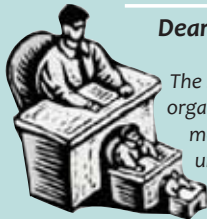




from the desk of the PRESIDENT

5th October, 2010



Dear Member,

The highlight of the programmes organized by the Chamber during the month of September 2010 was undoubtedly the unique 'Adda' session with 'Heroines of Satyajit Ray'. The programme had been conceptualized as an informal discussion in the mood of an 'Adda' with the panelists being the leading ladies of Ray Classics. It was a delightful evening with the panelists sharing their experiences of working with the maestro.

In September 2010 the HR & IR Committee of the Chamber organized a Workshop on 'Knowledge Updation on Gratuity and ESI (Amendment) Acts and Outsourcing Practices'. The Workshop focused on critical areas relating to Labour Laws and the recent amendments in the Gratuity and ESI Acts.

During the month under review, the Manufacturing Committee of the Chamber organized the third edition of the 'Bengal Chamber Award for Excellence in Manufacturing Practices in MSMEs'. The objective of this programme was to showcase the best manufacturing practices in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in the eastern region and to create a forum for sharing of knowledge, experience and know-how in the areas of manufacturing, technology and related aspects.

The coming months will be characterized by a series of thought-provoking programmes. The dates of these events are indicated in the 'Coming Events' section of this Newsletter. Your whole-hearted participation would, I am sure, go a long way in enhancing the quality and utility of these events.

Sd/-
SANDIPAN CHAKRAVORTTY
President

PROGRAMMES

THE BENGAL CHAMBER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MANUFACTURING PRACTICES IN MSMEs

21st SEPTEMBER 2010, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Manufacturing Committee of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized the third edition of the annual 'The Bengal Chamber Award for Excellence in Manufacturing Practices in MSMEs' on 21st September 2010 in the Chamber premises. Rupen Chowdhury, IAS, Managing Director, The West Bengal Small Industries Development Corporation Ltd.



Shri Rupen Chowdhury, IAS, Managing Director, The West Bengal Small Industries Development Corporation Ltd. addressing the Inaugural Session. Seated from Left to Right on the dais – Mr. A.R. Baijal, Chairperson, Manufacturing Committee, The Bengal Chamber and Mr. Sandipan Chakravortty, President, The Bengal Chamber was the Inaugural Speaker.



Chief Judge- Mr. Alope Mookherjea, Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry & Chairman, Flakt (India) Limited briefing the participants.

practices' every year as evaluated by the Chamber's expert panel of judges. This year the vision of the Award was broadened and organizations from the micro sector had also been invited to participate.

Like every year the programme also offered the platform for other MSME organizations to participate as delegates and share knowledge, experience and know-how in the areas of manufacturing, technology and related aspects with their colleagues in the industry.

Among the entries the Chamber

For the last two years this Award Programme had brought forward the innovative manufacturing practices in the SME sector of the State. The Chamber had awarded the three 'best



Panel of Judges (seated from Left to Right): Mr. Debkumar Basu, ZETADEL Technologies P. Ltd.; Dr. Anjan Ghosh, Vice President, Total Quality Management, Exide Industries Limited; Mr. Asim Basu, Head-Business Excellence, Tata Steel Processing and Distribution Ltd; Mr. A. Bhatt, Head - Project Marketing, Lee & Muirhead P. Ltd.

UPCOMING PROGRAMMES

- The Bengal Chamber Trophy – A Golf Meet for Corporates, 29th October 2010, The Tollygunge Club
- Engeetech (engineering exposition), 18th-21st November 2010, Science City Grounds
- Steel Raw Materials Outlook, 13th-14th December 2010, ITC Sonar

THE BENGAL CHAMBER AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN MANUFACTURING PRACTICES IN MSMEs

21st SEPTEMBER 2010, CHAMBER PREMISES



▲ Mr. P. Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber (right), presenting the Award to Hydro Carbons and Chemicals.



▲ Mr. P. Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber, presenting the Award to Jaks Plast Products Pvt. Ltd.



▲ Mr. P. Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber, presenting the Award to Precitor Metal Composites Products Pvt. Ltd.

received, six finalists were invited to make case study presentations. This year's finalists included Dee Bee Enterprise, Esarbi Enterprises, Hydro Carbons and Chemicals, Jaks Plast Products Pvt. Ltd., Moonlight Engineering Co. and Precitor Metal Composites Products Pvt. Ltd. The presentations were followed by an interactive session with the participants and the panel of experts who provided their valuable inputs and shared their views. Mr. Alope Mookherjea, Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Chairman, Flakt (India) Limited

chaired the panel of judges. The eminent panel also included Dr. Anjan Ghosh, Vice President, Total Quality Management, Exide Industries Limited; Mr. Asim Basu, Head-Business Excellence, Tata Steel Processing and Distribution Ltd and Mr. Debkumar Basu, Director, ZETADEL Technologies P. Ltd.

