

BCC&ⁱ
THE BENGAL CHAMBER



Overseas Linkages



BUSINESS DELEGATION TO BHUTAN

12TH - 14TH MAY, 2015, THIMPHU

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a Business Delegation to Thimphu, Bhutan in association with The Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 12th and 13th May 2015. Some meetings continued till 14th May.

It was a nineteen-member delegation led by Dr. Alok Roy, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry including three members from the Chamber Secretariat.

The delegation visited His Excellency Tshering Tobgay, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bhutan on 13th May. The Hon'ble Prime Minister received the delegation very warmly. He observed that India is not only the closest neighbour of Bhutan but the most valued partner country as well. He also noted that growth of India and specifically West Bengal is crucial for the growth of Bhutan. He spoke fondly about Bhutan's association with India and West Bengal and that Siliguri is truly the gateway to Bhutan. He made special emphasis on Bhutan's reliance on West Bengal and Assam. He congratulated West Bengal on the success of the Global Bengal Business Summit on 7th and 8th January 2015 that was organized by the Government of West Bengal. Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry participated in it through The Bengal Chamber. The Hon'ble Prime Minister informed the delegation that Smt. Mamata Banerjee, Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal has been invited to Bhutan. Mr. D Karma Tsering Namgyal, Consul General of Bhutan in Kolkata was in touch with the Hon'ble Chief Minister's office. The Hon'ble Prime Minister individually interacted with some of the delegates including Mr. Subrata Dutta, Director, The George Telegraph Group; Mr. Pradip Bhowmick, Partner, KPMG Advisory Services Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Dhruv Bhalla, Vice President, Srei Infrastructure Finance Limited and Mr. Dibya Sankar Das, Managing Partner and Founder, Dellstar Overseas. Mr. Bhalla mentioned that his company, Srei, would be delighted to work with the Royal Government of Bhutan in the space of IT solutions and services for rural development. The Hon'ble Prime Minister mentioned to Mr. Subrata Dutta that vocational training would be a sector with great prospects in Bhutan.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister was invited to launch the Confederation of Eastern Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CECCI), spearheaded by The Bengal Chamber to bring the Chambers of Commerce in the 'East' (spanning the Eastern and North Eastern States and those from the eastern neighbours of India) together and create a common platform for the greater benefit of the common membership and industry and business at large. The forum would be utilized for B2B networking, communicating with the local Governments, experience / best practices sharing and even for addressing day-to-day operational issues faced by the cross-section of the membership who might need a helping hand from Partner Chambers while transacting business in neighbouring States and/or Countries. The Hon'ble Prime Minister indicated that Kolkata would be an ideal venue to organize such a programme. He also mentioned that he thought about Kolkata not because he had special connection with West Bengal as he had studied in Darjeeling but that he believed that the city had the potential to connect the 'East'.

Ms. Nina Tshering La, Counsellor, Embassy of India in Thimphu, Bhutan accompanied the delegation in the meeting.

The delegation also visited His Excellency Lyonpo Norbu Wangchuk, Hon'ble Minister of Economic Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan on 13th May 2015. The Hon'ble Minister shared his thoughts with the delegates. He highlighted that India-Bhutan relationship is at its peak. The cooperation has set a standard for the entire world. The foundation stone of the 600MW Kholongchu Hydro- electric project, a joint venture between India and Bhutan was laid by Shri Narendra Modi, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. Bhutan and India now produce the cheapest and cleanest energy, said the Minister. Geographically, Bhutan is the best place for setting up such projects. The good governance of the Royal Government of Bhutan made it possible for it to be accomplished in record time. He observed that the people in Bhutan have a close affinity towards the people of West Bengal, Bhutan's closest neighbour. The two countries share a Free Trade Agreement. The focus sectors of Bhutan are Education, Infrastructure, IT, Health, Mining amongst others. Bhutan has a high rate of ease of doing business. The Royal Government of Bhutan is committed to simplifying business processes for entrepreneurs and corporates alike. IT infrastructure and IT applications would play an important role in this procedure. The Minister spoke about this while responding to a query made by KPMG. Mr. Subrata Dutta proposed that George Telegraph would be delighted to be a Partner of the Government in the area of Skill Development. The partnership would ensure that the youth in Bhutan is trained with skills relevant to the industry. He was advised to submit a proposal to the Ministry of Labour and Human Resources. The Minister emphasized the importance of a close connection between the Government and the Industry. Accessibility would play an important role in this regard. The Minister ensured all investors would be provided personalized assistance for business in Bhutan.

The delegates had a lengthy discussion with Ms. Nina Tshering La on the 13th before meeting the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Minister of Economic Affairs. Ms. Nina Tshering La individually interacted with the delegates and advised on their scope of business in Bhutan. She mentioned that she had been in touch with Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Assistant Director, The Bengal Chamber and that she was happy that the Chamber had organized such a high level delegation. The economies of the two countries are well integrated. However, many Indian firms have reservations given the size of the market in Bhutan. The business collaborations are however increasing. There are 16 Indian FDIs in Bhutan.

She shared with the delegation in general and Mr. Subrata Dutta in particular that unemployment is an issue which needs to be addressed in Bhutan. Therefore, skill development and vocational training have great opportunities. Mr. Dutta observed that his Group would also be interested to invest in Bhutan if he had an investing partner. Mr. Dhruv Bhalla commented that he had fruitful discussions during the B2B

Meetings on the previous day. They would be interested in smart grid, financing of equipments and IT services for rural development. Mr. N K Ghosal, Director, NKG & Associates enquired about the scope of IT audit. He was told that this would be of interest to the Government as compliance is an important issue. He was advised to get in touch with the Secretary and Director of Information and Communications Ministry. Mr. Bidyut Majumder of JIS Group of Educational Initiatives was informed that Joint Venture Projects in Education would have great prospects.

The delegates had the B2B Meetings on 12th May. The meeting was attended by Mr. Phub Tshering, Secretary General; Mr. Kesang Wangdi Deputy Secretary General and other senior members of the Bhutan Chamber. Mr. Tshenchok Thinlay, Executive Director, Bhutan Airlines was also present.

The Bengal Chamber is in discussions with Mr. D Karma Tsering Namgyal for organizing a Indo-Bhutan Golf Tournament in

Kolkata where Golfers from Bhutan would participate. It was decided that a return programme would be organized in Bhutan where 20-25 golfers and industry captains would be invited. On this subject, Dr. Alok Roy had a meeting with the Bhutan Chamber and Col. Jambay Dorji, President, Bhutan Shooting Federation.

