



Newsletter



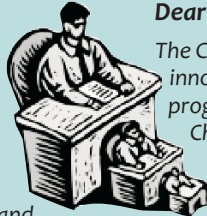
Look East

VOL 6 | No. 3

MARCH, 2010

from the desk of the PRESIDENT

5th March 2010



Dear Member,

The Chamber continues to organize innovative and thought-provoking programmes. The highlight of the Chamber's activities during the last month was undoubtedly the Interactive Seminar on 'Climate India—Beyond Copenhagen' and organized by the Energy & Environment Sub-Committee of the Chamber. The objective of the Seminar was to hear from experts who had participated in the Copenhagen Conference and to analyse the impact of the discussions on emission reduction and the energy and environment policy for India. The Seminar was indeed a unique endeavour in the sense that it provided a platform to interact with experts and to discuss the challenges and opportunities that the negotiations and the Accord had brought forward.

During the month of February, the Chamber also organized, in association with the Institute of Company Secretaries of India, an Interactive Session with Shri R. Bandyopadhyay, Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India on the topic 'India—Towards Inclusive Growth'.

The month concluded with the Chamber's traditional Union Budget viewing session which was attended by Past Presidents, members of the Chamber Committee and media representatives. Immediately after the Finance Minister's speech, the media interviewed key members of the Chamber on their views regarding the Budget. This was followed by the usual Press Conference where the Chamber's Press Release was formally handed over to members of the media. We are happy to report that the media (both electronic and printed) gave good publicity to the Chamber's views on the Budget.

Sd/-
SANDIPAN CHAKRAVORTTY
President

NEWSFLASH

Bengal Chamber Members viewing the Union Budget presentation by the Hon'ble Finance Minister of India on 26th February 2010



Members & invitees viewing the Budget Speech of the Hon'ble FM: From left to right: Mr. Kamal Parikh, Former President, Calcutta Stock Exchange and Former Chairperson, Federation of Indian Stock Exchanges, Mr. Sandipan Chakravortty, President, The Bengal Chamber, Mr. P Roy, Secretary General, The Bengal Chamber and Mr. Dipak Dutta, Chairperson, Finance, Banking and Insurance Sub-Committee of the Chamber.

The President of the Chamber being interviewed by a leading TV Channel following the FM's Budget Speech.

PROGRAMMES

Interactive Session with Shri R. Bandyopadhyay, Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India, 15th February 2010, Chamber premises

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Institute of Company Secretaries of India, Eastern India Regional Council co-branded the interactive meeting with Shri R. Badyopadhyay, Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India. The focus of the discussions was, 'India-Towards Inclusive Growth'.

As a part of his speech on the topic, "India – Towards Inclusive Growth", Shri Bandyopadhyay spoke about the India Corporate Week, which was held in December 2009 in Delhi. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India released books on 'Voluntary Guidelines on Corporate Governance', 'Voluntary Guidelines on Corporate Social Responsibility' and a handbook titled 'Corporate

WELCOME

to the Bengal Chamber family! That's what we would like to convey to **ERGO Woodlines Pvt. Limited, KAIL Limited (Videocon Group), Rohit Ferro - Tech Limited and Sri Vasavi Industries Limited** whose applications for membership were tabled and approved by the Chamber Committee at its meeting on 9th February 2010.



MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH SHRI R. BANDYOPADHYAY, SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



The programme about to begin: Seen on the dais with ICSI office bearers are Mr. Khokan Mookerji, Chief Mentor (extreme left) and Mr. P Roy, Secretary General of the Bengal Chamber (extreme right). Shri R Bandyopdhyay, Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs is second from right.

India 2009'. The basic objective of this week was to showcase the contribution of the corporate sector to the social and economic development of the country. Shri Bandyopadhyay also highlighted the activities undertaken by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India. The Ministry had taken a number of initiatives by introducing e-stamping with MCA-21 to further facilitate the e-registration of companies. It had also made the Competition Commission of India (CCI) and Competition Appellate Tribunal (CAT) functional. Limited Liability Partnership Act had been enacted. The Companies Bill was being scrutinized

by the Standing Committee of the Parliament. The Ministry was constantly in touch with the stakeholders, inviting suggestions, recommendations and views from all quarters before revisiting any rules and regulations in order to ensure these were in sync with the changing world. Shri Bandyopadhyay observed that the Ministry would like to be a leader and partner in initiatives for corporate reforms, good governance and enlightened regulations with a view to promoting and facilitating effective corporate functioning and investor protection.

