



Newsletter



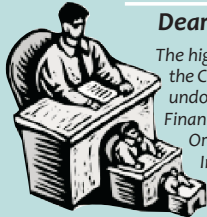
Look East

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July, 2010

from the desk of the PRESIDENT

5th July 2010



Dear Member,

The highlight of the programmes conducted by the Chamber during the month of June 2010 was undoubtedly the Seminar on 'Outreach 2010—Financial Inclusion for the Common Indian'.

Organized by the Finance, Banking and Insurance Committee of the Chamber, the programme provided a forum for the Government, banks, financial institutions, entrepreneurs, NGOs, Self Help Groups and academia to discuss the issues, opportunities and developments in the realm of financial inclusion in India. The seminar focused on the unique opportunities available at the bottom of the pyramid which could be tapped through access to financial and risk mitigation services. Over 250 delegates attended the programme.

In an endeavor to generate awareness about Competition Law, the Chamber also organized a seminar on 'Competition Law and Policy in India'. Mr R.Prasad, Member, Competition Commission of India, delivered the keynote address and gave an overview of the competition law scenario in the country and the role of the Competition Commission in creating a level playing field.

The Indirect Taxes Committee of the Chamber organized a workshop on Service Tax. The workshop was addressed by leading taxation experts and discussed several critical issues including the imminent introduction of Goods and Service Tax, CENVAT Credit, works contract services, business auxiliary and business support services, etc.

In June 2010 the Chamber also organized an Interactive Session with Shri Siddharth, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Information Technology, Govt. of West Bengal, immediately after the Managing Committee meeting. Shri Siddharth raised a number of issues relating to the development, challenges and opportunities of the IT industry in West Bengal and also reviewed the progress achieved over the last decade. Some of the members of the Managing Committee in turn put forward their own concerns about the availability of power in the Tier-II cities, lack of physical infrastructure in Salt Lake's Sector V, adverse effect on the image of the industry in West Bengal due to strikes, etc.

During the last week of June 2010, as the World Cup football fever hit Kolkata, the Chamber presented a most exciting and unique fun quiz show named 'Waka Waka Quiz'. Sixteen teams from reputed corporate houses participated in this Quiz and made the event memorable. The Quiz was covered by several leading TV channels.

The coming months will also feature a plethora of interesting and thought-provoking programmes. The dates of these events are indicated in the 'Coming Events' section of this Newsletter.

Sd/-
SANDIPAN CHAKRAVORTY
President

PROGRAMMES

WORKSHOP ON SERVICE TAX

4TH JUNE, 2010, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Indirect Taxes Committee of the Chamber organized a Workshop on Service Tax on Friday, 4th June 2010 in the Chamber premises.

The Workshop was organized to discuss critical issues in Service Tax. The speakers included Mr. T. B. Chatterjee, Chairman, Indirect Taxes Committee, The Bengal Chamber and Senior Vice President (Corporate Affairs and Legal) & Company Secretary, DIC India Limited; Mr. Pulak Saha, Managing Partner, P K Saha & Associates; Mr. Siladitya Sarkar, Associate



Section of the audience.

Director, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd.; Mr. M.S. Mani, Senior Director, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India Pvt. Ltd. and Mr. Arun Agarwal, Chartered Accountant, K N Jain & Co.

Mr. T. B. Chatterjee made an overall presentation on 'Goods and Service Tax – The Road Ahead'. Mr. Pulak Saha addressed 'Recent Amendments in the Finance Act, 2010 concerning Service Tax'. Mr. Siladitya Sarkar spoke on 'Business Auxiliary and Business Support Services'. Mr. M. S.



Mr. T.B Chatterjee, Chairman, Indirect Taxes Committee, the Bengal Chamber delivering the Welcome Address. Mr. Khokan Mookerji, Chief Mentor, the Bengal Chamber is seated on the dais.

Mani's topic was 'Issues relating to Works Contract Services'. Mr. Arun Agarwal addressed 'Cenvat Credit to Service Provider'. Around 90 delegates attended the programme

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH SHRI SIDDHARTH, IAS, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL

8TH JUNE, 2010, CHAMBER PREMISES

Shri Siddharth, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Information Technology, Government of West Bengal addressed the Managing Committee of the Chamber on 8th June 2010 at the Managing Committee Meeting in the Chamber premises.