The programme concluded on 13th May 2015 with an MoU signing between the two Chambers. Mr. Ugen Tsechup Dorji, President, Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry was present in the Concluding Programme and Networking Dinner. He mentioned that Bhutan may be considered as the regional manufacturing hub. There are many areas in which The Bengal Chamber and Bhutan Chamber may work together. Import of vegetables and fruits from Bhutan to India is one such area. Bhutan could be the “vegetable basket” for the region. In fact, the country enjoyed such a climate that seasonal vegetables could be grown all through the year in different locations.

THE DELEGATION INCLUDED :

Dr. Alok Roy	President	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Chairman, Medica Group of Hospitals
Mr. Subrata Dutta	Director	The George Telegraph Group
Mr. Pradip Bhowmick	Partner	KPMG Advisory Services Pvt Ltd
Mr. Dhruv Bhalla	VP	SREI Infrastructure Finance Limited
Mr. Pratin Kumar Khanra	Director, Operation	Saraswati Print Factory Pvt Ltd
Mr. Jagadananda Mahapatra	Director	Terrablock Machinery Pvt Limited, Bhubaneswar, Odisha
Mr. Sanjeev Mahapatra	Director	Terrablock Machinery Pvt Limited, Bhubaneswar, Odisha
Mr. Dipnarayan Sinha	Head-Strategic Relation	Mission of Mercy Hospital and Research Centre
Mr Partha Sarathi Modak		Mission of Mercy Hospital and Research Centre
Mr. Onkar Kakar	Senior Associate	PQR Consultants Pvt Ltd
Mr. N K Ghosal	Director	NKG & Associates
Mr. Dibya Sankar Das	Managing Partner and Founder	Dellstar Overseas
M. Tarini Prasad Mohanty	Proprietor	Hotel Valley, Odisha
Mr. Arpit Mohanty	Agent	Naibuga Iron and Minerals Mines
Mr. Bidyut Majumder	AGM	JIS Group of Educational Initiatives
Mr. Ankur Saraogi	Proprietor	Genesis Creation
Mr. Subhodip Ghosh	Deputy Director General	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury	Assistant Director	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Ms. Lopamudra Dutta	Assistant Director	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry



Meeting with His Excellency Tshering Tobgay, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bhutan



Meeting with His Excellency Tshering Tobgay, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bhutan



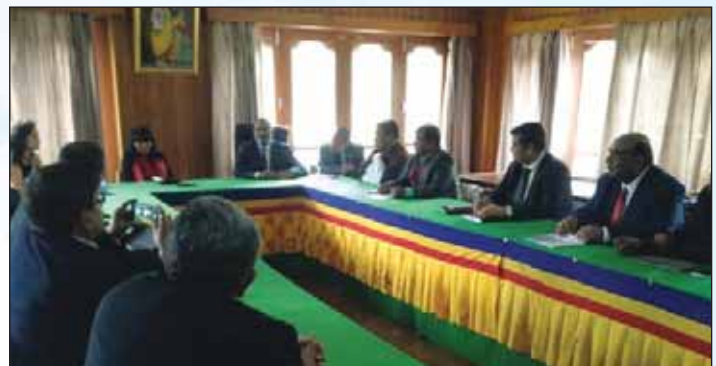
Meeting with His Excellency Lyonpo Norbu Wangchuk, Hon'ble Minister of Economic Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan



Meeting with His Excellency Lyonpo Norbu Wangchuk, Hon'ble Minister of Economic Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan



Meeting with Ms. Nina Tshering La, Counsellor, Embassy of India in Thimphu, Bhutan



Meeting with Ms. Nina Tshering La, Counsellor, Embassy of India in Thimphu, Bhutan



B2B Meetings in progress



B2B Meetings in progress



B2B Meetings in progress



B2B Meetings in progress



B2B Meetings in progress



B2B Meeting



B2B Meeting



B2B Meeting



Lunch with authentic Bhutanese cuisine



At Lunch with authentic Bhutanese cuisine



Delegation in front of Gyalong Tshogkhag, Thimphu



Mr. Phub Tshering, Secretary General, Bhutan Chamber of Commerce was the master of ceremonies in the Closing Session



Mr. Ugen Tsechup Dorji, President, Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry addressing during the Closing Session



Dr Alok Roy, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry addressing during the Closing Session



Signing of MoU



Cultural Performance



Networking Dinner



Networking Dinner



Dr Alok Roy presenting a memento to Mr. Kesang Wangdi, Deputy Secretary General, Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Dr Alok Roy presenting a memento to Mr. Sonam Phuntsho, Business Promotion Officer, Business Support Department, Bhutan Chamber of Commerce & Industry

BUSINESS DELEGATION TO MYANMAR

16TH - 20TH MAY, 2016, YANGON, NAY PYI TAW & MANDALAY

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry took a business delegation to Myanmar from 16th May to 20th May 2016. The delegation, led by the President Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, visited Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay. The delegation comprised of industry representatives from West Bengal and Odisha.

The delegation members were:

Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta	President	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Mr. Pratin Kumar Khanra	Director-operations	Saraswati Print Factory Pvt Ltd
Mr. Khitish Ch Patra	CEO	New Life Diagnostic & Xray
Mr. Narayan Kumar	Managing Director	Mediaid Venture Pvt Ltd
Mr. Sanjeev Mahapatra	Director	Terablock Machinery Pvt Ltd
Mr. Jagadananda Mahapatra	Director	Terablock Machinery Pvt Ltd
Mr. Shyam Sunder Dey	Head- Business Development	Woodland Multispeciality Hospital Limited
Mr. Prakash Shah	Chairman	G S Marketing Associates
Mr. Utpal Roy	Consultant (liaison & Marketing)	G S Marketing Associates
Mr. Chiranjib Bhattacharya	CEO	Wizertech Informatics Pvt. Ltd
Mr. Avik Roy	Managing Director	Re-emerging World Consulting Private Limited
Mr. Subhodip Ghosh	Director General Designate	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury	Assistant Director	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Mr. Sambit Dasgupta	Senior Manager	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry

The delegation met Union of Myanmar Federation Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) on 16th May 2016 in Yangon. The delegation was received by Ambassador Tint Swai, Chief Executive Officer. U Mg Mg Myint, Head of Department (IRD), UMFCCI was also present. Ambassador Tint Swai mentioned that Education and Healthcare sectors have immense opportunities in Myanmar. The institutions will have to showcase them well to attract business. Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General Designate proposed whether UMFCCI and BCC&I may formally work together to create a permanent forum for mutual collaborations, information sharing and facilitation to each others' members. A formal proposal will be submitted by BCC&I

The delegation met His Excellency U Ohn Maung, Hon'ble Minister of Hotels and Tourism, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Mr. Tint Thwin, Director General, Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Republic of The Union of Myanmar on 17th May 2016 in Nay Pyi Taw. The Hon'ble Minister expressed his pleasure receiving the delegation. It was the first delegation of this scale he received after taking over. He mentioned about Buddhist pilgrimage shared between India and Myanmar. Bodhi Gaya attracts many from Myanmar on account of Buddhist tourism. He also said that there are not that many footfalls from India to Myanmar. With more Indian footfall in Myanmar, people in Myanmar will get the opportunity to interact more with Indians which will further encourage business relationships. Indian investors in tourism sector are also welcome in Myanmar. The other areas, he advised, in which Indian businesses are having opportunities in Myanmar are HR Training (as Myanmar needs capacity building in different sectors); IT including data collection and others; Skill Development especially English Language Training, and Mines and Minerals. The Bengal Chamber will submit a proposal of organizing a Golf Delegation to Myanmar which will be combined with a HR programme and Skill Development including English Language Training.

