



Newsletter



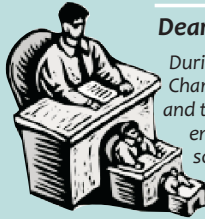
Look East

VOL 6 | No. 5

MAY, 2010

from the desk of the PRESIDENT

5th May 2010



Dear Member,

During the month of April 2010, the Chamber organized a series of innovative and thought-provoking programmes. In an endeavour to support small and medium scale enterprises (SMEs) in improving business in today's competitive market, the Manufacturing Sub-Committee of the Chamber organized a workshop on 'Quality Circle and ISO Certification for SMEs'. The programme demonstrated how the "Quality Circle" movement and "ISO Certification" can help in enhancing profitability in SMEs.

The Chamber also organized an Interactive Session with Dr. Subrata Gupta, IAS, Managing Director, West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Ltd., immediately after the Chamber Committee meeting. Dr. Gupta raised a number of issues (such as water allocation policy, power supply lapses and land banks) which are of immense concern in present times and emphasized the importance of the Chamber in being a forum for discussion on such matters. The members of the Committee in turn put forward their own concerns to Dr. Gupta in areas related to land acquisition, investment and trade union problems.

On the eve of Rabindranath Tagore's 150th Birth Anniversary, the Chamber, in association with Tollygunge Club, organized 'Bengal Renaissance and Rabindranath', a function to remember Tagore's works and the Bengal Renaissance through an evening of music, dance and play reading. Smt. Mamata Banerjee, Hon'ble Union Railways Minister, who is also known to be a patron of arts, graced the occasion with her presence.

The programme was attended by over 600 guests and was very well appreciated.

During April 2010, the Chamber also organized a Social Dialogue on "Transition from Agriculture to Industry - Challenges and Opportunities" in association with Employers' Federation of India (EFI). The purpose of organizing this kind of social dialogue was to appreciate and understand the perspectives of the different social partners involved in this transition. The programme was addressed by Mr Sharad Patil, Secretary General, EFI, prominent trade union leaders and senior officials from the State Government.

The month concluded with a visit by an Australian trade delegation which met representatives and selected members of the Chamber. Opportunities for working together to promote business were analysed at the meeting.

We have lined up several exciting and engaging programmes in the coming months and do look forward to your personal presence and participation in them.

Sd/-
SANDIPAN CHAKRAVORTY
President

NEWS FLASH

An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of the Chamber will be held on 10th May 2010 at 6.00 p.m. in the Chamber premises. The purpose of the EGM is to consider amendments to certain Articles of Association of the Chamber. These amendments are related to induction of Chief Patron(s)/Patrons, raising the ceiling on maximum number of members, changes in certain nomenclatures and designations of Officers of the Chamber and miscellaneous changes.

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST



The Tourism Sub-Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a State-level photography competition on tourist attractions in West Bengal during the month of March 2010. The Statesman was the official Media Partner for the contest.

The event generated tremendous goodwill and thus had an excellent response. A total of 2809 entries were received. The entries were judged by a panel headed by the Photo Editor of The Statesman. The results were officially published in The Statesman on 15th April 2010. The total prize money was Rs.12,500/-. The prizes were sponsored by Features First, a content writing company.

The prize winners are as follows:

1st prize - Rs.5000 -

Mr. Avijit Bhakta for his photo, "Towards Destination" ▶



2nd prize - Rs.3000 - ▲

Mr. Debasish Tarafdar, for his photo, "Plucker" ▶

3rd prize - Rs.2000 -

Mr. Gautam Basu for his photo, "Canal Crossing" ▶



Five consolation prizes of Rs.500 each to Mr. Somenath Mukhopadhyay, Mr. Sudipto Das, Dr. Koushik Lahiri, Mr. Ayan Sinha and Mr. Abhiruk Lahiri.



MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

10TH APRIL, 2010, CHAMBER PREMISES

WORKSHOP ON QUALITY CIRCLE AND ISO CERTIFICATION FOR SMES



Mr. A R Bajjal, Chairperson, Manufacturing Sub-Committee during his Welcome Address.

In an endeavour to support small and medium scale enterprises (SME's) in improving business in today's competitive market, the Manufacturing Sub-Committee of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a programme on how "Quality Circle" movement and "ISO Certification" help in enhancing profitability.

The Chairperson of the Sub-Committee Mr. A.R. Bajjal delivered the inaugural address to welcome all those who were present at the Williamson Magor Hall. Mr. Arun K Sinha from Quality Circle Forum Kolkata Chapter (QCFI) made a PowerPoint presentation on the benefits of being a member of the Quality Circle group. Other speakers from Quality Circle were Mr. P.K. Maitra, Mr. A.K. Dasgupta and Mr. S.C Mitra who made a case study presentation of Emami Limited. They largely spoke about how Quality Circle was an effective way of employee involvement in solving recurring quality issues. It brought ownership of quality at the working level and by involvement also motivated the employees to deliver consistent quality. After the QCFI presentation, Mr. Debotosh



The workshop in progress.