Shri Siddharth spoke about the development, challenges and opportunities in the Information Technology industry in West Bengal. He mentioned that the development in IT in West Bengal had happened over the last decade. Other than Pune, Kolkata was the only city which had the potentiality of four-fold growth in IT. It was an industry generating 11 lakh direct jobs and 2.3 lakh ancillary jobs in the State. As per a NASSCOM report, the tier two cities of the State, like Siliguri and Durgapur, also had the potentiality of being promising IT hubs. The State Government's incubation centre was already operating in these two places. Local Development Authorities were also being coordinated with to develop IT parks in the cities as Private-Public-Partnership Projects. Haldia, Kharagpur and

MEMBERS' NEWS CORNER

Welcome to the Bengal Chamber family! That's what we would like to convey to **Bengal Institute of Business Studies, De & Bose, GTFs Multi Services Limited, Howrah Mills Company Limited and Talbot Asset Management & Restructuring Limited** whose applications for membership were tabled and approved by the Chamber Committee at its meeting on **8th June 2010**.



MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

8TH JUNE, 2010, CHAMBER PREMISES

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH SHRI SIDDHARTH, IAS, PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL



▲ Shri Siddharth at the meeting during the interaction

Kalyani were the other places where IT industry could be expanded. Shri Siddharth mentioned that irrespective of the negative publicity, Kolkata was still an attractive destination for IT companies.

The members raised their concerns about availability of adequate power in the tier two cities, lack of physical infrastructure in Salt Lake Sector V of Kolkata, adverse effect on the image of the industry in West Bengal due to strikes, etc. Shri Siddharth clarified that in tier two cities, as per requirement, necessary arrangements for power would be made with the service providers since otherwise the demand for power for low. Lack of adequate physical infrastructure like proper roads was an area of major concern for the industry. However, the IT Department was always in touch with the other departments of the Government, including the State Police and Nabadiganta, the latter being the nodal agency

for infrastructure development. Yet, the problem of poor infrastructure persisted. Regarding the problem of political strikes in the State, Shri Siddharth observed that most of the companies in Sector V worked 24*7 and even on the days of the strike they tried to maintain that schedule with 80% to 90% presence of employees. Often the offices worked on weekends to compensate for a day's loss of work. On a query from the Committee regarding the development of hardware industry in the State, Shri Siddharth spoke about the chip development centre that was coming up in the State.

12TH JUNE, 2010, ITC SONAR KOLKATA

OUTREACH 2010 – FINANCIAL INCLUSION FOR THE COMMON INDIAN



▲ Mr. Sandipan Chakravorty, President, The Bengal Chamber during his Welcome Address.



▲ During the Inaugural Session - L-R: Mr. Sandipan Chakravorty; Mr. Rajat M. Nag, Managing Director General, Asian Development Bank, Manila; Ms. Anuradha Ray, Co-Chairperson, Finance, Banking and Insurance Committee



▲ Dr. K G Karmakar, Managing Director, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) addressing the conclave. Seated from left to right: Mr. Khokan Mookerji, Chief Mentor, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. S K Mitra, President, Axis Bank Limited



▲ Mr. Dipak Dutta, Chairperson, Finance, Banking and Insurance Committee, The Bengal Chamber.

Outreach 2010 was a forum, organized by the Finance, Banking and Insurance Committee of the Bengal Chamber, for the Government, Banks, Financial Institutions, Industry, Entrepreneurs, NGOs, Self-Help Groups and the Academia dedicated to discussing the issues, opportunities and developments in the realm of financial inclusion in India. This was

the first step towards providing the preferred forum in the coming years for discussing and formulating action plans at the regional level to take the Government's objective of realizing financial inclusion as an integral part of inclusive growth.

The USP of the programme was that it focused on the unique opportunities that could be available at the bottom of the pyramid which would get unlocked through 'access to financial and risk mitigation services'. In other words, the conclave created the forum to discuss, in addition to the development agenda, the business prospects and opportunities in an effective financial inclusion strategy in India. Over

260 delegates attended the programme from banks and financial institutions, corporates, NGOs, academia and agencies of the Government.

The programme was sponsored by **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**, **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** and **AXIS Bank**. Several Self Help Groups also put up stalls at the venue displaying items that they had manufactured using bank credit. The items on display ranged from pottery and handicrafts to clothing and accessories.

The Inaugural Session set the agenda for the day's deliberations and was addressed by, among other distinguished speakers, **Dr. K G Karmakar**, Managing Director, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD); **Mr. Rajat M Nag**, Managing Director General, Asian Development Bank, Manila; **Mr. Thomas S Davenport**, Senior Manager, International Finance Corporation (IFC) and **Mr. S K Mitra**, President, Axis Bank.

Dr. K.G. Karmakar observed that to ensure bank accounts for every adult in the rural areas, technology would play a major role. BCBS linkage would have to be provided. Unique Identification Number to each citizen would be an important aid in this regard. Co-operative Societies would have to be revived. In the overall process, security in policy and legal



▲ Dr. K G Karmakar, Managing Director, NABARD (third from left) releasing a booklet by NABARD on financial inclusion with the other speakers during the Inaugural Session.