The winners were Hydro Carbons and Chemicals, Jaks Plast Products Pvt. Ltd. and Precitor Metal Composites Products Pvt. Ltd.

22ND SEPTEMBER 2010, CHAMBER PREMISES

156TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BENGAL CHAMBER



▲ L-R : Mr. H. K. Jha, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber; Shri Kamal Nath, Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Govt. of India; Mr. Sandipan Chakravorty, President, The Bengal Chamber



▲ Mr. Sandipan Chakravorty addressing the AGM



▲ Shri Kamal Nath addressing the audience



▲ Mr. Sandipan Chakravorty presenting a shawl to Shri Kamal Nath

▶ The distinguished members of the audience



The 156th AGM of the Bengal Chamber was held on 22nd September 2010 in the Chamber premises. Shri Kamal Nath, Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport and Highways was the Chief Guest. Mr. Sandipan Chakravorty, Managing Director, Tata Steel Processing and Distribution Limited was elected President of the Chamber for the second consecutive term. Mr. H K Jha, Managing Director, Tata Metaliks Limited was, once again,

elected the Senior Vice President and Mr. S K Menon, Managing Director, BOC India Limited was, once again, elected the Vice President.

Earlier Shri Kamal Nath spoke about the progress of India's economy and the role of his Ministry in creating and augmenting the necessary road infrastructure for addressing India's growth and development aspirations.

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS : DRAFT VOLUNTARY NATIONAL GUIDELINES ON SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC RESPONSIBILITIES OF BUSINESS

4TH OCTOBER 2010, CHAMBER PREMISES



▲ Seated (L-R): Ms. Neha Kumar, Project Manager, GTZ; Mr. Bharat Waklu, Resident Director, Tata Services Ltd and Mr. Harsh Jha, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber

'Stakeholder Consultations: Draft Voluntary Guidelines on Social, Environmental and Economic Responsibilities of Business' was organized by The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry in association with Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) and Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Technische Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GTZ).

The National Voluntary Guidelines on CSR were released by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs in December 2009, which set a new policy direction on one of the key issues – the role of business – for sustainable and inclusive growth of the country. The MCA CSR Guidelines 2009 state that "after considering the experience of adoption of these guidelines by Indian Corporate Sector and consideration of relevant feedback and other related issues, the Government may initiate the exercise for review of these Guidelines for further improvement

Guidelines Drafting Committee constituted by it in 2009. Besides the written feedback, the Project Team had regional stakeholders consultations with business, civil society and government agencies in Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Kolkata. The Kolkata Chapter was organized and hosted by The Bengal Chamber.

23 delegates from a cross section of corporates, NGOs, academia and Chambers of Commerce participated and contributed their valuable inputs. Round table discussion was held on the Principles and Core Elements of the Draft Guidelines and feedbacks were received and

recorded from the stakeholders. Mr. Bharat Waklu coordinated this

after one year."

The Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), established by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs in 2008 as a support institution on policy advice as well as a service provider on all matters of corporate functioning including sustainability issues, had been contributing to collecting such feedback, reviewing and elaborating the guidelines through the

discussion. Implementation Guidelines and Indicators were also discussed. Finally discussion was held on Adoption Models. The latter two sessions were moderated by Mr. Bharat Waklu and Ms. Neha Kumar.

The feedbacks received from other cities were also discussed. The Project Team would then analyze the feedbacks and incorporate the same in the Final Draft Guidelines. The respective stakeholders would be further consulted before finalization.

The success of the meeting was indicated by the participation and interaction with the stakeholders present. Issues were raised on



▲ Mr. Harsh Jha, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber addressing the stakeholders (in the middle). Mr. Bharat Waklu, Resident Director, Tata Services Ltd is on his right and Mr. P. Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber is on his left.

disability, women empowerment, health and hygiene, environmental issues etc. Focus was also on the acceptance and awareness of 'Corporate Social Responsibility' among the corporates and relationship between NGOs and corporates which should be of mutual benefit and not quid pro quo.



▲ Mr. Bharat Waklu making presentation on the Draft National Voluntary Guidelines on Social, Environmental and Economic Responsibilities of Business



▲ Consultation in process

MEETING WITH INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION (IFC) ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN SOUTH ASIA

5TH OCTOBER 2010, CHAMBER PREMISES

IFC was in the pre-implementation stage for its project on Regional Integration in Trade and Investment in South Asia. They were in the process of engaging and working with the private sector (traders and business chambers) in the north east sub region of South Asia on issues related to trade facilitation, trade procedures and business opportunities in the region.

