengal who was the Chief Guest of the programme.

Dr Anup Kumar Chanda, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of West Bengal, Department of Micro and Small Scale Enterprises and Textiles who was the Guest of Honour of the programme.

Mr. P N Mandal, General Manager, Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE).

Mr. J K Mahanta, Zonal General Manager, East & North East Zone, National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC Ltd) (A Government of India Enterprise).

Mr. Kishori M Deka, Dy General Manager, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).

Shri S K Basu. Director, MSME – Development Institute (Kolkata), Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Government of India

Shri Partha Chatterjee spoke about the special emphasis given to the MSME sector since this was a most important segment for the development and growth of industry post globalization. The Minister observed that the small scale industries play a leading role for further industrialization and they are driven by technology, integrated business networks. Shri Chatterjee spoke about initiatives taken by the State Government with the help of the Central Government to form MSME Clusters in different parts of West Bengal, like in Purulia, Jhargram, Coochbehar. The objective was to make the State an MSME hub.

Dr. Anup Kr Chanda, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary to the Government of West Bengal, Department of Micro and Small Scale Enterprises and Textiles said that this is the sole responsibility of the society at large and industries, especially the large scale industries, to help the MSMEs and encourage them in developing and expanding their business setup. Dr. Chanda also said that the MSMEs are the backbone of industrial development and without their existence industry cannot flourish. So, keeping all these in mind, we have to drive ahead to keep the small scale industries rolling and it would help the larger corporates in developing and expanding their businesses as well (since MSMEs are their ancillary units).

The panel of judges who evaluated the presentations of the participating MSMEs was headed by Mr. Arun Kumar Mukherjee, Chairperson, Energy and Environment Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Director (Technical), Prerana Engineers & Consultants Pvt. Ltd. and Head – Boilers, Hari Machines Ltd. The others in the panel were Dr. Anjan Ghosh, Vice President, Total Quality Management, Exide Industries Limited; Mr. P N Gupta, Consultant – Industrial Engineering and Productivity, Tata Steel Processing and Distribution Limited; Dr. Suman K Mukerjee, Principal & Dean, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Institute of Management Science, Kolkata Kendra and Mr. S J Mukherjee, Executive Director, ZETADEL Technologies P. Ltd.

The judges selected three best case study presentations out of a series of presentations made by the participating MSMEs. Following were the MSMEs which won the Award along with the Certificate of Best Case Study Presentation.

- Abhaya Precision Industries Pvt Ltd
- M/s Eastern Polycraft Industries Ltd
- M/s Girish Chandra Ghosh & GGS

The award programme was attended by well over 120 delegates from industry representing sectors like manufacturing, engineering, petrochemicals, chemicals and others. The feedback from the session was extremely positive as it was an excellent learning experience and networking forum.

APPLICATION OF IT IN MANUFACTURING – BRINGING FORWARD THE BEST SOLUTIONS, 12TH APRIL 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry partnering Lemenox Solution organized a half day Seminar on Application of Information Technology in Manufacturing – Bringing Forward the Best Solutions on Friday, 12th April 2013 at the Chamber premises. The seminar was organized to create a business linkage between the manufacturing units and the IT companies for upgradation of the overall IT system of the manufacturing companies leading to further growth and development of the manufacturing sector.

The objective of the seminar was to showcase the various applications of IT in the manufacturing business (especially in the MSME sector) in areas like procurement, production, accounting and marketing. Held in the format of a B2B meet, the programme comprised of presentations from IT companies followed by product demonstrations.

The seminar was a unique opportunity for manufacturing companies for learning from leading IT solution providers about best-in-class IT products which are tailor-made for the manufacturing sector. There were about 80 delegates from the manufacturing sector.

WORKSHOP ON LEAN SIX SIGMA, 15TH – 16TH MAY 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur, organized a two day Workshop on Lean Six Sigma on 15–16th May 2013 in the Chamber premises. The workshop was conducted by eminent faculty members from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur and industry experts from Exide Industries Ltd, Tata Steel Processing and Distribution Limited and Tata Consultancy Services.

The objective of the workshop was to bring to the industry stakeholders of the Chamber a comprehensive training session on the concepts, fundamental principles, key tools and techniques, etc of Lean Six Sigma and how industry could adopt and implement/execute this practice in their respective functional domains for overall improvement of productivity and operational efficiency in their respective organizations.

The two day workshop started with an Inaugural Session which was addressed by Dr. Alok Roy, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. S Swaminathan, Co-Chairperson, MSME Development and Manufacturing Committee, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber; Dr. Jitesh J. Thakkar, Assistant Professor, Department of Industrial Engineering and Management, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur and Prof. J Maiti, Associate Professor, Department of Industrial Engineering and Management, IIT Kharagpur.

The intensive workshop was attended by 30 participants, mainly from the manufacturing sector.

FACTORY VISIT AT LINDE INDIA LIMITED, ULUBERIA FACTORY, 20TH AUGUST 2013

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with Linde India Limited, organized a plant visit at the Uluberia factory of Linde India Limited on 20th August 2013.

The visit was conducted to provide an exposure to industries, especially the MSMEs, to the best practices which are followed within a factory belonging to a world-class organization like Linde. The focus was in the realms of policies or practices like Safety, Health, Environment and Quality (SHEQ), Total Quality Management (TQM), Total Productive Maintenance (TPM), Total Cost Management (TCM), Lean Manufacturing, Six Sigma, etc. and on overall factory operations which would encourage or help the MSMEs in imbibing similar cultures and practices in their own factories. The visit was well attended by industry representatives coming from the MSME sector and also large organizations and the total number of delegates present was 40 approximately.

OTHER PROGRAMMES

BUSINESS NETWORKING DINNER WITH LEMENOX, 14TH SEPTEMBER 2012

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry with Lemenox (a growing PR consulting firm) commenced the networking meet series of events with the first event being held on the evening of 14th September. The networking evenings are primarily for the MSMEs and also for professionals and executives from different sectors with objective of providing an informal forum for business networking such that organizations can grow their contacts and reach utilizing the Chamber platform. The first meet had around 30 participants and the feedback was very encouraging. More such evenings would be organized.

THE CHAMBER FELICITATED (WITH OTHER CHAMBERS) HIS EXCELLENCY PRANAB MUKHERJEE, HON'BLE PRESIDENT OF INDIA, 15TH SEPTEMBER 2012, ICC AUDITORIUM

PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE CHAMBER ACTIVITIES IN THE YEAR AHEAD, 31ST OCTOBER 2012, CHAMBER PREMISES

Mr. Kallol Datta, President, The Bengal Chamber; Dr. Alok Roy, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber and Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber addressed a Press Conference on 31st October 2012 at the Chamber. Mr. P. Roy, Director General and Capt. S B Mazumder, Chairperson, Shipping Committee, The Bengal Chamber were also present. This was the first Press Conference of the Chamber following its 158th Annual General Meeting.