▲ L-R: Ms. Anuradha Ray; Mr. Thomas S Davenport, Senior Manager, International Finance Corporation; Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber.



▲ Ms. Oleo Bora, Deputy General Manager (MF & MSE), North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Limited receiving a memento from Mr. P K Choudhury, Chairman of Session I.



Technical Session I in progress: L-R - Mr. Mrinal Shanker, General Manager, Network – 1, State Bank of India; Mr. P K Choudhury, Vice Chairman and Group CEO, ICRA Limited; Mr. C.D. Srinivasan, General Manager, Rural Planning and Credit Department, Reserve Bank of India; Mr. Tarun Agarwal, Vice President & Head – Channel Empowerment & Management Group (CEMG), Financial Information Network and Operations Limited (FINO).

frameworks would have to be ensured.

Mr. Rajat Nag observed that Financial Inclusion was critically important to achieve the objectives of the Eleventh Five Year Plan of the Central Government. In the context of Asia, he said, though significant economic growth was witnessed in the continent, 900 million people were still below the poverty line, 700 million people were deprived of clean water and 107 million children were underweight, which was a most alarming condition. This, he referred to, as, “The two faces of Asia”. He pointed out that economic growth was important but equitable distribution of income and wealth was a key priority. In India, 73% population was financially excluded. Financial Exclusion would push this vulnerable population more towards poverty. Emergencies occurring due to medical reasons or natural calamities will worsen the situation. India was, however, well placed to achieve the objective of Financial Inclusion – growing IT industry being a favourable factor. Achieving Financial Inclusion would also require its integration with development of livelihood. The most important factor for the viability and success of Financial Inclusion projects would be addressing it from a business point of view and not merely as a philanthropic goal.

The first technical session included discussions on organized banking for rural India, the Business Correspondent model, an insurance perspective for reaching the so-called bottom-of-the-pyramid income group, the necessity of reliable communications architecture and a presentation on reaching the under-served in the North East. The session was chaired by **Mr. P K Choudhury**, Vice Chairman and Group CEO, ICRA Limited. The speakers were **Mr. C.D. Srinivasan**, General Manager, Rural Planning and Credit Department, Reserve Bank of India; **Mr. Mrinal Shanker**, General Manager, Network – 1, State Bank of India; **Mr. Tarun Agarwal**, Vice

President & Head – Channel Empowerment & Management Group (CEMG), Financial Information Network and Operations Limited (FINO); **Ms. Olee Bora**, Deputy General Manager (MF & MSE), North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Limited and **Mr. Samiran Lahiri**, President - Financial Product Distribution, The Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Limited.

The second technical session had discussions on field experiences and included presentations on commercially viable microfinance services, investors’ perspectives on microfinance and the iconic e-Choupal initiative of ITC. **Mr. Somabrata Dutta**, Managing Consultant, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd. chaired the session. The speakers included **Mr. Swapnil K Neeraj**, Senior Microfinance Specialist (South Asia), International Finance Corporation; **Dr. Kshama Fernandes**, Chief Risk Officer, IFMR Capital; **Prof. (Dr.) R P Banerjee**, Chairman, Towards Life Foundation and **Mr. CV Sarma**, Vice President (Finance & IT), Agri Business Division, ITC Limited.



During Session II - L-R: Prof. (Dr.) R P Banerjee, Chairman, Towards Life Foundation; Mr. CV Sarma, Vice President (Finance & IT), Agri Business Division, ITC Limited



The audience.



Mr. Samiran Lahiri, President - Financial Product Distribution, The Peerless General Finance and Investment Company Limited during his presentation.



Technical Session II: Mr. Swapnil K Neeraj, Senior Microfinance Specialist (South Asia), International Finance Corporation at the podium.



During Technical Session II: L-R: Mr. Somabrata Dutta, Managing Consultant, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd.; Dr. Kshama Fernandes, Chief Risk Officer, IFMR Capital.



Some of the stalls (put up by NGOs and Self Help Groups displaying items ranging from pottery to sarees at the venue

UPCOMING PROGRAMMES

- Business-IT Conclave 2010, 17th July 2010, ITC Sonar, Kolkata
- Seminar on Direct Taxes, 28th July 2010

26TH JUNE, 2010, CHAMBER PREMISES

THE WAKA WAKA” QUIZ ON SOCCER MANIA



As the World Cup Football fever hit the town, the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and KolkataToday.com, in association with EILM, Kolkata presented a most exciting and unique fun quiz show, “THE WAKA WAKA” QUIZ ON SOCCER MANIA 2010 on Saturday, 26th June 2010 from 3.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. at the Williamson Magor hall in the Chamber premises.