President mentioned that this will lead to golf tourism from India to Myanmar which will give them exposure to Myanmar as a tourism destination. The Chamber will also submit a proposal to connect Kolkata and Yangon as Sister Cities to promote Buddhist Tourism. The proposal of Myanmar's participation in India International Mega Trade Fair in December 2016 in Kolkata was submitted to the Hon'ble Minister. This will give businesses in Myanmar exposure to the consumers' market in Kolkata and also B2B network of other countries participating in the Fair. The Hon'ble Minister was also invited to the Inauguration. Indo-Myanmar Cultural Programme, on occasion of the International Trade Fair, was also proposed to the Hon'ble Minister. The President informed that The Bengal Chamber would be delighted to offer the platform to promote Myanmar reaching out to Indian Stakeholders.

The delegation met Professor Thet Khaing Win, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Myanmar on 17th May 2016. Opportunities of promoting medical tourism from Myanmar to India were reiterated. The Permanent Secretary suggested that experts from Indian healthcare sector may also visit Myanmar and work in collaboration with their local counterparts. Medical Education Institutions of both the countries may collaborate. Indian Pharmaceutical organizations may set up factories in Myanmar. The Bengal Chamber proposed whether research may be conducted jointly by both the countries given most diseases are of similar nature due to similar climatic conditions. Funds from International Funding Agencies may also be approached together. Expertise on telemedicine and other technology expertise for providing healthcare to the people in Myanmar may be provided as well. In this context, the Permanent Secretary mentioned that connectivity may be an issue. There is a need to create IT infrastructure, connectivity and security. The Permanent Secretary advised to get in touch with the office of Minister of Transport and Communication in this context.

The delegation split in two groups on 18th May 2016. One group went to Mandalay for B2B Meetings and the other returned to Yangon to meet His Excellency Dr. Than Myint, Union Minister, Ministry of Commerce, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The second group also participated in the Dinner hosted by the Embassy of India in Yangon.

The Hon'ble Minister started his speech with the emotional connection people in Myanmar share with Indians. He also referred to the historical connection the two countries share. He mentioned that Myanmar, with the new Government, is opening its market. The country is very keen to retain its good relationship with India and increase trade and commerce. More investments from India are expected. Infrastructure and capacity building are areas Myanmar is focusing on and the Indian companies may value add. The Hon'ble Minister mentioned that his Ministry is responsible for promoting Myanmar's trade with other countries and the Ministry is focusing on increasing exports. In this context, the Hon'ble Minister was apprised about the India International Mega Trade Fair organized by The Bengal Chamber with GS Marketing Associates who were also part of the delegation. The Chamber also apprised the Hon'ble Minister about the International Conference on Pulses in Kolkata, India in commemoration of this year being the International Year of Pulses as declared by the United Nations. The programme is being scheduled towards the end of 2016. The date will be finalized shortly in consultation with the Government of India and Government of West Bengal. The Chamber believes that it would be only be befitting to have

Myanmar as our Partner Country for this programme. The Hon'ble Minister assured that he would look into the matter and his Ministry would evaluate the same discussing with the private sector.

The Delegation participated in a Dinner hosted by the Embassy of India in Yangon on the occasion of Myanmar-India Business Conclave: Forging Partnerships. The Dinner was graced by Ms. Nirmla Sitharaman, Hon'ble Commerce Minister of India; Dr. Than Myint, Union Minister, Ministry of Commerce, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar; Ambassador Gautam Mukhopadhyaya, Indian Embassy in Yangon; Dr. Nandakumar Nagendran, Consul General, Consulate General of India in Mandalay; Smt. Arundhati Bhattacharya, CMD, State Bank of India and other dignitaries. It provided a significant networking session for the delegates with the business community in Myanmar and also with the Indian Diaspora in Myanmar.

Part of the delegation accompanied by one of the Chamber secretariat members visited Mandalay. In Mandalay, the delegation split according to their sectors of interest and one team met members of **Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association**, while the others headed to the Consulate Office in Mandalay for their relevant **B2B with representatives from the health sector.** The entire delegation which visited Mandalay assembled in CGI's office after their respective meetings. The delegates were received by Mr. Vipin Sharma, Consul, Indian Consulate General of India in Mandalay. The delegation visited



Meeting with Union of Myanmar Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) CEO, Yangon, Myanmar



Meeting with Professor Thet Khaing Win, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Health, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar



Meeting with His Excellency, U Ohn Maung, Hon'ble Minister of Hotels and Tourism, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar



The delegation with His Excellency, U Ohn Maung, Hon'ble Minister of Hotels and Tourism, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar



Meeting with His Excellency Dr. Than Myint, Union Minister, Ministry of Commerce, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Yangon, Myanmar



The delegates with His Excellency Dr. Than Myint, Union Minister, Ministry of Commerce, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Yangon, Myanmar



Delegates at Shwedagon Pagoda, Yangon, Myanmar



Meeting with business entrepreneurs/companies at Mandalay Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industries (MRCCI), Mandalay, Myanmar



Meeting with business entrepreneurs/companies at Mandalay Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Mandalay, Myanmar



At Indian Consulate General office in Mandalay, Myanmar



Meeting with business entrepreneurs/companies at Mandalay Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industries (MRCCI), Mandalay, Myanmar



Meeting at Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association, Mandalay, Myanmar



Meeting with His Excellency U Khin Maung Cho, Union Minister, Ministry of Industry, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Yangon, Myanmar



At Indo-Myanmar Business Conclave, Yangon, Myanmar



B2B Meetings in progress, UMFCCI office, Yangon, Myanmar



B2B Meetings in progress, UMFCCI office, Yangon, Myanmar

Mandalay Regional Chamber of Commerce and Industries (MRCCI) for the prescheduled B2B meetings. **Dr. Maung Maung, Secretary General of MRCCI greeted the delegation.**

The Delegation met His Excellency U Khin Maung Cho, Union Minister, Ministry of Industry, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar on 19th May 2016 in Yangon and participated in the Myanmar-India Business Conclave. The Hon'ble Minister listened to the areas of interest of the delegation. He took interest in the India International Mega Trade Fair. He advised to focus on Small and Medium businesses in Myanmar like fisheries, agro based, food processing, light engineering and others. The Bengal Chamber apprised him about the project on MSME zoning that the Chamber is undertaking in West Bengal. The same may be done for the Myanmar Government as well as the MSMEs in Myanmar which are also classified in terms of geographical area

like that in West Bengal.