The President mentioned that the Chamber felt that the need of the hour for us, the citizens of this great State, was to address the fundamental economic issues in the realms of boosting investments (overseas and domestic), catalyzing enabling policies and encouraging aggregate demand. The Chamber also believes that for businesses to flourish in and attracted to the State, the most important task for the Government and indeed social and business institutions like the Bengal Chamber is to address the aspect of perception of the State as a business destination and the security of investors and investments in the State. In sync with the contemporary developments in industry, trade and commerce, the Chamber would align its programmes and activities in the critical areas of infrastructure, healthcare, employment generation and manufacturing apart from continuing with its focused approach with respect to services sector growth. The Chamber feels that basic requirement for West Bengal is to strengthen its roads and ports (both air and sea) infrastructure, especially in the context of connectivity with far-flung areas. Similarly, improvement in healthcare infrastructure, healthcare services and the general approach to health and hygiene in hospitals are our primary focus areas.

THE INSTITUTE OF COST ACCOUNTANTS OF INDIA IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE BENGAL CHAMBER PRESENTED THE SEMINAR ON 'RECENT AMENDMENTS IN FOREIGN TRADE POLICY', 2ND NOVEMBER 2012, J. N. BOSE AUDITORIUM, CMA BHAWAN, KOLKATA

The Institute of Cost Accountants of India organized a Seminar in association with The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry on the topic titled "Recent Amendments in Foreign Trade Policy" on 2nd November 2012 at the J.N. Bose Auditorium, CMA Bhawan. The objective of the programme was to spread awareness about the various forms which the Director General of Foreign Trade requires for various certification aspects and for which recently the certification by the Cost and Management Accountants were mandated by circular issued by Government of India. The programme inaugural speech was given by Shri Manas Kumar Thakur, Chairman of Indirect Taxation & Research and Publications Committees of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India. The Guest of Honour was Shri Agneswar Sen, Joint Director General of Foreign Trade, Ministry of Commerce & Industry of Govt. of India. He discussed the role of cost accountants and the responsibility bestowed upon the professionals to certify such forms necessary for various regulatory certifications. Shri P.K. Bhoumik, official of DGFT deliberated on the various forms which the cost accountants can certify and the complexities of each issue. The second session was deliberated by Shri Timir Baran Chatterjee, Chairman of Indirect Taxes Committee of The Bengal Chamber and Senior Executive Vice President & Company Secretary of DIC India Ltd. He shared the salient features of Foreign Trade Policy and the various ramifications for free trade in the changed regime. He also specified the various complexities of Foreign Policy after opening up of the economy. The seminar was concluded by the vote of thanks by Dr. Sanjiban Bandhopadhyaya, Chairman of Direct Taxation Committee of The Institute of Cost Accountants of India.

BOOK LAUNCH OF "LAND OF TWO RIVERS- A HISTORY OF BENGAL FROM THE MAHABHARATA TO MUJIB" (PENGUIN), 26TH NOVEMBER 2012, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and The Palladian Lounge organized the launch of a book - 'Land of Two Rivers - History of Bengal from Mahabharata to Mujib' by Dr. Nitish Sengupta, IAS, Former Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha; Former Member Secretary, Planning Commission; Former Revenue Secretary, Government of India, published by Penguin. The book was released by Shri M. K. Narayanan, Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal. Ms. Abida Islam, Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh in Kolkata; Prof. Suranjan Das, Vice Chancellor, Calcutta University and Professor Jayanta Kumar Ray were present at the occasion.

The programme was well attended by academicians, senior representatives from the industry, present and former bureaucrats. It was well covered in the media. It was a programme with a difference.

THE BENGAL CHAMBER PARTNERED GENESIS, THE ONE-DAY SYMPOSIUM ORGANIZED AS PART OF THE 100TH INDIAN SCIENCE CONGRESS HELD IN KOLKATA, 5TH JANUARY 2013, CU CAMPUS, SALT LAKE

THE BENGAL CHAMBER SUPPORTING BENGAL LEADS 2013 (15TH – 17TH JANUARY 2013) IN THE PANEL DISCUSSIONS ON “TOURISM STRATEGY IN WEST BENGAL” AND “INTEGRATED CITIZEN SERVICE DELIVERY “ ON 16TH JANUARY 2013 AT HELIPAD GROUND, HALDIA

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry partnered Bengal Leads 2013 organized by the Government of West Bengal from 15th January 2013 to 17th January 2013 at Haldia. The Chamber organized two very important Panel Discussions – “Electronic Manufacturing in India – charting new course” and “Tourism Strategy in West Bengal”. **The Sessions were attended by well over hundred delegates. Mr. Kallol Datta, President, The Bengal Chamber addressed the Valedictory Session on 17th January 2013. He was the only Chamber of Commerce representative on the dais with Shri M K Narayanan, Hon’ble Governor of West Bengal; Shri Parha Chatterjee; Hon’ble Minister-in-Charge, Commerce and Industries, Information Technology and Electronics, Parliamentary Affairs, Industrial Reconstruction, Public Enterprise, Government of West Bengal and other dignitaries.**

SEMINAR ON INDUSTRY INSTITUTE PARTNERSHIP BY GEORGE TELEGRAPH IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE BENGAL CHAMBER 2ND FEBRUARY 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber supported George Telegraph in the seminar on Industry Institute Partnership – IIP 2013. Mr. Sourav Daspatnaik, Chairman, Skill Development Task Force of the Chamber was the Chairperson of the Technical Session. The seminar was attended by George Telegraph’s Board of Study (BOS) members representing most top organizations involved in recruiting service technicians all over India and specifically in Eastern India.

THE BENGAL CHAMBER SUPPORTED THE “CEO KNOWLEDGE FORUM” BY ICICI BANK, 2ND MARCH 2013, THE PARK

B2B MEET WITH OPTURION AND QRIS ANALYTICS, 5TH MARCH 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a business meeting with Opturion (Australia) and Qris Analytics on Tuesday, 5th March 2013 in the Chamber premises.

Sectors represented were shipping, logistics, manufacturing, energy and infrastructure among others. The objective of the meet was to deepen the reach of analytics applications in order that organizations derive better value from their investments in resources and capital. Companies like BOC India Limited, Bengal Consulting Engineering Services (India) Private Limited, Hari Machines Pvt Ltd, Seahorse Ship Agencies Pvt. Limited, Marine Container Services India Pvt Ltd,

Tide Water Oil Ltd and senior Shipping Industry professionals were some of the Indian companies attending the exclusive B2B Meeting. Ms. Anuradha Ray (CEO, QA), Mr. Steven Godinho (MD, Genix Ventures, Australia) and Mr. Mark Wallace (CEO, Opturion) conducted a presentation on Optimization Applications for Projects in Shipping, Logistics, Manufacturing, Energy and Infrastructure sectors.