16 corporates, including ArcelorMittal, Bengal Peerless, Calcutta Medical Research Institute, Capgemini, CESC, Cognizant, HSBC,

RJ Rupsha, the Quiz Master conducting the Waka Waka Quiz



▲ The participating teams wearing the team jerseys.

IBM, ITC Limited (3 different divisions-Personal Care, Tobacco and Sales), IXIA Technologies, M N Dastur, SELVEL, Sky-TECH and United Spirits participated in this Quiz contest and made the event memorable.

RJ Rupsha Dasgupta of Radio Mirchi, 98.3 FM conducted the show as quizmaster. The event became even more exciting when all the participants, who qualified for the quarter final round of the contest, were allotted jerseys of

teams which had qualified to the Round of 16 in the World Cup. Thereafter each participating team member wore the allotted jersey and each team was referred to as the country whose jersey was worn by the team members. The top three teams were awarded trophies from EIILM and gifts from both EIILM and Adidas. Each participant was presented with a gift from



◀ The winning team members from Cognizant (extreme right). Mr. Khokan Mookerji, Chief Mentor of the Bengal Chamber is at the extreme left.

EIILM. For the winning team from Cognizant Technologies, Kolkatoday.com also announced a

trip to Germany to watch a Bayern Munich match at the famed Allianz Arena stadium. The team from ArcelorMittal was 1st Runner Up while IBM was the 2nd Runner up. The Quiz was covered by leading TV channels like "24 Ghanta", "R-Plus", "Xtra Time (Akash Bangla)", "Channel 10" and "Star Ananda".

SESSION ON "REVIEW OF PRIORITY SECTOR LENDING AND NEED TO MAKE MANDATORY PROVISION FOR ALLOCATION OF SUBSTANTIAL FUNDS FOR TINY AND MICRO ENTERPRISES" ORGANIZED BY INDIAN FEDERATION OF TINY ENTERPRISES (IFTE) IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE BENGAL CHAMBER

4TH JULY, 2010,
CHAMBER PREMISES



▲ Shri Pranab Mukherjee, Hon'ble Finance Minister, Government of India, graced the occasion as Chief Guest and Shri Manavendra Mukherjee, Hon'ble Minister, Micro & Small Scale Industry, Textile & Tourism, Government of West Bengal, was Guest of Honour.

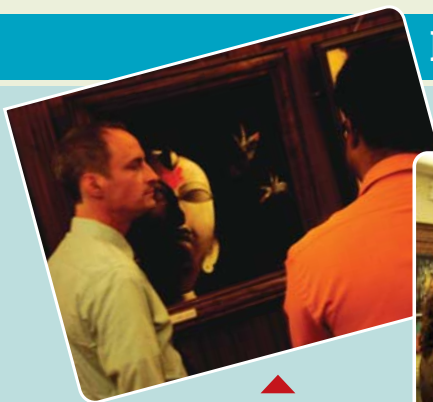
IFTE, in collaboration with the Bengal Chamber, organized a conference on a very important and relevant issue viz., "Review of Priority sector lending and need to make mandatory provision for allocation of substantial funds for tiny and micro enterprises" on Sunday, 4th July, 2010 in the Chamber premises.

Shri Santosh Bagrodia, M.P. & Former M.O.S. Government of India, presided over the Conference.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister, in his address, appreciated the very significant contribution of Tiny Enterprises towards GDP Growth and exports. He assured that a Committee had been formed and entrusted to review, the aspect of allocation of funds for Tiny and Micro Enterprises and due compliance of the Committee's recommendation will be focussed on.

The auditorium was packed with representatives of the tiny and micro sector and a large number of media persons. The Inaugural Session was anchored by Shri Khokan Mookerji, Chief Mentor, The Bengal Chamber. The Technical Session was presided over by Dr. A K Chanda, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal. The speakers during the Technical Session included Shri Karupphaswamy, Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Shri Ram Nath, Chief General Manager, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI), Shri S S Sanganerla, Chairman, IFTE, Shri N N Debnath, Director, MSME-DI, Kolkata. Shri B L Baheti, Secretary General, IFTE, was the Theme Presenter.

EVENTS AT THE PALLADIAN LOUNGE



▲ **8th June 2010**
Art Exhibition by **Biswaroop Halder**
'MYTHS N' MYSTIQUE
The event was inaugurated by
Mr. Moulik Berkhana &
Ms. Andrea Fischboeck



▶ **22nd June 2010**
Dance Drama by
SAPPHIRE CREATIONS
making its **USA and AUSTRIA**
Premieres - **PARIVAHITAM &**
SOULS IN TRANZIT