During the Myanmar-India Business Conclave, Ambassador Gautam Mukhopadhyaya expressed his appreciation for the delegation that the Chamber organized and requested the Chamber to work towards catalyzing connectivity between Kolkata and Sittwe Port, Myanmar. The deepwater port at Sittwe in Rakhine State in Myanmar is located on the Bay of Bengal at the mouth of the Kaladan River. Sittwe Port will be linked with Kolkata Port covering a distance of 539 km. The port has been financed and constructed by India at a cost of US\$120 million and is part of the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project, which is a joint collaboration between India and Myanmar.

BUSINESS DELEGATION TO ITALY

14TH - 19TH JULY, 2016

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a business delegation to Italy on invitation from Ambassador Anil Wadhwa, Embassy of India in Rome; from 14th July to 19th July 2016

The delegation visited Milan and Rome in Italy and also San Marino, which is an independent sovereign republic sharing all its boundaries with Italy. As informed by the Embassy of India in Rome, it was a first-of-its-kind delegation from a region in India to Italy.

Name	Designation	Organization
Dr. Parimal Chandra Biswas	Director, International Affairs	Adamas University
Mr. Partha Mukherjee	Director	Adamas University
Mr. Onkar Banerjee	Managing Director	Birdman Chemeng Pvt. Ltd.
Mr. Rajat Subhra Chatterjee	Chief Executive	Birdman Chemeng Pvt. Ltd.
Mr. Ratiraj Tibrewal	President	Choice Peers International Pvt Ltd., Mumbai
Mr. Sayantan Sarkar	Director	Cyan Creations
Ms. Sila Singh Ghosh	Vice President- Corporate Relations	JIS Group
Mr. Abhisek Jain	Managing Director	Perfect Washers Fasteners Pvt. Ltd
Ms. Rimi Nayak	CEO	Rimi Nayak India
Mr. Chiranjib Bhattacharya	CEO	Wizertech Informatics Pvt. Ltd
Secretariat		
Mr. Subhodip Ghosh	Director General Designate	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury	Assistant Director	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Mr. Sambit Dasgupta	Sr. Manager	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry

14th July 2016

The delegation was invited to participate in the Seminar on 'Indian Opportunities for Italian Companies' in Melia Hotel, Milan on 14th July 2016, organized by ANIMA (Federation of the Italian Associations of Mechanical and Engineering Industries). The programme was graced by Ambassador Anil Wadhwa and Mr. Carlo Banfi, Vice President, ANIMA (Italy). The other speakers included:

- Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General Designate, The Bengal Chamber who addressed 'Opportunities of Italian Companies in West Bengal'
- Mr. Vivek Abraham, Assistant Vice President, Invest India who addressed 'The New India Story' and 'Opportunities for Italian companies in various sectors (food technology, water, energy including oil and gas, green technologies, infrastructure, automotive and others)'
- Mr. Vincenzo Abbate, International Relations, SACE and Mr. Marco Rosati, Italy Desk Responsible, Simest. They spoke on 'Support to export and investment abroad for Italian companies'
- Mr. Carlo Banfi also addressed 'Italian Excellence in Manufacturing - presenting the technologies and sectors in focus'.

The programme was followed by B2B Meetings which were joined by the members of the delegation from West Bengal.

There was also a display kiosk of Indian textiles and fashion products by the two members of the delegation who were fashion designers.

15th July 2016

The delegation visited San Marino. The Bengal Chamber took the first initiative of taking a business delegation from India to San Marino.

San Marino is perhaps the world's oldest surviving republic. It is an enclave in Italy, on the border between the region of Emilia Romagna and Marche and about 10 km (6.21 mi) from the Adriatic coast at Rimini. It is part of the Apennine mountain range. It has a population of 32000 with GDP being \$ 1.365 billion (PPP 2012 est.) and GDP per capita at around \$55,000. The main industries are tourism, banking, textiles, electronics, ceramics, cement, wine, paints, furniture and others. It has the lowest unemployment rate in Europe with a State Budget surplus and no National Debt.

The delegation attended a meeting organized by San Marino Chamber of Commerce. The meeting was attended by Ms. Antonella Mularni, Minister of Economy and International Cooperation and Mr. Marco Arzilli, Minister of Industry, San Marino. Mr. Massimo Ghiotti, General Manager, San Marino Chamber of Commerce was also present. Dr. Madan Mohan Sethi, First Secretary (Commercial), Embassy of India in Rome was present in San Marino with the Chamber's delegation.

The Bengal Chamber extended an invitation to San Marino Chamber of Commerce to bring a business delegation to West Bengal. The delegation is expected within a year.

Ministries of San Marino present in the meeting and the Embassy of India both confirmed that India and San Marino share an excellent diplomatic relationship. Both the countries are keen to enhance the business relationship. The Meeting included presentation from The Bengal Chamber on 'Opportunities in West Bengal' and addresses by the abovementioned Ministries of San Marino and the Embassy of India in Rome. It was then followed by B2B Meetings.

The B2B Meetings revealed that there was a great interest of the business community in San Marino to explore West Bengal/India. The sectors of interest are architecture, furniture, healthcare, startup village, food processing and others.

The delegation travelled to Rome the following day on 15th July 2016. The next meeting was held in Rome on 18th July 2016.

18th July 2016

The Delegation attended the Trade and Business Meeting at Embassy of India in Rome. The programme opened with welcome remark by the Ambassador. Mr. Subhodip Ghosh presented the Opportunities in West Bengal to the business community in Rome present in the said Meeting. Mr. Maurizio Miranda, President, Indo-Italian Institute for Trade and Technology presented '30 years of Trade, Technology, Innovation, Investments and Culture – Now the new revolution'. Mr. Maurizio Accinni, Senior International Development Manager, Corporate Division, BNL BNP Paribas Group presented 'BNL and BNP Paribas Group support to bilateral trade and investments'.

This was followed by B2B Interactions.

19th July 2016

The concluding day, 19th July 2016, was utilized for follow up and additional B2B Meetings.