The programme was attended by more than 90 delegates.



Mr. B B Chatterjee, Chairperson, Company Affairs S/C, The Bengal Chamber (left) presenting a memento to Shri R. Bandyopadhyay, Secretary, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Government of India.

INTERACTIVE SEMINAR ON "CLIMATE AND INDIA – BEYOND COPENHAGEN"

The Energy and Environment Sub-Committee of the Bengal Chamber, close on the heels of the Fifteenth Conference of Parties in Copenhagen from 7th to 18th December 2009, organized the programme.

The objective of the Seminar was to hear from experts who had participated in the Copenhagen Conference and primarily discuss the following issues:

- Roadmap for emission reductions and how will UNFCCC pen down the next agreement.
- Impact of the discussions on emission reduction and consequent energy and environment policy for India.
- The next course of action for Indian negotiators and the implications for Indian policymakers and Indian industry.

The USP of the programme was that the speakers were those who had negotiated for India at Copenhagen. Dr. Prodipto Ghosh, Distinguished Fellow, TERI and Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director General, Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) addressed the seminar. Both were lead negotiators for India at Copenhagen and icons in India's energy

policy, research and administration. Mr. Nils Medenbach, Vice President – Business Development, First Climate (India) Pvt. Ltd. was the third speaker. First Climate is a leading integrated carbon asset management company offering products and services related to the trading of emission reduction credits and investing in greenhouse gas abatement projects.

Dr. Prodipto Ghosh, IAS (Retd.), former Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, was also Member of the Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change, Member of the National Expert Committee on Climate Change, Member of the National Security Advisory Board, and Scientific Consultant in the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India. He helped prepare India's National Climate Change Action Plan and was Senior Advisor to the World Bank on the Economics of Adaptation to Climate Change.

Dr. Ajay Mathur coordinated the national energy efficiency programme, including the standards and labeling programme for equipment and appliances; the energy conservation building code; the industrial energy efficiency programme, and the DSM programmes in the buildings, lighting, and municipal sectors. He had

FAMD footnotes #1

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More about our Alloys in the next issue...



Left to right: Dr. Prodipto Ghosh, Distinguished Fellow, TERI; Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, Co-Chairperson, Energy & Environment S/C; Mr. Nils Medenbach, Vice President – Business Development, First Climate (India) Pvt. Ltd.



Left to right: Dr. Ajay Mathur, Director General, Bureau of Energy Efficiency, Ministry of Power, Government of India; Mr. Arun Kumar Mukherjee, Co-Chairperson, Energy & Environment S/C, The Bengal Chamber



The programme in progress.

also headed the World Bank's Climate Change Team in Washington, DC.

Naturally, with the presence of such distinguished speakers, the programme was the best way to know about the negotiations, read through the fine print and understand the future better before the industry, the economy and the people had to undertake their own efforts to scale down greenhouse gas emissions by a significant percentage.

Dr. Prodipto Ghosh focused on the challenges that were confronting India on the energy front. He observed that Climate Change negotiations were primarily economic negotiations to determine future global economic patterns and strategic potentials. Dr. Ghosh went on to talk about the Bali Action Plan of December, 2007 which had aimed for a sustained implementation of the UNFCCC agreement. Moving on to the Copenhagen Accord, the main provisions of the Accord were discussed and the overall political assessment was made. The submission of BASIC parties with relation to the Accord was highlighted. He concluded by discussing the prospects of the Accord which had received some endorsements and its goals, which were modest in relation to the problem.

Dr. Ajay Mathur started by talking about energy efficiency issues in the country wherein although over the past 10 years there had been a huge surge in energy efficiency in the services sectors, the costs of energy saving appliances were more expensive than the non saving devices which was why people were refraining from investing in such appliances. He explained some of the methods of addressing

these challenges of which one was to give company specific targets to reduce carbon emissions. While talking about the elements of the Copenhagen Accord, Dr. Mathur discussed the methodologies of carbon reduction in developing countries including reducing emission by using the Copenhagen Green Climate Fund, limiting global temperature increase to less than 2°C, etc. The uncertainties and possibilities of the Accord were explained by him. The talk was concluded by bringing up ways of listing mitigation actions.