CONSUMER OUTREACH PROGRAMME WITH TRAI, 7TH MARCH 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber organized an interactive session titled Consumer Outreach Programme (initiatives taken by Telecom Regulatory Authority of India to protect interests of telecom consumers) with the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on 7th March, 2013 at WM Hall in the Chamber Premises.

Shri Vivek Bharadwaj, IAS, Principal Secretary, Consumer Affairs Department, Government of West Bengal graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Ms. Anuradha Mitra, Principal Advisor (F&EA), TRAI, New Delhi also joined this interactive session from the Head Office of TRAI. Ms. R Paul Choudhury, Advisor, TRAI, Kolkata coordinated the entire event. Various Telecom Service Providers and consumers were present at this session. This programme was an initiative of TRAI to reach out to telecom consumers and other stakeholders of the telecom industry. It was intended to create awareness among telecom consumers and other stakeholders about various initiatives taken by TRAI in the recent times to protect interests of telecom consumers and also intended to provide a platform for direct interaction among the stakeholders of the industry regarding various consumer centric initiatives of TRAI. Retail consumers discussed the various problems faced by them and TRAI explained the ways of dealing with their problems. In many of the cases, service providers had actively tried to address the issues from their end. Around 100 participants including senior officials from TRAI, Telecom Service Providers and Retail Customers actively participated in this interactive session.

SHIPPING

WORKSHOP ON “LOOK EAST POLICY – WAKE UP CALL FOR PORTS AND LOGISTICS”, 2ND NOVEMBER 2012, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a half-day Workshop on “Look East Policy – Wake up Call for Ports and Logistics” with the help of senior representatives from the Government, Industry, Academia and others on Friday, 2nd November 2012.

The objective of the workshop was to impart first-hand knowledge to the audience on “What to expect in the next 5 years in the Port & Shipping sector”.

The half day workshop commenced with a Welcome Speech by Dr. Alok Roy, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Besides, there were other eminent speakers in the panel like Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber; Shri L. Radhakrishnan, IAS, Chairman, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT); Dr. Manoj Singh, Adviser – Transport, Planning Commission, Government of India; Mr. Sharad Goel, General Manager (Ports), L&T Infrastructure Development Projects Limited (L&TIDPL) and Capt. S. B. Mazumder, Chairperson, Shipping Committee, The Bengal Chamber.

The workshop was attended by a large number of delegates from the industry, port users, representatives of trade, and other delegates and altogether the total number of participants for the workshop was 106. The workshop helped us to identify and highlight to the Government of India the issues that need ‘priority clearances for development of Port Infrastructure and its connectivity with the hinterland’. Highlighting the shortcomings and challenges was a firm step towards the deliverables of India’s Look East Policy.

SEMINAR ON “IMPORTANCE OF WATERWAYS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT”, 7TH JUNE 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized its annual event with the participation of senior representatives from Government, industry leaders, policymakers, researchers, etc for the year 2012–13. Titled, “Seminar on Importance of Waterways for Economic Development”, the mega programme was held on Friday, 7th June 2013 at the Williamson Magor Hall in the Chamber premises. The objective was to address the impact of waterways in India on the economic development of our country, bring to board the bottlenecks, business opportunities, transportation, infrastructure and logistics issues.

Capt. S B Mazumder, Chairperson, Shipping Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry welcomed the inaugural speakers and Mr. Kallol Datta, President, The Bengal Chamber opened the seminar by delivering the Welcome Speech during the Inaugural Session. Shri V. Trivedi, IAS, Chairperson, Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), Ministry of Shipping,

Government of India and Shri R P S Kahlon, IAS, Chairman, Kolkata Port Trust were the Guest of Honours. Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber was also present during the inaugural session.

The other key speakers of the seminar were Mr. Arun Kumar Sinha, General Manager, Farakkha Barrage Project; Capt. L K Panda, Nautical Advisor, Government of India; Mr. Harrie de Leijer, Director Strategy, Panteia BV, Neitherlands; Mr. Syed Monowar Hussain, Former Director (Port and Traffic) and Secretary, Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA); Prof. Somenath Ghosh, Retd. Professor of Civil Engineering, IIT Kharagpur and Former-Chief Hydraulic Engineer, Kolkata Port Trust; Mr. Hendrik Geert Blaauw, Senior Advisor / Director, HBCB (Henk Blaauw Consultancy BV), Netherlands; Mr. Saibal De, Director and CEO, IL&FS Maritime Infrastructure Company Ltd and Capt. Rajesh Mehrotra, Chairman, Sula Logistics. The focus of the presentations was the present situation of waterways / riverways in India and how these could be further developed and maintained for smooth flow of trade and commerce within India and between India and her neighbours.

Overall, the seminar witnessed the participation of a large number of delegates (exceeding 150) representing port users, trade representatives, barge owners/manufacturers, industry representatives, experts, policymakers, researchers and academicians. The full day seminar helped the Chamber to work out an action plan based on which further initiatives would be taken for bringing development and maintenance of the entire "Inland Waterways System" in India, especially National Waterways I (Ganga - Allahabad to Haldia), II (connecting North East via Bangladesh) & the proposed NW VI. The growth and development of these waterways would be immensely beneficial for the Shipping Industry and in-land industries and positively impact the movement of cargo as well as ease of logistics management.

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

QUEENSLAND DELEGATION ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND VET, 5TH DECEMBER 2012, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Skill Development Task Force along with the Education Task Force of The Bengal Chamber organized an interactive session with a delegation of Universities from Queensland, Australia.

The delegation team comprised of representatives from various universities of Australia. Shri Ujjal Biswas, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Technical Education and Training, Government of West Bengal addressed the meeting and invited the delegation to present projects so that both the countries' resources could be utilized to develop the workforce. The Director, Technical Education and Training, Government of West Bengal, Dr. Parijat De shared a very interesting presentation, where he pinpointed the future trends & need of skill development in our country, where we can have the support from the Australian universities.

VISIT TO RAM KRISHNA MISSION SHILPAMANDIR, AN INITIATIVE OF THE SKILL DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE, 23RD MARCH 2013

Ramakrishna Mission Shilpamandira under the guidance of Swami Tattwajnanananda has a self financing Polytechnic college, recognised by the W.B. State Council of Technical Education (WBSCTE) & All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE). The college offers Diploma courses in various streams. Shilpamandira also offers training courses on various skills and corporate training areas. A visit to the Ramakrishna Mission Shilpamandira was planned by the Skill Development Task Force as it would give a good insight of their educational system that would help in the various skill development missions from the Task force in the future.

