



# Newsletter



Look East

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APRIL, 2010

from the desk of the  
**PRESIDENT**

5th April 2010

Dear Member,



During the month of March 2010, the Chamber continued to organize interesting and innovative programmes. The CSR and Skill Development Sub-Committee of the Chamber organized a unique Interactive Session on 'Expanding Employment Opportunities for Visually Impaired Manpower Resources'. The programme included a technical session on the competence of visually challenged individuals in the mainstream job market and was followed by a panel discussion on HR policies of recruitment for such candidates.

During the month under review, the Regional Director of the Hongkong Trade Development Council had an interaction with representatives of the Chamber. Opportunities for working together to promote business and industries' penetration into international markets through the Council were discussed at the meeting.

During the last week of March 2010, the Chamber organized a seminar on 'Excelling by Balancing Career and Family'. The programme provided valuable suggestions on maintaining the work-family balance and on leading a reasonably stress-free life.

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

## WELCOME

Welcome to the **Bengal Chamber family**! That's what we would like to convey to **Modern India Con-cast Limited, Nokia Siemens Networks Pvt. Ltd., Sri Gayatri Minerals Pvt. Ltd., Stemcor India Pvt. Ltd., Tata Teleservices Limited and Tide Water Oil Company (India) Limited**, whose applications for membership were tabled and approved by the Chamber Committee at its meeting on **9th March 2010**.

The  
**Bengal Chamber family**  
wishes you all

**SUBHO  
NABABARSHO**

**PROGRAMMES**



### **Interactive Session on Expanding Employment Opportunities for Visually Impaired Manpower Resource, 13th March 2010, Chamber premises**

The CSR and Skill Development Sub-Committee of the Chamber organized this unique interactive session in association with Welfare Society for the Blind and Mission of Mercy Hospital and Research Centre.

Though still in the embryo stage, the industry had opened up for the visually challenged individuals. Employers, who had already initiated the practice, shared their experiences at the session. The endeavour was to bring to board the fact that recruiting visually challenged individuals was not necessarily only a social obligation in the realm of corporate social responsibility. There were a number of students of the Welfare Society for the Blind, who were employed with leading multinationals and consultants and were sharing equal responsibilities with their team members.

Mr. Anup Hoon, President, Century Plyboards (India) Ltd. delivered a special address on 'CSR – Some Thoughts' in the Inaugural Session. He referred to the origin of CSR and commented that the term came in to common domain in the early seventies with the formation of MNCs. Though there was no particular standard of CSR, there were certain principles, like the 'triple bottomline', which were being adhered to by the United Nations

(UN). The UN had also developed 'principles for responsible investments' as guidelines for investing entities. Mr. Hoon emphasized on the social accountability of corporates. He pointed out that CSR was an indicator of Performance Management.

The Chamber took immense pleasure to felicitate a visually challenged aspiring



▲ **Mr. Harsh K Jha, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber** during his Welcome Address.



MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE **BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY**

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



▲ Mr. Anup Hoon, President, Century Plyboards (India) Ltd.



▲ Mr. Khokan Mookerji, Chief Mentor, The Bengal Chamber during his Vote of Thanks..



▲ Mr. P. K. Chatterjee, Chairperson, CSR and Skill Development S/C of the Chamber.

sportsman. Mr. Harsh K Jha, Senior Vice President of the Bengal Chamber felicitated Mr. Bapan Majhi, who played Sounding Soccer – a kind of special soccer for the visually challenged. He would be representing the country in the 2012 Olympics for the Disabled in China.