Ambassador Anil Wadhwa, Embassy of India in Rome addressing the Seminar on 'Indian Opportunities for Italian Companies'



The Delegation



Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General Designate, The Bengal Chamber addressing 'Opportunities of Italian Companies in West Bengal' at the Seminar on 'Indian Opportunities for Italian Companies'



Bengal Chamber Delegation in audience at Seminar on 'Indian Opportunities for Italian Companies'. Ambassador Anil Wadhwa (L) and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh (R) seated in the front row



Introduction of Delegates



Introduction of Delegates



Introduction of Delegates



B2B Meeting is progress after Seminar on 'Indian Opportunities for Italian Companies'



In San Marino- Seated (L-R): Mr. Vivek Abraham, Assistant Vice President, Invest India; Dr. Madan Mohan Sethi, First Secretary (Commercial), Embassy of India in Rome; Mr. Marco Arzilli, Minister of Industry, San Marino; Ms. Antonella Mularni, Minister of Economy and International Cooperation, San Marino; Mr. Massimo Ghiotti, General Manager, San Marino Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Subhodip Ghosh



Mr. Massimo Ghiotti (L) and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh (R)



Ambassador Anil Wadhwa welcoming the delegates and participants in the Trade and Business Meeting at the Embassy of India in Rome



Mr. Subhodip Ghosh addressing the seminar in Rome



Dr. Madan Mohan Sethi, First Secretary (Commercial), Indian Embassy in Rome initiating the B2B Meetings at the Embassy of India in Rome



B2B Meetings in progress at Embassy of India in Rome



B2B Meetings in progress at Embassy of India in Rome



B2B Meetings in progress at Embassy of India in Rome



Presentation of Chamber's Memento and Publication –'Discover Bengal' to Mr. Maurizio Miranda, President, Indo-Italian Institute for Trade and Technology



Presentation of Chamber's Memento and Publication –'Discover Bengal' to Mr. Maurizio Accinni, Senior International Development manager, Corporate Division, BNL BNP Paribas Group

VISIT TO RUSSIA

7TH - 12TH NOVEMBER, 2016

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry visited Moscow, Russia on invitation from OPORA Russia from 7th to 12th November 2016.

OPORA Russia, Moscow is the regional department of the Russian non-government organization for small and medium entrepreneurs. It works efficiently in a whole range of the areas to execute its key tasks covering representation of the interests of small and medium businesses in Russia and in Moscow. Their goals include the improvement of the existing relevant legislations in Russia, protection of the entrepreneurs' rights and interests and interacting with various authorities with the objective being addressing the issues confronting MSMEs in Russia.

The visit was organized with active support from the Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Kolkata.

Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General and Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Assistant Director visited along with Mr. Simarpreet Singh, Managing Committee Member, The Bengal Chamber and Director, JIS Group- the Chief Patron of the Chamber along with his colleague, Ms. Sila Singh Ghosh, Vice President-Corporate Relations.

Day 1: 8th November 2016

The Chamber representatives attended The International Export Forum – “Made in Russia”, organized by the Russian Export Center at World Trade Center, Moscow.

The Plenary Session “Russia on the map of world trade – a new paradigm for development” included the following discussion topics:

- The effectiveness of the Russian system for supporting exports
- Russia's current place in global trade
- Barriers for Russian exports



L-R: Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Assistant Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry ; Mrs. Veronika Peshkova, OPORA Russia; Ms. Sila Singh Ghosh, Vice President-Corporate Relations, JIS Group; Mr. Simarpreet Singh, Managing Committee Member, The Bengal Chamber and Director, JIS Group and Mr Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry at The International Export Forum – “Made in Russia”, organized by Russian Export Center at World Trade Centre, Moscow

- Russia's prospects for integration into global trade chains, international cooperation and integration
- New format of exports: exporting services

The discussion's participants included: First Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Igor Shuvalov; Minister of Industry and Trade, Mr. Denis Manturov; CEO of the Russian Export Center, Mr. Petr Fradkov; Member of the Board and Minister for Trade of the Eurasian Economic Commission, Ms. Veronika Nikishina; and, CEO of the Agency for Strategic Initiatives, Mr. Andrey Nikitin. Mr. Valery Fadeyev, Editor-in-Chief, Export Magazine moderated the Session.

The other Sessions of the Forum included :

- Master Class by the Education Project of Russian Export Center
- Presentation of the new project “Online database of export statistics on Russian regions”
- Panel Session “Seeking new points of growth- exporting services”
- Panel Session “Exporting Non-Commodity Goods as part of shaping Russia's image in the world”
- Practical seminar on certification of Russian goods

- Panel Session “Foreign trade education – a tool to kickstart exporting”
- Panel Session “E-commerce – high priority for exports”

On the sidelines of the Forum, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce had a meeting with Mr. Konshin Mikhail, International Sales Department Head, Sady Pridonia Group of Companies, Russian producer of natural juices and natural baby food (puree) made of natural fruits and vegetables. The Chamber assured assistance to him in connecting with potential distributors/retailers in India.



Mr. Subhodip Ghosh at The International Export Forum – “Made in Russia”, organized by Russian Export Center at World Trade Center, Moscow



Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury at The International Export Forum – “Made in Russia”, organized by Russian Export Center at World Trade Center, Moscow



First Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, Igor Shuvalov



Plenary Session of The International Export Forum – “Made in Russia”, organized by Russian Export Center at World Trade Center, Moscow



Ms. Sila Singh Ghosh and Mr. Simarpreet Singh at The International Export Forum – “Made in Russia”, organized by Russian Export Center at World Trade Center, Moscow



Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh at The International Export Forum – “Made in Russia”, organized by Russian Export Center at World Trade Center, Moscow

Day 2 : 9th November 2016

The following meetings were held on the Day 2: 9th November 2016 : ● Moscow State University Science Park ● Russian Franchise Association (RFA) ● Indian Embassy in Moscow

● **Moscow State University Science Park**

Mr. Vasily Petrechenko, Deputy CEO, Moscow State University Science Park met the Chamber representatives. The meeting commenced with an introduction of the Science Park.

MSU Science Park is the oldest of the operating technoparks in Russia. MSU Science Park provides office and laboratory premises in the centre of Moscow in the close vicinity to the best University in Russia, the Moscow State University. One hundred twenty technological (IT, industrial engineering, medical devices and oil & gas services) companies are the residents of the Science Park.

Residents of the Science Park undertake joint studies with MSU laboratories with the involvement of the University graduates. A number of centres for collective use equipped with the State-of-the-Art equipment are operating at MSU including centres for preclinical trials, nano-materials, materials testing and others.

A Letter of Intent was requested from the Science Park expressing interest of working together following which the two organizations may share details about their projects to identify the suitable one(s).

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry separately proposed an institutional partnership with the Science Park. The Chamber requested the Science Park to share their updates on various innovations taking place in their eco-system which the Chamber will circulate among their members and stakeholders for match making.



At Moscow State University Science Park

Two of the residents made presentations on their innovations.

LighTiO: It produces coatings for the greenhouses. The same may be used for cars - side mirrors, side windows, head lights and others. The solution may be used for buildings in India with glass walls. This will save resources involved for cleaning the walls. The Chamber mentioned that the proposal may be circulated to its members and stakeholders in the domain of construction.