Moreover an industry association with the Shilpamandira would be mutually beneficial in the context of recruiting a skilled workforce. Adoption of an ITI was also part of the agenda of the Skill Development Task Force for which a visit to an industrial training centre was very important.

The Community Training Centre offers demand driven, need based advanced hands-on technical training for wage employment and self employment. The visit to the Community Training Centre was rounded off with a meeting between the members of the Task Force and the authorities of the Community Training Centre.

In the meeting, the following points of action were decided upon:

1. Karamyog and NHRD to coordinate with Naukri & Monster in the realm of creating a link for placement and recruitment from the RKM Shilpamandira Community Training Centre.

2. The Bengal Chamber website to be updated with the special features of the partnership – RKM Shilpamandira Community Training Centre linked with Karmyog & National HRD Network.
3. RKM Shilpamandira to identify successful students from the centre who are now employed and have carved out successful careers, so that they could share their success stories to encourage newcomers and be role models. Karmyog to help RKM Shilpamandira in sharing these success stories with corporates through their “Jo Sikha Wahi Sikandar” programme. The Bengal Chamber to showcase this video in various platforms, with the ultimate objective of airing these in the electronic media. Karmyog to lead this partnership with RKM Shilpamandira using the Bengal Chamber platform.
4. Mr. Satyajit Deb from RBI to kindly advise on the BFSI courses, and to identify one resourceperson as Mentor for various trades for the RKM Shilpamandir.
5. Initiatives of MMI labs in collaboration with the Bengal Chamber and Karmyog to be taken with the objectives of running multimedia programmes for about 6 months and help the students get a job. It was suggested that a talent hunt contest may be conducted, select the students through this contest, pay stipend and also recruit them.

THE BENGAL CHAMBER PARTNERED DON BOSCO LILUAH IN THEIR “SHILPANGON 2013” HELD ON 4TH MAY 2013

The Bengal Chamber Partnered Don Bosco Liluah In Their “Shilpangon 2013” Held On 4th May 2013. This Was An Exposition Bringing Together Recruiters And Job Aspirants. Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber Was The Keynote Speaker At The Event.

EASTERN & NORTH EASTERN SKILL DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT : ROLE OF EMPOWERING ALL INDIVIDUALS TOWARDS A BETTER INDIA, 26TH & 27TH JULY 2013, WILLIAMSON MAGOR HALL, CHAMBER PREMISES, KOLKATA (AND LAUNCH OF THE FIRST EVER IRON AND STEEL SECTOR SKILL COUNCIL)

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, jointly with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) hosted Eastern India’s first Skill Summit, focused towards creating an enabling and sustainable Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET) eco-system for East and North East States. The Skill Summit saw active participation from Ministerial level delegation from East India States, North-East States and West Bengal, global consultants, NSDC partners, representation by Sector Skill Councils and a large contingent of International VET providers from Australia, Switzerland and US among many others. The

The Summit differentiated itself in terms of setting the way forward and sustainable collaboration efforts with Industry and TVET providers alike. **Mr. Sourav Daspatnaik, Chairperson, Skill Development Task Force, The Bengal Chamber** commented, “We are happy to be contributing to a resurgent Eastern and North-Eastern India. The Skill summit was not another event to be forgotten, but we are proud to have laid a formal road map for continued

showcaseable efforts towards harnessing the young surplus demography in this part of the country.”

In his message sent across by **Dr. M. Pallam Raju, Hon'ble Union Minister of HRD, Government of India** (who could not attend the Summit due to last minute changes in engagements), he said, “One of the top most priorities of the Ministry of HRD, Government of India is to ensure better employability of our Graduates and skill of youth through proper and stronger Industry–Academia interface. A major thrust of the Government would be to create adequate and suitable capacity through adequate Community Colleges and Polytechnics especially in Tier 2 and 3 towns and cities. The National Vocational Education Qualification Framework (NVEQF) has been established and courses will be aligned to the Industry needs for readily employable personnel”.

Highlighting the multiple transformational initiatives in West Bengal, **Shri Ujjal Biswas, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Dept. of Technical Education & Training, Government of West Bengal** said, “The Government of West Bengal is committed to provide all support to the initiatives of the NSDC and we would be happy to provide infrastructural support to the Sector Skill Council and invite them to house the headquarters of the Iron and Steel Sector Skill Council of India at the newly constructed building of the Department of Technical Education and Training of the State at New Town, Rajarhat”. He further added, “I would also suggest that NSDC provide nodal support through this Sector Skill Council HQ at Kolkata for the Eastern and North Eastern Region. This will bring NSDC closer to the on-ground initiatives”.

Dr. Ampareen Lyngdoh, Minister, Department of Labour, Government of Meghalaya underscored the need for building bridges between labour surplus States of North East and demand points lying in other parts of the country. She mentioned “Meghalaya has over 42% youth with high levels of literacy and it is important that Vocational Training both in traditional Arts and Crafts, Services and Manufacturing sector be the main focus for employing youth within the State.” She felt that due to lack of opportunities, most trained youth migrate to other destinations in the country. It is important that employment opportunities are created dovetailed with the needs of the State. She cited sectors like Healthcare, Hospitality, Banking and Insurance, IT and traditional head gear and crafts to be very suited for the State apart from agriculture and fruits and vegetables.

Felicitation of Winners at World Skills Competition, Germany:

Three Indian students bagged the “Medallion of Excellence” at the World Skills Competition at Leipzig, Germany, which culminated on Sunday, July 7, 2013. The Bengal Chamber took the lead in showcasing their achievement as ‘role models’ and felicitated the three winners who have made India proud.

The three winners were Sarthak Jain (IT and Software Solution for Business), Bhavesh Chandra Jana (Jewellery) and Arun Raj Balasubramani (Graphic Design Technology). The 2013 edition of the competition was the second time the Indian contingent was led by the country’s apex skilling body, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), the first being the 2011 edition held in London. The Indian team comprised of 24 participants covering 22 unique skills out of the total of 46 categories at the Leipzig Competition. Of these, 22 participants scored over an

average of 450 points out of a maximum of 500 set under each category. This is the first time participants from India have brought home this recognition for their country.

The individual story of each of the winners is equally inspiring. Bhabesh who won the 'Medallion of Excellence' in Jewellery category is a class 5 dropout, while Arun, a graphic designer, has not been able to enroll for a bachelor's degree and Sarthak, who is barely 17 and out of school, won the medal in the IT and software for business category.