The audience

Mr. Nils Madenbach, spoke about the future of CDM post 2012. He spoke about the key drivers affecting the CDM market development and the post 2012 demand-supply structure. He stated that the involvement of the private sector was required to bring about change in the carbon market in India. The implications of the Copenhagen Accord on the carbon markets were brought to attention including mitigation actions. He discussed the uncertainties of the Accord in relation to targets for industrialized countries and financing mitigation actions. The positive and negative signals of the Carbon Markets were discussed thereafter. He explained and differentiated the two types of Nationally Approached Mitigation Activities (NAMA) – unilateral vs. unsupported NAMA. The common features of new approaches to carbon reduction were discussed after which statistics to show carbon emission reduction progress in different countries was highlighted.

The seminar was attended by over 115 delegates and was important for business, industry and civil society since it was a great forum to interact with experts and discuss the challenges and opportunities that the negotiations and the Accord had brought forward.

UPCOMING PROGRAMMES

- Interaction with Dr. G D Gautama, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Power and Non-Conventional Energy Sources, Government of West Bengal, 9th March 2010, Chamber premises.
- Interactive Session on Expanding Employment Opportunities for Visually Impaired Manpower Resource, 13th March 2010, Chamber premises.
- Programme on Quality Circle and ISO Certification, 10th April 2010, Chamber premises
- Interactive Seminar on “Revival of Hooghly River - New Challenges “ , 17th April 2010, Chamber premises
- “Bengal Renaissance and Rabindranath” organized by the Bengal Chamber and the Tollygunge Club, 17th April 2010, Far Pavilion, The Tollygunge Club

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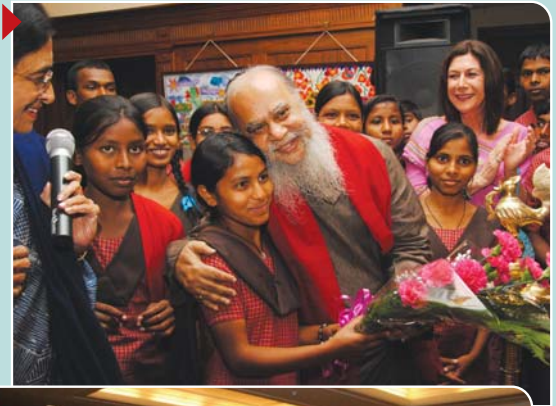
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EVENTS AT THE PALLADIAN LOUNGE



'ART FOR HEARTS SAKE' - PAINT WITH PAPER :

A special art exhibition by the children of Calcutta Foundation. Stacey Clarfied Newman mentored the children in this new form of art. The event was inaugurated by renowned artist Shri Suvapasanna & Sheriff of Kolkata, Mr. Utpal Chatterjee. The event was sponsored by Keppel Magus & Ananda Service Apartments.



ART EXHIBITION BY ATRI SEN

My World in Colours - Part 3

The event was inaugurated by **Mrs. Christiane Rysto** & **Mr. Sandipan Chakravortty**, President of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry.



Government House, Raj Bhavan, 1865

DOWN MEMORY LANE

THE CHAMBER'S ROLE IN THE NATION'S HISTORY

INDEPENDENCE AND THEREAFTER

(Excerpts from "The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry – 1853 -1953 AD Centenary Survey" by Geoffrey Tyson)

Continued from earlier edition...

As a beginning it may be recorded that the manner and the completeness of the transfer of power in that memorable summer of 1947 secured for the community an initial measure of goodwill which cemented even further the already cordial personal relationships between Britons and Indians which had persisted throughout, and in spite of, past political differences. With due humility, let us confess that, in a situation in which there was much to forgive and forget on both sides, it might have been very different. The new Indian administrators have treated the

resident commercial community with generosity and understanding, and for its part that section of the community, whose affairs have been discussed in this centenary survey of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, has striven and will continue to seek to be good and useful citizens in the Republic and to play a handfull role in the building of the better national life which the Indian Constitution proclaims as the purpose of all policy. Ministerial pronouncements have, of course, laid down in friendly but definite terms that new development and the extension of existing business activities shall be conditioned by what is deemed to be broad national interest. That stipulation is clearly understood and fully accepted.

to be continued ...