Naftobioclean: They provide solutions for water treatment for industrial and storm drains. Their usage is in :

- o Airfields and airports
- o Thermal Power Stations
- o Car Parking Areas
- o Others

The solution does not work for arsenic treatment. It may be used for treating water borne effluents from chemical plants and the above mentioned work spaces. The Chamber enquired whether the same may be used for treating water flowing from leather parks. The concerned person indicated that the same was possible but water sample test would provide a better feedback.

The Chamber made an introduction of West Bengal and the activities of the Bengal Chamber. Some other projects were briefly discussed in the IT domain like online portal for private tutors.



Chamber representatives with Mr. Vasily Petrechenko, Deputy CEO, Moscow State University Science Park

● **Russian Franchise Association (RFA)**

The Meeting was held in the office of Baskin Robbins Russia. Dr. Agnessa Osipova, President, Baskin Robbins (Russia) received the Chamber representatives. She is also the President of RFA. She mentioned that the markets of both the countries are developing. There lies significant scope for businesses in both the countries to explore contacts for business enhancement.

The Chamber briefed about the historical linkage shared by West Bengal with Russia and the State's strategic location. The Chamber also mentioned about its stakeholders who



Meeting with Russian Franchise Association (RFA) at Baskin Robbins Russia



Chamber representatives at Baskin Robbins Russia

are in the business domain of hyper markets with whom discussions may be initiated to import consumable goods from Russia.

The Chamber proposed to form an institutional partnership with RFA to share updates from stakeholders/members of both organizations for mutual benefits. This may be an online platform. Nodal persons from both organizations would be nominated.

RFA mentioned that a catalogue would be published by them with the details of various franchises. A sample of an existing catalogue was shared. They offered that the publication may also include Indian organizations interested to work in Russian market as franchise holders.

The Chamber representatives were also escorted to a tour in the production centre of Baskin Robbins.

● **Indian Embassy in Moscow**

The Chamber representatives visited the Indian Embassy in Moscow and met Shri Pankaj Saran, Ambassador, Embassy of India in Moscow and Shri K D Dewal, First Secretary (HOC and Commercial), Indian Embassy in Moscow.

The Ambassador received the Chamber representatives very warmly and expressed his great appreciation to the Chamber for visiting Russia. The Chamber briefed the Ambassador about its activities especially about its outreach activities. The Director General mentioned that there had been a steady increase of interest, among the members, to explore the overseas markets.

The Ambassador mentioned that the Economic and Commercial Sections of the Embassy had been strengthened. The Ambassador advised that participating in mega programmes in Russia is a way of exploring participation in the Russian market. The Chamber may explore bringing delegations to participate in such programmes in St. Petersburg and Vladivostok. Some of the focus areas are:

- Pharmaceuticals ● Agro ● Minerals ● Chemicals
- Others

The Embassy offered to provide guidance on sectors of exports from India to Russia. The Ambassador also mentioned that both the countries have to be made aware about business potentiality of each other. The Chamber may play a role to address this gap.

The Ambassador advised that collaborations with some Regions (apart from Moscow) may be explored. Showcasing West Bengal to the Regions of Russia was also recommended. He assured all support from the Embassy for Chamber’s initiatives in Russia. Some of the sectors which have significant potentiality are:

- Restaurants ● Yoga ● Ayurveda ● Textiles ● Tea

He also mentioned about :

- Cyber Security ● Defence – manufacturing of components



Chamber representatives with Shri Pankaj Saran, Ambassador, Embassy of India in Moscow



Representatives from The Bengal Chamber of Commerce of Industry and OPORA, Russia with Shri K D Dewal, First Secretary (HOC and Commercial), Indian Embassy in Moscow.

Day 3: 10th November 2016

Meetings on Day 3 included :

- **Meeting with Ministry of Economic Development**
- **Meeting with Ulyanovsk Region**
- **Meeting with Ministry of Economic Development**

The Meeting was chaired by Ms. Natalia N. Strigunova, Deputy Director, Asia, Africa and Latin America Department, Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation. Representatives from OPORA Russia; Moscow State University and other stakeholders including a senior functionary from

the Region of Tatarstan also participated in the Meeting.

The Deputy Director provided an overview of the business landscape in Russia and possible areas of collaborations between businesses of Russia and West Bengal. The Director General made a presentation on West Bengal and the possible areas of collaboration. Tea, engineering and logistics were discussed in particular.

● **Meeting with Ulyanovsk Region**

The Chamber representatives met the representatives from the Government and business fraternity of Ulyanovsk Region. The delegation from Ulyanovsk Region was headed by Her Excellency Ms. Tatyana Murdasova, Deputy Governor to Ulyanovsk Region. Mr. Igor Rybikov, Deputy Director, Ulyanovsk

Region Development Corporation was also present. Mr. Rybikov made a presentation on “Doing Business in Ulyanovsk Region”. The Meeting continued with presentations from some innovative enterprises:

- ZAO PromServis- Energy saving, diagnostics, expertise
- Industrial Group: MICROELECTRONIC SENSORS
- G C Tools, Ltd.
- Development of Federal Multifunctional Roadside Service Complex (MFC) «Travel Park
- Tourism and Recreation Area: Handicrafts Centre
- Treatment and Diagnostic Centre for Rehabilitation and Restorative Medicine in Dimitrovgrad, Ulyanovsk Region



Meeting in progress with Ministry of Economic Development of The Russian Federation



Mr Subhodip Ghosh making a presentation on Bengal at the meeting with the Ministry of Economic Development of The Russian Federation



Meeting with Ulyanovsk Region



Meeting in progress with Ministry of Economic Development of The Russian Federation.



Chamber representatives with Her Excellency Ms. Tatyana Murdasova, Deputy Governor to Ulyanovsk Region and Mr. Igor Rybikov, Deputy Director, Ulyanovsk Region Development Corporation

Day 4: 11th November 2016

On Day 4, the Chamber representatives had the following agenda :

- **Workshop on “Recommendations for the Foreign Investors in Russia”**
- **Meeting with Institute for Emerging Market Studies (IEMS), Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO**
- **Meeting with Education Sector**

The Team split in two groups - Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Mr. Simarpreet Singh and Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury

attended the above mentioned Workshop and the Meeting with Institute for Emerging Market Studies (IEMS), Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO. Ms. Sila Singh Ghosh met the representatives of Education sector separately.

● **Workshop on “Recommendations for the Foreign Investors in Russia”**

The Workshop was conducted by Mr. Pavel Gagarin, Chairman of the Board, Gradient Alpha Investments Group. He is an expert in investments, taxation, banking and strategic risk-management. Gradient Alpha Investments Group has 22 years of work experience, being the 13th largest audit company in Russia. They have 2137 successfully implemented projects and among which 97% is drafted according to the need of the clients.