Commenting on the performance of the three winners and the 24-member participating team from India, Mr. Dilip Chenoy, CEO and Managing Director of NSDC said, "The winners' story clearly underlines the fact that even though formal education continues to have immense value, possessing deployable skills is a great alternate and is recognized globally. We are equally proud of every candidate who represented India at this important global event."

Launch of Iron & Steel Sector Skill Council :

Mr. Dilip Chenoy, MD, NSDC launched the Iron and Steel Sector Skill Council. The SSC will cover 5.0 Million population in the sector directly or indirectly and will strive towards creating 1.2 Million skilled workforce over 10 Years pertaining to one of Eastern India's predominant sectors. The Sector Skill Council will, in active collaboration with the industry, create skill benchmarks, National Occupational Standards and roadmap in terms of meeting the qualitative and technological demands of the industry. The focus is to impart training in specialized skills & knowledge – on behalf of and in coordination with National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under The Prime Minister's Skill Mission. The Sector Skill Council is formed with direct participation by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Institute for Steel Development and Growth (INSDAG) and all National Steel manufacturers and processors both upstream and downstream. While congratulating the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry for its contribution, Mr. Chenoy commented, "This is the first time that a Headquarter of a large Sector Skill Council like Iron and Steel is being stationed at Kolkata". He also said, "I feel indeed happy and thank the Government of West Bengal for coming forward to house the HQ of the Sector Skill Council."

Expanding on the road map envisaged for the Iron and Steel Sector Skill Council, **Mr. Sushim Banerjee, Director General, INSDAG, Founder Member, Iron and Steel Sector Skill Council**, mentioned "The Sector Skill Council will cover both organized and unorganized players covering a wide range of Steel based industries in upstream and downstream segments".

Shri Hiridyesh Mohan, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Technical Education, Government of West Bengal, said that the Government of West Bengal had taken several key initiatives in strengthening the Vocational and Technical Training and Education areas. The major initiatives include setting up an ITI in each of the 341 blocks of the State and a polytechnic institute in all the sub-divisions of the State, creating vocational streams in high schools with inputs for the curriculum from relevant industries, inception of a Central unit to create modules for Trainers' Training for meeting the capacity requirement for vocational streams / ITIs / Polytechnics. He also cited that Skill Maps were to be prepared at the sub-division level along with sub-divisional economy and resource mapping so as to bring in the convergence between the two.

The identified gaps were to be bridged through training over the next 2 years. Similarly, the institutional infrastructure gaps were to be identified and supporting infrastructure would be built in the next 2–3 years.

He cited that various Industrial Development Authorities of the State will tie up for training arrangements with training institutions of national repute and have an annual calendar of training. A fixed percentage of the revenue of these authorities is to be utilized for the purpose of training. He expected to promote “collaboration with Industry and Academia for quality human resources development. An annual enclave will be organized to assess the technical resource requirement by the employers and employing organization.”

Commenting on the launch of the Iron and Steel Sector Skill Council, **Shri M Bhaduri, CMD, Hindustan Steelworks Construction Ltd, Ministry of Steel, Government of India** highlighted that organizations have an increasing need for skilled workers and there is an urgent need to upscale the existing work force to gain higher productivity.

Shri S K Tripathi, CMD, Metal & Scrap Trading Corporation Ltd, Ministry of Steel, Government of India also felt that this skill development programme needs to cover unorganized sector specially involved in scrap and metal processing.

The meeting was attended by a large number of Indian organizations and international experts from the areas of VET, Skill development and large number of Steel Industry professionals.

MEETING ON COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP WITH SKILLSTECH, TAFE, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA AND SIGNING OF LETTER OF INTENT BY THE BENGAL CHAMBER AND SKILLSTECH, 9TH SEPTEMBER 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Skill Development Task Force of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a meeting on Collaborative partnership with SkillsTech, TAFE, Queensland, Australia on 9th September 2013 in the Chamber premises. The meeting was attended by the members of the Skill Development Task Force and executives from the Steel, Mining and Ferro Alloys industry. The meeting focused on Skill Development and vocational training opportunities in mining operations and mining technology in India especially in the Eastern part of the country. SkillsTech, Australia was represented by Mr. Ian Lawrence, Director, SkillsTech and Mr. Will Brakels, Business Development Head, SkillsTech. Their presentation focused on Australian skill projects through which an educational pathway is created, training on various skills are imparted and employment created through strong industry partnerships. The meeting also witnessed the signing of a Letter of Intent by Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mr. Ian Lawrence, Director SkillsTech, Australia for mutual cooperation and development in areas of Vocational Education and training (VET) & Skill Development.

SPORTS

FELICITATION OF OLYMPIANS, MR. JOYDEEP KARMAKAR AND MR. RAHUL BANERJEE, 12TH SEPTEMBER 2012, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry felicitated Olympians Joydeep Karmakar and Rahul Banerjee on 12th September 2012 at the Chamber. The Chamber thought it would be befitting to felicitate these promising sports personalities and recognize their efforts in making the nation proud. Mr. Joydeep Karmakar's outstanding performance (4th in Prone event) enriched the glory of Indian Shooting in the international paradigm at the London Olympics 2012. Mr. Rahul Banerjee represented the country with distinction at International Archery Meets and the London Olympics 2012. The initiative was appreciated by the members and widely covered by media.

IDEAL – BENGAL CHAMBER GOLF TROPHY & ANDREW YULE SESQUICENTENARY TROPHY POWERED BY JIS, 30TH NOVEMBER – 1ST DECEMBER 2012, THE TOLLYGUNGE CLUB

It is a popular saying that, "There's no game like golf: you go out with three friends, play eighteen holes, and return with three enemies." As far as Golf is concerned, the pleasure of playing the 18 holes far outstrips the "displeasure" of beating the other three in the group! Golf, as a sport, has captured the fancy of teeming millions – men and women, the amateur, the professional, the one with a handicap of 25 or a handicap of 9, the businessman, the bureaucrat and the executive. Truth is, a good round of golf is always a great round of golf.