The programme included a Technical Session on ‘Competence of the visually impaired individuals in the mainstream job market’. The session was chaired by Mr. P.K. Chatterjee, Chairperson, CSR and Skill Development Sub-Committee of the Chamber. The speakers included Mr. Ashish Jha, IT Security Specialist, IBM India (P) Ltd; Mr. Arup Dasgupta, Managing Director, Metalogic Systems Pvt Ltd; Ms. Sushmita Ghose, Honorary Joint Secretary, Welfare Society for the Blind and Mr. Jappreet Sethi, Vice President – HR, Jones Lang LaSalle Meghraj. Mr. Ashish Jha, being visually challenged, made a case study presentation on how he was managing his job responsibilities with the aid of technology. Mr. Arup Dasgupta shared the employer’s perspective. He had recruited a visually challenged candidate



Mr. Harsh K Jha felicitating Mr. Bapan Majhi, who would be representing the country in the 2012 Olympics for the Disabled in China in the sport, Sounding Soccer.

as a Help Desk Executive. He mentioned that she was performing “reasonably well”. His experience revealed that a visually impaired person would always have a very high level on concentration. Ms. Sushmita Ghose spoke on ‘Reinventing employment opportunities for visually impaired candidates’. She explained the areas in which a visually challenged person could be recruited.

The Technical Session was followed by a panel discussion on ‘HR policies of recruitment for the visually impaired candidates – are we ready?’ The panelists included Mr. Satish Mishra, Regional Head- HR, ITC Sonar, Kolkata; Mr. Asif Iqbal, Senior Consultant, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Amit Jagga, Head-HR, IBM Daksh and Mrs. Anindita Banerjee Tamta, Secretary, Parivar. Mr. Sanjay Prasad, CEO and Managing Director, Mission of Mercy Hospital and Research Centre, chaired the panel. The programme was attended by over 90 delegates from corporates and NGOs and students from the Divine Fellowship Blind School and also the Welfare Society for the Blind.



▲ Mr. Asif Iqbal, Senior Consultant, Pricewaterhouse Coopers Pvt. Ltd. and a former student of Welfare Society for the Blind.



▲ Mr. Ashish Jha, IT Security Specialist, IBM India (P) Ltd. and a former student of Welfare Society for the Blind.



▲ The programme in progress.

**FAMD footnotes #2**

**What Adds Strength to Steel?**

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**Manganese**

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More about us in the next issue...

26TH MARCH, 2010, CHAMBER PREMISES

### SEMINAR ON EXCELLING BY BALANCING CAREER AND FAMILY



▲ L-R: Ms. Suchitra Guha, Chairperson, HR / IR Sub-Committee, Mr. P Roy, Secretary General, The Bengal Chamber.

The HR / IR Sub-Committee of the Chamber organized the programme. At a time when a staggering percentage of working professionals are stressed by the work-family balance, the programme shed some light on maintaining the balance and leading a stress-free life. Career-family balance is a complex issue that requires proper time management, apart from various other factors. Preparation, intentionality, and sensible decision-making could go a long way in managing a balanced equation. The seminar discussed that striking the perfect career-family balance was a process, not an achievement by itself. One

needs to constantly adjust and plan as required.

The programme was addressed by Ms. Rita Bhimani (Chairperson, Ritam Communications), Mr. Anjan Bose (Head-HR & CIO, Haldia Petrochemicals Ltd.), Ms. Debi Kar (Principal, Modern High School), Ms. Subha Pal (Writer and Director – Corporate Communications, Manor Floatel Ltd.) and Ms. Nabanita Khan (Pharma & Life Sciences Industry Lead, IBM Global Business Service, Global Delivery, India).

Ms. Rita Bhimani made a brief presentation on Balancing Career & Family and shared the achievements of today's women. Mr. Anjan Bose spoke on the perspectives on Work-Life Balance. Ms. Nabanita Khan made a presentation on how one could excel by balancing Career and Family. Ms. Debi Kar, on the other hand, focused on the importance of spending time with the family and also discussed that a work life balance is about choices, prioritization and application. Ms. Subha Pal discussed the importance of family and focused on the needs of having a balanced life.

The programme was attended by more than 70 delegates from industry and was extremely interactive in nature.



▲ Mr. Anjan Bose (Head-HR & CIO, Haldia Petrochemicals Ltd.) during his presentation.