● **Meeting with Institute for Emerging Market Studies (IEMS), Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO**

The Chamber representatives met the Institute for Emerging Market Studies (IEMS), Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO.

Mr. Alexey Kalinin, Director and Ms. Ekaterina Molchanova, Project Leader, Institute for Emerging Market Studies (IEMS), Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO received the Chamber representatives along with their other colleagues.

The Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO is one of the leading private business schools in Russia and the CIS. It was founded in 2006 by members of the business community. The school’s founding partners are 8 Russian and multinational firms and 11 individuals, each a leader of Russian business. The International Advisory Board of the Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO provides strategic advice and participates in shaping the school’s development. The Board includes Mr. Dmitry Medvedev, Prime Minister of the Russian

Federation.

The Institute provides Business Education and undertakes Research. Business Education includes MBA, Executive MBA and Start Up Programmes and Leadership Programmers for SMEs. The theme is how Russia may contribute to the world. The Global IEMS Network is supported by Ernst and Young. MSU has collaboration with ISB Hyderabad in India. The Partners are China Europe International Business School in Shanghai, Hong Kong University of Technology and others. MSU provides advice, education and information to policy makers, industry and society. The focus areas are:

- Rise of Asia and China
- Digital Transformation and Innovation
- Sustainable Business
- Globalization
- Urbanization

The Bengal Chamber also made a presentation on Bengal – its locational advantage and resources and the Chamber’s role in setting up social and educational institutions in West Bengal. The Chamber proposed to work together with SKOLKOVO in areas of mutual interest citing its deep connect with higher education and policy advocacy.

Presentations of some innovative products/services by the residents were made at the Forum as under:

- Cardberry
- Motorica
- Group IB

The Chamber representatives were also invited to the Speaker’s Night organized by SKOLKOVO – a Talk by Dr. Sergei Guriev, Chief Economist of European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

Ms. Sila Singh Ghosh had meetings with the Education Sector organized by the Indian Embassy. Dr Abhishek Vaish, (Counsellor – Science and Technology) was present in the Meeting.



Mr. Pavel Gagarin, Chairman of the Board, Gradient Alpha Investments Group



Workshop on “Recommendations for the Foreign Investors in Russia” in progress



Chamber representatives at Institute for Emerging Market Studies (IEMS), Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO



Mr Subhodip Ghosh making a presentation on The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the Institute for Emerging Market Studies (IEMS), Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO



Chamber representatives at Institute for Emerging Market Studies (IEMS), Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO



Meeting in progress in Institute for Emerging Market Studies (IEMS), Moscow School of Management SKOLKOVO



Talk by Dr. Sergei Guriev, Chief Economist of European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

INDIA MEETS TUSCANY : BUSINESS SUMMIT

8TH NOVEMBER, 2016, FLORENCE, ITALY

Confindustria Industrie, in association with the Indian Embassy, Rome, organized a business meet between India & Tuscany in Florence, with a specific focus on Business collaborations in Fashion, Mechanical Engineering & Life Sciences sectors.

The MSME Department, Government of West Bengal, presented West Bengal as a possible Investment destination. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Rajiva Sinha, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, MSME & Textiles, Government of West Bengal spoke on West Bengal's inherent locational advantages, and highlighted the many investment opportunities present in WB which could be of interest to Italian Companies. Dr. Sinha highlighted the inherent advantages that West Bengal offered to potential investors particularly in the areas of Urban Infrastructure, IT (both Hardware & Software), ITeS, Maritime as well as MSMEs. Dr. Sinha also elaborated on the key initiatives of the State Government with special emphasis on e-Governance, the Simplified Tax Regime in the State, Industrial Promotion Initiatives of the State, Single Window clearance systems, etc. He requested Italian companies to look seriously at West Bengal, and requested all present to be a part of the forthcoming Bengal Global Business Summit 2017.

The Bengal Chamber was also a part of this programme, and took active part in the deliberations with some Italian companies with special interests in the Manufacturing domain.



Director, Bengal Chamber, Mr Smarajit Purkayastha, with Dr Madan Mohan Sethi, First Secretary, Commercial, Indian Embassy, Rome



The Business Session in progress

BUSINESS DELEGATION TO BANGLADESH

15TH - 18TH FEBRUARY, 2017

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry took a business delegation to Bangladesh from 15th February to 18th February 2017. The delegation, led by Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Immediate Past President, BCC&I and co-led by Mr. R.N. Lahiri, Chairperson Emeritus, IT Committee of BCC&I, visited Dhaka and Chittagong. The delegation comprised of industry representatives from Bengal and Delhi.

The members of the delegation were :

Name	Designation	Organization
Mr Ambarish Dasgupta	Immediate Past President	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Mr. R.N. Lahiri	Director	Techno India Group
Capt S B Mazumder	Executive Director	Seahorse Ship Agencies Pvt Ltd
Mr. K K Mahapatra	Associate Vice President, IT Infrastructure (Business) & Infocom	ABP Pvt. Ltd.
Mr. Dhruv Bhalla	Vice President and Head - International Business, Corporate Strategy and Planning	SREI Infrastructure Finance Limited
Mr. Owaiz Hossain	Chief Manager - International Business	SREI Infrastructure Finance Limited
Mr. Ashok Kr Goswami	Wholetime Director	India Power Corporation Limited
Mr. Dibya Sankar Das	Managing Partner	Dellstar Overseas
Mr. Nihar Chakraborty	Senior Vice President & COO – EAST & SAARC Countries	Sify Technologies Limited
Mr. Puneet Malik	Regional Marketing Head : SAARC Countries	Sify Technologies Limited
Mr. Rajat Upadhyay	Head Solution Architect	Sify Technologies Limited
Mr. Rafiqul Hasan	Chairman Cum Managing Director	M/s Techno Industry
Mr. Syed A Nabi	Director	M/s Techno Industry
Mr. Shubhabrata Som	Director	NrXen IT Technologies Private Limited
Mr. Vikash Sharma	Director	NrXen IT Technologies Private Limited
Mr. Arup Dutta	Technical Director	KPMG Advisory Services Private Ltd
Mr. Smarajit Purkayastha	Assistant Director General	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Mr. Sambit Dasgupta	Sr. Manager- Market, Research and Development	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Ms. Sankalpita Aich	Junior Programme Executive	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry

■ Day 1: 15th February 2017: Dhaka

● Discussion and B2B Meeting with FBCCI :