In keeping with this idea, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, organized on Friday 30th November and Saturday, 1st December 2012, the third edition of the annual, **Ideal – Bengal Chamber Golf Trophy & Andrew Yule Sesquicentenary Trophy powered by JIS**, a golfing extravaganza for corporates, at the Tollygunge Club, Kolkata. We had a very simple objective – providing corporate leaders an opportunity to showcase their skills with the club, meet new players and develop new friendships. Many a golfer prefers a golf cart to a caddy because the cart cannot count, criticize, or laugh. On the contrary, our event was an excellent opportunity for all the keen amateurs to not worry about scores, but just have a lot of fun. Close to 224 golfers participated. Leading city-based corporates participated in the event which was played in a Texas Scramble Format. This year we had the privilege of having **Shri Partha Chatterjee**, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Commerce and Industries, Information Technology, Public Enterprises, Parliamentary Affairs and Industrial Reconstruction, Government of West Bengal, as our Chief Guest on 1st December 2012 during the tournament. **Shri Madan Mitra**, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Sports and Transport, Government of West Bengal was the Chief Guest of the evening and presented the trophies to the winning teams. **The overall winners of the "IDEAL – Bengal Chamber Trophy" were DBS Bank followed by Team 1 and an Open Team represented by Mr. H S Bindra. The Corporate winner of the Andrew Yule Sesquicentenary Trophy was IndusInd Bank, followed by TSPDL BIRDIES. The Gross Winner of the JIS Trophy was RPG 1. Shri**

Madan Mitra, Hon'ble Minister -in-Charge, Sports and Transport, Government of West Bengal, Mr. Kallol Datta, President, The Bengal Chamber; Dr. Alok Roy, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. Taranjit Singh, Chief Patron of The Bengal Chamber and Managing Director, JIS Group, Mr. T. Himatsingka, Director, Ideal Group and Mr. Hironmoy Chatterjee, Chairman, Sports and Leisure Committee, Mr. P. Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber presented the awards.

TARATALA INITIATIVE

MEETING WITH SENIOR POLICE OFFICERS AS PART OF THE TARATALA INITIATIVE

Shri Subrata Mitra, I.P.S., Deputy Commissioner of Police; Shri Biplab Nag, Assistant Commissioner of Police, South Traffic; Shri R N Bhaduri, O.C Traffic South and Shri S N Majumdar, O.C., Taratala Police Station met with representatives from organizations from the Taratala industrial belt in a meeting organized by the Taratala Initiative of the Chamber on 2nd July 2013 at Vesuvius India Ltd. The focus of the discussions was on various security measures including the possibility of installing surveillance cameras towards enhancing safety and security of this area.

TAXATION

SEMINAR ON DIRECT TAXES, 21ST MARCH 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Direct Taxes Committee of The Bengal Chamber organized its annual Seminar on Direct Taxes on 21st March 2013 in the Chamber.

This year, the focus was on Highlights of Union Budget 2013 related to Direct Taxes and International Taxation.

Speakers were invited from PricewaterhouseCoopers. Ms. Susmita Basu, Associate Director spoke on the highlights of the Union Budget. Mr. Arijit Chakraborty and Mr. Ganesh Krishnamurthy, Senior Managers addressed International Taxation. TDS and Transfer Pricing were covered.

SEMINAR ON SERVICE TAX, 19TH APRIL 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Indirect Taxes Committee of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized the annual Seminar on Service Tax on 19th April 2013 in the Chamber. Smt. Kameswari Subramanian, Chief Commissioner, Central Excise and Service Tax, Kolkata and Shri K K Jaiswal, Commissioner, Service Tax, Kolkata graced the occasion.

The seminar covered issues of service tax like Finance Bill 2013; Negative List, Declared Services & Point of Taxation Rules; Works Contract Service and Reverse Charge, Joint Charge & "bundled services" and "intermediary services" and Export & Import Services and Place of Provision of Services Rules.

The speakers included Mr. T B Chatterjee, Chairperson, Indirect Taxes Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Senior Executive Vice President and Company Secretary, DIC India Ltd; Mr. Priyajit Ghosh, Senior Manager, Tax and Regulatory Services, Indirect Tax, KPMG; Mr. Biswajit Datta, Advocate & Chief Commissioner (Retd.), Customs, Central Excise and Service Tax; Mr. M.S. Mani, Partner, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India Private Limited and Mr. P K Saha, Managing Partner, P K Saha & Associates.

The programme was organized in association with EIRC of Institute of Cost Accountants of India. CMA Ashok Mukherjee, Chairman, EIRC of ICAI; CMA Pallab Bhattacharya, Secretary, EIRC of ICAI; CMA Chitra Agarwal, CMA Sanjiban Bandopadhyay and CMA Ranajit Ghosh were present.

SEMINAR ON LTU, 7TH MAY 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in association with Central Excise, Kolkata–Commissionerate and EIRC of Institute of Cost Accountants of India, organized a Seminar on Large Taxpayer Units (LTU) on 7th May 2013.

Dr. Parthasarathi Shome, Adviser to Hon'ble Finance Minister, Government of India; Director & Chief Executive, Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) and Chairman, GAAR Committee addressed the Seminar along with Smt. Kameswari Subramanian, Chief Commissioner of Central Excise and Service Tax, Kolkata; Shri Debasish Dasgupta, Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Kolkata and Shri R P Ravikumar, Commissioner of Income Tax, LTU, Chennai. Shri T Dhanapal, Divisional Manager, Corporate Taxation, Ashok Leyland Ltd. and Mr. Arun Julasaria, CFO and Company Secretary, Century Plyboards (India) Ltd. were the eminent speakers from the industry who shared their experience as assessee and optee respectively of LTU. CMA Sanjiban Bandopadhyay, Central Council Member, Institute of Cost Accountants of India and CMA Ashok Mukherjee, Chairman, EIRC of Institute of Cost Accountants of India were also present.

The programme received a grand response – close to 250 invitees attended the Seminar. It was also well covered by the media.

SEMINAR ON FOREIGN TRADE POLICY, 28TH JUNE 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Indirect Taxes Committee of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a Seminar on Foreign Trade Policy in association with EIRC of Institute of Cost Accountants of India. Indian Institute of Foreign Trade joined the programme as Knowledge Partner.

The seminar was addressed by Dr. Surajit Mitra, Director, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade; Prof. Ranajoy Bhattacharya, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Kolkata Campus; Shri Agneshwar Sen, Joint Director General of Foreign Trade, Kolkata; Shri Sanjeev Nandwani, Zonal Development Commissioner, Special Economic Zones (East & North East Region) and T B Chatterjee, Chairperson, Indirect Taxes Committee, The Bengal Chamber and Senior Executive Vice President and Company Secretary, DIC India Limited. The interaction was moderated by CMA Harjiban Banerjee, Former President, Institute of Cost of Accountants of India and Director, Senbo Engineering. The programme covered critical issues of Foreign Trade Policy, Foreign Direct Investment Policy and Special Economic Zone Policy.