The objective of the meeting was to gain a better understanding of constraints faced by the private sector stakeholders with regards to doing business in the South Asia Region, particularly the north eastern sub-region, comprised of East and North-East India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan. The team wanted to learn from the Chamber, the problems that the private sector was facing focusing on cross-border trade with

MEETING WITH INTERNATIONAL FINANCE CORPORATION (IFC) ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION IN TRADE AND INVESTMENT IN SOUTH ASIA

5TH OCTOBER 2010, CHAMBER PREMISES



▲ Mr. Sandipan Chakravorty, President, The Bengal Chamber welcoming all present in the meeting. Mr. P. Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber seated next to him

neighbouring countries, especially Bangladesh and Nepal.

Mr. Sandipan Chakravorty, President of the Bengal Chamber, welcomed all present and thereafter made a brief opening statement on the focus and deliverables of the meeting. Thereafter, the team from IFC elaborated the points of focus for the session and the Chamber representatives spoke about specific issues of concern with respect to cross-border trade.

The following issues were brought to board by the members of the Chamber:

- i) Logistics
 - Transport (both road and railway) connectivity with Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan should improve.
 - Improvement of inland waterway connectivity to facilitate trading with Bangladesh was a necessity.
 - Improvement in navigability of waterways was required. (The above mentioned conditions, if met, would reduce significantly the prohibitively high cost of freight.)
- ii) Facilities – Betterment of electricity and water facilities for business expansion in the abovementioned countries.
- iii) Skills – Business development would require suitably skilled manpower.
- iv) Trading – Illegal business practices posed great hindrance to fair business development in all the said countries. Evasion of tax should not be the incentive to promote business in a foreign land.
- v) West Bengal needed a deep sea port as Kolkata was the central hub of business operations in Eastern India. The small coastline was a matter of concern in this regard. Issue of river navigation had to be addressed too. However, Shipping and Port Development had significant opportunities.
- vi) Transportation of cargo to Bangladesh was a significant problem as Indian trucks were not allowed to enter Bangladesh and the cargo had to be unloaded at Benapole border and reloaded in Bangladeshi trucks.
- vii) Poor level of education and lack of skilled professionals in Bangladesh were hindrances to develop business there.
- viii) Banking structure of Bangladesh was a great constraint.
- ix) Corruption in the country was also another problem.
- x) Reduction of high import duty was necessary.
- xi) Uniform duties and valuation norms were required
- xii) With regards to business development in North Eastern India, micro financing might play a significant role.
- xiii) Fair business had to face competition from illegal trade practice in the North East.



▲ From (L-R): Ms. Albena Melin, Ms. Uma Subramanian and Mr. William John Gain from IFC

- xiv) Informal business models were predominant in this region.
- xv) With respect to trade with Bangladesh, the HSN Code classification should be normalized.

It was unanimously decided that regular meetings of business communities of these countries would benefit cross-border trade. Tourism development across the countries was also suggested. IFC requested

Mr. Pratik Chatterjee (Tata Steel Processing and Distribution Limited) to send them reports on informal trade practices in North East India for their analysis. Ms. Paramita Dasgupta mentioned that IFC would address the issues concerning MSMEs and provide support to entrepreneurship development. By end October, the details on



▲ From (L-R): Ms. June Chimire and Ms. Paramita Dasgupta from IFC

the proposed work agenda would be sent to the Chamber. On MSME development, the Chamber would forward details of the IFC projects to its membership. It was decided that the Chamber and IFC would work together on a work plan for future initiatives in the realm of trade and business development in this part of the world. Mr. P. Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber and Ms. Paramita Dasgupta of IFC would be coordinating.



▲ Meeting in progress- From (L-R): Mr. S D Mookerjee, Associate Director, Talbot Asset Management and Restructuring Limited; Mr. A Bhatt, Co-Chairperson, Shipping Committee, The Bengal Chamber and Head – Project Marketing, Lee and Muirhead Pvt. Ltd.; Capt. S B Mazumder, Co-Chairperson, Shipping Committee, The Bengal Chamber and Executive Director, Seahorse Ship Agencies Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Dipak Dutta, Chairperson, Finance, Banking and Insurance Committee, The Bengal Chamber and Senior Partner, Dutta Ghosh and Associates and Mr. Kallol Datta, Chairman and Managing Director, Andrew Yule and Company Ltd.