▲ L-R: Ms. Debi Kar (Principal, Modern High School), Ms. Subha Pal (Writer and Director – Corporate Communications, Manor Floatel Ltd.)



▲ Ms. Rita Bhimani (Chairperson, Ritam Communications) addressing the audience. Seated is Mr. Khokan Mookerji, Chief Mentor, The Bengal Chamber.



▲ Mr. Somesh Dasgupta, Co-Chairperson, HR / IR Sub-Committee.



▲ Ms. Nabanita Khan (Pharma & Life Sciences Industry Lead, IBM Global Business Service, Global Delivery, India).



▲ The seminar in progress.

18TH MARCH, 2010, CHAMBER PREMISES

### MEETING WITH REGIONAL DIRECTOR, HONGKONG TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Photo Caption: Mr. Khokan Mookerji, Chief Mentor (extreme right) and Mr. P Roy, Secretary General of the Chamber interacting with Ms. Loretta Wan, Regional Director of Hongkong Trade Development Council.



### UPCOMING PROGRAMMES

- Workshop on Quality Circle and ISO Certification for SMEs, 10th 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
- Programme on Social Dialogue on Transition from Agriculture to Industry - Challenges and Opportunities with Employers Federation of India, 21st April 2010, Chamber premises
- Seminar on The Challenges of Medical Ethics and Its Way Ahead, 26th April 2010, Chamber premises
- Interactive Seminar on Hooghly River - New Challenges, 19th May 2010, Chamber premises

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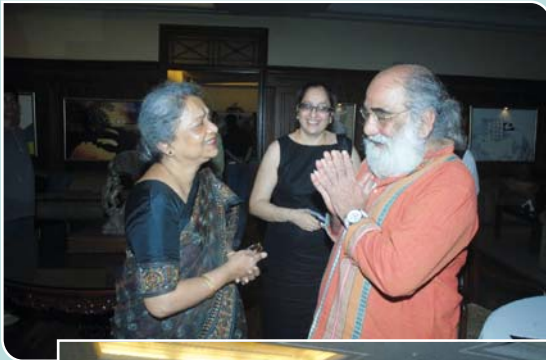
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# EVENTS AT THE PALLADIAN LOUNGE



## 14th March 2010 - ART WORLD

Art World - Sarala's Art Centre had a preview of the works of Prokash Karmakar entitled 'Experiments'. Extracts of a biographical film on the artist, by Vijay S. Jodha was also screened.



## 17th March 2010 - HINDI PLAY

A powerful play in Hindi called 'Ek Ruka Hua Faisla' by Spandan.



## 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: A Centenary Survey" by Geoffrey Tyson)

*Continued from earlier edition...*

There had to be cooperation and a full and frank understanding or literally nothing. Happily both sides opted for cooperation, and thus there opened another and not unfruitful chapter in the long story of Indo-British relations. Before looking briefly at some of its main heads, as they appear in the contemporary records of the BENGAL CHAMBER, it may be stated that the policy of the Government of India has been that non-Indian interests operating within India should enjoy 'national treatment'. In point of fact the accelerated process of disinvestment, referred to in an earlier chapter, has meant that in



Hooghly River, 1890

practice it is today very difficult to draw any clear line of demarcation as between one set of interests and another. The trading, managerial and industrial membership of the BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE represent to a very large extent a partnership between Britons and Indians, which is certainly unique in Asia, and probably has no parallel anywhere else. When a European Director of a managing agency addresses Government on the subject of, let us say, a license, the probability is that he is presenting a case on behalf of a mixed body of shareholders in his own and in the managed company, the majority of whom are Indians. If the President of THE BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, or the Chairman of an attached industrial association, attends a conference at New Delhi on some aspect of trade policy he is speaking on behalf of mixed interests. In many cases, the majority will already be Indian; in others it is probably only a matter of time before they will be. In no instance which the writer can think of is the non-Indian membership of any such association growing faster than the Indian.

*to be continued ...*