Paul, Business Development Manager of DNV India conducted a technical session on ISO Certification. He made a PowerPoint presentation on a general introduction of standard ISO 9001:2008 and Implications in the SME segment. The presentation covered the benefits of having a Quality Management System based on ISO 9001:2008 in the SME segment. At the end of this presentation an interactive session followed with the speakers and the audience.

13TH APRIL, 2010, CHAMBER PREMISES

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH DR. SUBRATA GUPTA, IAS, MANAGING DIRECTOR, WEST BENGAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.,

The Chamber Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 13th April 2010 was graced by Dr. Subrata Gupta, Managing Director, WBIDC who addressed the members on that day.

Dr. Gupta raised a number of issues which are of immense concern in present times and emphasized the importance of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry in being a forum for discussion for industrialists on such matters. Of the issues that he brought up were water allocation policy, iron ore and coal, power supply lapses and land banks. The members of the Committee in turn put forward their own concerns to Dr. Gupta in areas related to land acquisition and investment, political interference and Union problems. These were discussed at length and Dr. Gupta shed light on how WBIDC was going about locating large stretches of land that were highly beneficial for industries but difficult to acquire. He informed that WBIDC was trying to create a land bank for industries, which could also attract some smaller units to set up operations around large industries. With reference to Union dominance, Dr. Gupta



Dr. Subrata Gupta, IAS, MD, WBIDC interacting with the Chamber Committee.

remarked that it was an area of concern that needed to be dealt with sternly by the industries and also there was a need for affected companies to approach the redressal system put up by the Government.

17TH APRIL, 2010, FAR PAVILION, THE TOLLYGUNGE CLUB

"BENGAL RENAISSANCE AND RABINDRANATH" ORGANIZED BY THE BENGAL CHAMBER AND THE TOLLYGUNGE CLUB



Mr. Sandipan Chakravorty, President of the Chamber escorting Smt. Mamata Banerjee, Hon'ble Union Railway Minister to the programme venue. Behind Mr. Chakravorty is Mr. Partha Chatterjee, Leader of Opposition in the West Bengal Assembly. Mr. A Lahiri, Past President of the Bengal Chamber and Vice President, Tollygunge Club is to the right (behind Mr. Chakravorty).

On the eve of Rabindranath Tagore's 150th Birth Anniversary, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and The Tollygunge Club organized Bengal Renaissance & Rabindranath, a function to remember Tagore's works and the Bengal Renaissance through an evening of music, dance and play reading. The programme was held on 17th April at The Tollygunge Club and the Chief Guest was Smt. Mamata Banerjee, Hon'ble Union



Smt. Mamata Banerjee being greeted with a flower bouquet by Mrs. Sandipan Chakravorty.



Shri Ranjit Mallick, renowned actor in conversation with Smt. Mamata Banerjee.

Railways Minister who is also known to be a patron of arts. The programme was also graced by two renowned actors – Shri Barun Chanda, who was Special Guest and Shri Ranjit Mallick, the Guest of Honour.

FAMD footnotes #3

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17TH APRIL, 2010, FAR PAVILION,
THE TOLLYGUNGE CLUB

BENGAL RENAISSANCE AND RABINDRANATH MOMENTS FROM THE SHOW



▲ Mr. Sandipan Chakravorty with the Master of Ceremonies for the evening, Mr. Barun Das (left).

The evening's programme was directed by the noted film and television personality, Ms. Sudeshna Roy. The programme was scripted by Ms. Subha Pal and anchored by Mr. Barun Das. The music was coordinated by Ms. Apala Basu. Some of the talented artistes who performed were Ms. Riddhi Bandyopadhyay, Ms. Rimjhim Mitra, Ms. Kamalini Mukherjee, Mr. George Baker and Mr. Devang Gandhi. The finale of the show was a solo performance by Smt. Sreeradha Bandyopadhyay who sang some Tagore classics interspaced with other songs.

The programme was attended by over 600 guests and was very well appreciated.



▲ Noted Rabindrasangeet singer, Smt. Sreeradha Bandyopadhyay (right) being greeted with a flower bouquet.



▶ A section of the audience.