THINK SERIES

THE BENGAL CHAMBER PRESENTED ITS NEXT "THINK..." SERIES LECTURE ON "CIVIL SOCIETY AND THE EMERGING CHAOS" PRESENTED BY BALLANTINES IN ASSOCIATION WITH FUTURE BUSINESS SCHOOL AND THE TELEGRAPH. LECTURE BY (RETD.) JUSTICE ASOK K GANGULY, CHAIRMAN, WEST BENGAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, 24TH JUNE 2013, THE PALLADIAN LOUNGE, CHAMBER PREMISES

At a Think Series programme organized by Ballantines and Bengal Chamber in association with The Telegraph and Future Business School, (Retd.) Justice Asok Ganguly, Chairman, State Human Rights Commission and former judge of the Supreme Court exhaustively highlighted the important role played by the civil society in reshaping daily State and Civil affairs. He took the audience on a conducted trip down memory lane from the times of Plato and Aristotle to modern times. In no uncertain terms, he explained his views on how civil society grew out of ashes of city states and finally took shape over 2500 years ago, i.e., from the times of Greeks and the Romans. Justice Ganguly, however, did not forget to point out the dark side and excesses that the civil society might commit while on its endeavour in finding out uniformity embedded within the civil and social life. In Justice Ganguly's opinion, the concept of Dharma as included in the epic Mahabharata has a wider connotation as it primarily aims in building a civil society based on harmony and unity. He felt that while all institutions within the State have individual roles to play and points to grind, the civil society should also behave in a way that its role is treated at par with other institutions. Philosophers, historians, political theorists, scientists and economists have only worked out models to make the civil society more transparent and accountable. The civil society, according to Justice Ganguly must never wilt under any pressure and has to perform its duty as an alert soldier of democracy.

BLACK DOG PRESENTS BENGAL CHAMBER THINK, IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE TELEGRAPH AND TECHNO INDIA GROUP AND POWERED BY TOWER GROUP – PANEL DISCUSSION ON "INDIA'S EMERGING RELATIONSHIP WITH MAJOR POWERS", 16TH NOVEMBER 2012, THE PALLADIAN LOUNGE, CHAMBER PREMISES

Opinions and counter-opinions floated as experts from diverse fields engaged in a discussion on "India's emerging relationship with major powers" at the Black Dog presents Bengal Chamber Think, in association with The Telegraph and Techno India Group and powered by Tower Group.

"It is a timely initiative, when you have just had the presidential elections in the United States which is arguably our most important international partner and of course the oldest and most powerful democracy. Then we have just completed the 18th Congress of the Communist Party of China... the fifth leadership transition there and it's also the second largest economy in the world and also our largest immediate neighbour," said Mr. Ronen Sen, former Ambassador to the US, Germany, Russia and Mexico and Former High Commissioner to the UK.

Mr. Sen was delivering the keynote address at the Palladian Lounge event November 16, 2012.

Among the other members were US Consul General, Mr. Dean Thompson; Prof. Saugata Roy, Member of Parliament; Lt Gen. (Retd.) John Ranjan Mukherjee and Former Foreign Secretary K. Srinivasan. Mr. Rudrangshu Mukherjee of The Telegraph moderated the discussion.

Prof. Roy, second to speak after Mr. Sen, felt that if India aspired to be a global power by 2020 or 2025, it should start thinking more seriously about building its own block. "The BRICS – Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa" – would be a viable alternative." He briefly touched upon FDI in multi-brand retail and referred to the Indo-US nuclear treaty. "How many American aided nuclear plants have started working (in India) since then (the signing of the pact). Now we are trying to open FDI in retail in the hope that Walmart may salvage us.... Walmart sources 80 per cent of its products from China. So how does it really improve our situation?" the former junior urban development minister at the Centre asked. Prof. Roy also asked how much American investments "in real solid terms" have come to our country. The old diplomatic niceties are no longer relevant where "international relations are in omnishambles," he asserted.

Is India riding piggyback too much on the United States to gain a so-called super power status, the Moderator floated the question before requesting Mr. Thompson to speak. "The people-to-people relationship between India and the United States is enormous. 100,000 Indian students (are) studying in the US.... Next I think is the business to business level. The economic relationship between the two countries has been growing significantly over the last 5 to 10 years in particular," said the Consul General. Mr. Thompson quoted President Obama, "The US and India is going to be one of the defining partnerships of the 21st century."

Lt Gen. Mukherjee, however, highlighted the element of "distrust" in bilateral relationship as Americans have "let Indians down" too many times. "Even in the last aircraft deal they were giving us substandard technology, so finally we went to France."

When his turn came, former Foreign Secretary, Mr. Srinivasan chose to negate Roy's optimism about the possibility of India emerging as a world power. "If I look into the future I am sorry I am going to disappoint many of our audience here. I don't see India as a major power. I don't see India as a superpower or a great power. I see India certainly as a regional influence. I see India as an important voice in the international community; but I think we have exceeded our aspirations if we think of ourselves in the major league by let's say 2020 or 2025."

THE BENGAL CHAMBER "THINK..." SESSION WITH MR. S V BOBBY SISTA, DIRECTOR, SISTA SAATCHI & SAATCHI ADVERTISING, 29TH JANUARY 2013, THE PALLADIAN LOUNGE, CHAMBER PREMISES

Bobby Sista was an early advocate of what has come to be known as Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). He has been associated with a number of NGOs including Anga Karunya Kendra, Action Aid, Partners in Change and i-Congo (Indian Confederation of NGOs). He is the

founder and Executive Trustee of Population First – a communications initiative for a balanced, planned and stable population in India.

Mr. Sista primarily spoke on the Role the Private and the Public Sector could take in helping NGOs and Social Organizations run their cause. He also deliberated on the opportunities and problems various NGOs face in upliftment of society and in garnering funds in running their operations.

The programme was organized by The Bengal Chamber and Ballantines, in association with The Telegraph, Chakra Group and Anderson Printing.

THE BENGAL CHAMBER “THINK...” SESSION WITH PROF. (DR.) BIKASH SINHA, HOMI BHABHA PROFESSOR, DEPT. OF ATOMIC ENERGY AT VECC AND FORMER DIRECTOR, SAHA INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR PHYSICS & VARIABLE ENERGY CYCLOTRON CENTRE – “MEETING THE GROWING CLEAN ENERGY NEEDS OF INDIA – A NEW PARADIGM FOR PROSPERITY”, 18TH FEBRUARY 2013, THE PALLADIAN LOUNGE, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber, along with Ballantines, The Telegraph, Chakra Group and Anderson Printing presented another edition of its “Think” Lecture Series with Dr. Bikash Sinha presenting a talk on “Meeting the Growing Clean Energy Needs of India – a new paradigm for Prosperity” at The Bengal Chamber on February 18, 2013.

Dr. Sinha highlighted the grim reality of climate change, and touched upon inconvenient truths while delivering his lecture. Dr Sinha, a Former Director of Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics is a strong advocate of Solar Energy, but is realistic enough to stress the need for an energy mix. He reiterated his belief that there had to be a mix of Solar as well as Nuclear Energy to fuel our development. Talking about the global energy usage, Dr. Sinha pointed out that the US consumes about 48 times the energy consumed by Bangladesh. According to him, one felt very opulent if one consumed more energy. In his deliberations, he also drove home the point of the fate that awaits us all in this world if we do not reduce our dependence on the fast depleting Fossil Fuels.

THE BENGAL CHAMBER THINK SESSION WITH DR. LORA SAALMAN, ASSOCIATE, CARNEGIE TSINGHUA CENTER FOR GLOBAL POLICY, BEIJING (ON THE COST OF DOING BUSINESS: INDIA’S SECURITY ‘PROTECTIONISM’ AND CHINA) PRESENTED BY BALLANTINES IN ASSOCIATION WITH FUTURE BUSINESS SCHOOL AND THE TELEGRAPH, 2ND MAY 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

“As long the notional border – the Line of Actual Control (LoAC) continue to remain, it is difficult to ascertain who continues to be the real aggressor, India or China?”, said Dr. Lora Saalman, an academic domiciled in China for over two decades.

A doctoral degree holder and Associate on China related security and business issues at Carnegie Tsinghua Center for Global Policy, Dr Saalman was lecturing at the monthly ‘Think’

series of the Bengal Chamber on the topic, "The Cost of Doing Business: India's Security 'Protectionism' and China".

In her presentation she said, India and China have opposite views. Therefore she sought harmony through economic proximity. Dr. Saalman said, "China pursues economy first and strategic utility later, while India views China via strategy first and economy later".

The last fruitful China - India strategic economic dialogue took place on Sept 26 2011. She felt economic issues are strong enough to overtake security and other aggressive concerns along the border. Border concerns are an impediment to normalizing of relations between the two countries. "For the moment we should focus on closer economic ties and that is enough to blow over security and other border related issues." According to her, the Sino - India economic engagement is more strong than every other issue. The bilateral trade basket could rise by 49 percent to \$100 billion by 2015.

Dr. Saalman is against the common man's theorem of U.S. interfering in Sino - India relations to fish in troubled waters of border regressions. According to her, it cannot be so, as if the U.S sides with India then Pakistan or Afghanistan could side with China. Then again Japan could come forward for helping India making the whole issue a potpourrie of indecisions and policy logjam.

The fight between China, Japan, Korea and several other nations to capture and seize the conglomerate of islands in the South China Sea is an example. Security matters and protectionism can express economic and strategic concern. Hence economic issues could cement relations between the two nations.

THE BENGAL CHAMBER PRESENTED ITS NEXT "THINK..." SERIES LECTURE BY ECONOMIST DR. OMKAR GOSWAMI PRESENTED BY BLENDERS PRIDE IN ASSOCIATION WITH FUTURE BUSINESS SCHOOL AND THE TELEGRAPH, 13TH AUGUST 2013, THE PALLADIAN LOUNGE, CHAMBER PREMISES

Speaking at the 24th 'Think Session' of the Bengal Chamber on 13th August, economist Dr. Omkar Goswami focussed on three sets of unresolved issues that are plaguing the Indian economy. He was speaking on 'Prospects of Global and Indian economy'. According to him, the three sets are water, natural resource and geopolitical abilities. He spoke on how riparian treaties, utilization of natural resources and geopolitical aspects affect economies. Dr. Goswami stressed that on each aspect the government could not achieve its desired goal. He supplemented geopolitical abilities with a local approach of 'Zamin, Zamin Ka Neeche aur Aasman'. He said 'this led to creation of crony capital and making way for corruption.' In India all the three realms of geopolitics are filled with corruption. They are corruption in land, minerals and mining and spectrum allocation.

According to Dr. Goswami, most nations have either succeeded or tried to stabilize their economy on the three sets of issues. In India that has not happened. Therefore it resulted in a

fall in growth, investments and rise of deficits and inflation. Dr. Goswami exhaustively dealt on the present position of the Indian economy in relation to the global situation. He focused on “why was growth falling and inflation rising?” According to him, most economies including China are suffering. However, there are indications of a bounce back. People in India are feeling hopeless. The ensuing elections of 2014, according to him, has worsened matters. Those responsible for framing current and future policies are engaged in having their share of the pie. The fall in manufacturing output and agriculture growth have ruined the Indian economy. The country is facing a total policy paralysis as the Parliament has stopped functioning. Without infrastructure and manufacturing growth the economy might not also advance. According to him, services sector advancement and FMCG operations were also likely to have long term impacts.

The session was presented by Blenders Pride, in association with Future Business School and The Telegraph.

TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE AND LOGISTICS

EAST AND NORTH EAST INDIA SUPPLY CHAIN AND LOGISTICS SUMMIT AND EXCELLENCE AWARD 2013, 10TH SEPTEMBER 2013, CHAMBER PREMISES

BCC&I organized E & NE India Supply Chain & Logistics Summit and Excellence Award 2013 on 10th of September, 2013 at WM Hall, Chamber premises. The daylong event witnessed the deliberations of various industry captains across the country in this sector. With the apt theme, "New Challenges and Prospects" all the sessions were very relevant for current times. The Inaugural session was titled "Indian Supply Chain & Logistics sector: Role of Government in creating better infrastructure", where the KPMG report was released and Excellence Awards presented. BCC&I introduced an Excellence Award in Supply Chain and Logistics sector from this year to felicitate those companies working in this region and providing best services to their clients in this field. In the government sector, in large enterprise category the best logistics company of the year 2013 award went to Container Corporation of India. In Government sector in small enterprise category the best logistics company of the year 2013 award went to Central Railside Warehouse Company Ltd. The winner of the best Supply Chain Company of the year 2013 was Safexpress Pvt Ltd. In the 3PL sector in large enterprise category the best 3PL company award went to Gati Kintetsu Express Pvt. Ltd and in the 3PL sector in Medium Enterprise category the best 3PL company award went to Siddhartha Logistics Pvt Ltd. There were two technical sessions after the Inaugural session – Indian Supply Chain & Logistics Sector: Changing Dynamics & the adaptation towards the new paradigm and Expert's Roundtable on "Indian Supply Chain & Logistics Sector: Addressing key issues like project logistics, connectivity and technology. Various important issues were discussed such as creating better infrastructure, Free Trade Warehousing Zone, IT solutions available for the industry, etc. Eminent speakers like Mr. Vinod Asthana, MD, Central Railside Warehouse Co. Ltd.; Mr. Prahlad Tanwar, Associate Director – Transport & Logistics, KPMG; Mr. Siddhartha Sen, MD, Siddhartha Logistics Co. Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Sharad Verma, Chief General Manager (ER), Container Corporation of India, Mr. Yogesh Pathak, Director and Head PALMS Division, Technoforte Software Pvt. Ltd. and many others participated in this prestigious conclave.