21ST APRIL, 2010,
CHAMBER PREMISES

SOCIAL DIALOGUE ON "TRANSITION FROM AGRICULTURE TO INDUSTRY - CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES" WITH EMPLOYERS' FEDERATION OF INDIA



▲ L-R: Sri Sanjeev Chopra, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Agriculture, GoWB (at the podium), Mr. Khokan Mookerji, Chief Mentor, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. Sharad Patil, Secretary General, The Employers' Federation of India; Mr. Sandipan Chakravorty, President, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. B Santhanam, President, EFI; Mr. S. Majumdar, Director of Employment, West Bengal, Mr. P. Roy, Secretary General, The Bengal Chamber

The HR Sub-Committee of the Chamber organized the Social Dialogue in association with The Employers' Federation of India (EFI).

Mr. Sharad Patil, Secretary General, EFI remarked at the outset that the purpose of organizing this kind of social dialogue was to appreciate and understand the perspectives of different social partners involved in the transition. He also observed that the programme would welcome the difference in views of the stakeholders and seek a common approach to address the critical issue.

Among the speakers, from the Government, were Shri Sanjeev Chopra, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Agriculture, Government of West Bengal and Shri S. Majumdar, IAS, Director of



UPCOMING PROGRAMMES

- Interactive Seminar on Hooghly River – New Challenges, 19th May 2010, Chamber premises
- Human Resources and the Organization - Attitudinal and Behavioral Perspectives, 21st May 2010, Peerless Sarovar Portico, Durgapur
- Seminar on Competition Law and Policy in India, 1st June 2010, Chamber premises
- Workshop on Service Tax, 4th June 2010, Chamber premises
- Outreach 2010 – Financial Inclusion for the Common Indian, 12th June 2010, ITC Sonar, Kolkata

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EVENTS AT THE PALLADIAN LOUNGE



28th April 2010 -
HINDI PLAY

'Antar Hote Udasi'

Directed by Dolly Basu and presented by ChoopKatha.

A collage of Pakistani Short Stories in Hindi written by eminent Sindhi, Baluch and Punjabi writers.

It is a poignant reflection on our national characters, society and women's space in the society and honour killing.



21ST APRIL, 2010,
CHAMBER PREMISES

SOCIAL DIALOGUE ON "TRANSITION FROM AGRICULTURE TO INDUSTRY - CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES" WITH EMPLOYERS' FEDERATION OF INDIA



▲ Shri Samar Chakraborty, Secretary General, INTUC, West Bengal Branch

Employment, West Bengal.

Shri Chopra emphasized that for the sustenance of industry the base of agriculture had to be strong. In this context he gave reference of Punjab and Haryana. He also mentioned that the success of the country did not merely depend on the GDP of the country but also on

its distribution among the population. To minimize the gap between the haves and have-nots, stress has to be on development of agricultural entrepreneurs. He pointed out three areas for the development of agriculture – interest rate on agriculture would have to be lowered to 4%; industries using agricultural raw materials should be provided with incentive; transparency would have to be guaranteed in agricultural transaction. Shri S Majumdar stressed on the development of skills as per the requirement of the industries. He specifically spoke about the need for modernization of the milk industry. He also mentioned that in a populous country like India the benchmark for the success of an enterprise should include the number of beneficiaries.

The programme was also addressed by Trade Union Leaders like Shri Samar Chakraborty, Secretary General, INTUC, West Bengal Branch, Shri Kali Ghosh General Secretary, CITU and Shri Himangshu Das, AITUC. Employers' Perspective



▲ Mr. Sourav Daspatnaik, Director – HR & Strategy, Apeejay Group

was provided Mr. Saurav Daspatnaik, Director – HR & Strategy, Apeejay Group. He made a detailed presentation on Land Acquisition. Mr. B Santhanam, President, The Employers' Federation of India and Managing Director, Saint-Gobain Glass India Ltd., Chennai summed up the discussions.

23RD APRIL, 2010, CHAMBER PREMISES

AUSTRALIAN TRADE DELEGATION



▲ Seated from Left to Right - Mr. Khokan Mookerji, Chief Mentor, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. Brian Hayes, QC, South Australian Government's Special Envoy to India and Mr. P. Roy, Secretary General, The Bengal Chamber.

The Australian Trade Mission (Austrade), which was organizing the South Australian Mining and Technology Mission, visited The Bengal Chamber on 23rd April 2010. Select members of the Chamber were present along with the Secretary General and Chief Mentor for an interactive session with the Australian Trade Mission. Mr. Brian Hayes, QC, South Australian Government's Special Envoy to India led the Mission. Mr. Damian Papps, Director, Investments, Department of Trade & Economic Development, South Australia, and Mr. Andrew Rowett, Manager, Minerals Information and Promotion Branch, Primary Industries and Resources, SA, were present. At the start of the meeting, members of the Mission and the Chamber members introduced themselves to each other individually, laying emphasis on the kind of industrial work they were involved in. Once this session came to a close the Secretary General ushered all the members present to gather in the Williamson Magor Hall for a more private interaction with one another.

Meeting in progress with Australian Trade Mission ▶