On 15th February 2017, the delegation members had B2B interaction with the members of The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) at Nitol Centre, Dhaka. The delegation was received by Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad, President, FBCCI and Chairman, Nitol- Niloy Group. Before the formal meeting, the delegation members had an informal interaction with the President of FBCCI, briefing him about their sectors of interest and their business purpose in Bangladesh. The Formal B2B meeting was also presided by Mr. Ahmad. The Bengal Chamber Delegation Co-leader Mr. R. N. Lahiri, delivered the opening remarks. In his remarks, he mentioned about the close cultural and demographic similarities that the two countries share and requested the delegate members for their self-

introduction and also requested his colleagues to highlight their objective for the trip. Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmed, President, FBCCI also spoke in details about the opportunities available in the Sectors that the BCC&I Delegates represented, and arranged for B2B connects for some of the delegates for the next day. In his closing remarks, the FBCCI President thanked the Bengal Chamber secretariat for bringing such a dynamic and scholarly delegation to Bangladesh which had resulted in an erudite discussion. He invited the Bengal Chamber to join the BBIN forum and SME fair (both to be held in April) for which formal invitations will follow. The Bengal Chamber also requested FBCCI to take a formal delegation to West Bengal anytime soon. Mr. Sishir Kothari, Second Secretary Commercial, Indian High Commission in Dhaka also attended the session at the later stages, which was followed by dinner.

■ **Day 2: 16th February 2017: Dhaka**

● **Participation in the Inauguration of the Indo-Bangla Trade fair:**

The Bengal Chamber delegation members participated in the inauguration session of the Indo-Bangla Trade Fair, organized by the India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Indian High Commission, at 10 a.m. at Pan Pacific SonarGaon Hotel, Dhaka. This was the fourth Indo-Bangla Trade Fair which was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Janab Tofail Ahmed, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Bangladesh. More than 60 companies representing the sectors of automobiles, processed food, banking, insurance, home appliances, consumer goods, power, paints, electronics and electrical, textiles, cement manufacturing, and lubricants manufacturing exhibited their product lines in the Trade Fair. Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla , High Commissioner of India, Dhaka; Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad, President, FBCCI and Chairman, Nitol-Niloy Group and Mr. Taskeen Ahmed, President, India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry were the special guests of this prestigious programme. Mr. Jahangir Bin Alam, Secretary and CEO, India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry commenced the session. He said that this Fair was "a landmark event" for the bilateral business relationship between Bangladesh, India and other neighbouring countries. Mr. Taskeen Ahmed, President, India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivered the opening remarks. Mr. Pankaj Tandon, leader of CII Delegation and Mr. R.N. Lahiri, leader of BCC&I Delegation delivered their respective speeches. Subsequently, The Hon'ble Chief Guest Janab Tofail Ahmed addressed the audience. He said that the objective of this Fair was to bring Bangladesh and India together and to strengthen the bilateral business relationship between these two neighbouring countries. Bangladesh had imported many items from India for domestic industries. Bangladesh and India's two-way trade was \$6.14 billion in 2015-16, though heavily tilted towards India. But in the last two years, Bangladesh's exports to India had seen a huge increase after India allowed duty-free market access in 2015-16. Bangladesh exports to India surged 30.8 percent to \$689.62 million and Indian exports declined by 6.3 percent. Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla , High Commissioner of India, Dhaka said that this Trade Fair had opened a new era of corporate relationship between Bangladesh and India, and that he was looking forward to having more interactions and exchange . He also said that companies from both India and Bangladesh were exploring "new opportunities" for investing and setting up joint ventures in each other's country. It was a multiproduct Fair with the objective to develop business activities between the two neighbouring countries. Mr. Abhijit Chakravorty, Country Head Bangladesh, State Bank of India addressed the audience. SBI, the largest bank of India, was the Sponsor of this Trade Fair. Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad, President, FBCCI and Chairman, Nitol-Niloy

Group delivered the formal vote of thanks. The trade fair was well covered in Bangladesh media and The BCC&I delegation found a prominent mention there.

● **Meeting with Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla , High Commissioner of India, Dhaka :**

The delegation members from BCC&I, had an interaction with Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, High Commissioner of India, Dhaka at Pan Pacific SonarGaon Hotel at 10:30 a.m on the sidelines of the Trade Fair. At the outset, the delegates introduced themselves, briefing the High Commissioner about their sectors of interest and purpose of visit to Bangladesh. The highlights of Shri Shringla's discourse are as follows:

- ◆ The marketing field in Bangladesh should be focused seriously
- ◆ More investments were required to develop the Chittagong port
- ◆ There would be railway connectivity between Mongla and Khulna Sea port to enrich the opportunities for export and import from both the countries
- ◆ Funding entirely for the development of Ashuganj port
- ◆ Speaking on the occasion, Shri Shringla stressed upon the fact that more and more bilateral interaction and cooperation was needed between Bangladesh and India to strengthen the bilateral business relationships between the two neighbouring nations.

● **Meeting with Dr. A F M Manzur Kadir, Director General, Bangladesh Export Promotion Bureau :**

The members of BCC&I Delegation split in two groups- one group stayed back at the Hotel Pan Pacific Sonargaon for an audience with the High Commissioner and the other group went to meet **Dr. A F M Manzur Kadir, Director General, and other members of Bangladesh Export Promotion Bureau** at 11 a.m.

The members of the delegation introduced themselves which was followed by an interactive presentation between the members of the delegation and the Export Promotion Bureau officials. **Bangladesh Export Promotion Bureau, Dhaka**, is a National export Promotion Agency under the Ministry of Commerce, which was recognized by the promulgation of a Presidential Ordinance in 1977 as a semi-autonomous body. The ordinance had been converted into an ACT on 14th July, 2015. **EPB** promotes export and contributes to plan & policies helpful for the private sector. It is administrated by a Board of Management (BOM) comprising 15 (fifteen) members from both public and private sectors. The Hon'ble Minister of Commerce is the ex-officio Chairman of the Board of Management, and Vice-Chairman is the Chief Executive of the Export Promotion

Bureau. EPB is functioning with its head office in Dhaka while three regional offices are located in Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna and three branch offices are in Comilla, Sylet and Narayangonj. **EPB** is mainly responsible for

- ♦ Adoption of appropriate policy and programme measures for active promotion of export.
- ♦ Co-ordination of export development activities at various levels.
- ♦ Co-ordination and monitoring of national export performance.
- ♦ Carrying out of promotional activities in product & supply development.
- ♦ Exploration of markets abroad.
- ♦ Collection and dissemination of trade information.
- ♦ Organizing Bangladesh participation in the International trade fairs abroad.
- ♦ Imparting training for HRD on export related issues.
- ♦ Conducting study, surveys, research etc on product development.
- ♦ Issuance of various certificates against export of goods.
- ♦ EPB also assists Ministry of Commerce in formulating export policy of the country.

● **Meeting with Janab Tofail Ahmed, Hon’ble Minister of Commerce, Government of Bangladesh:**

BCC&I Delegation had a meeting with the Hon’ble Commerce Minister of Bangladesh at 12:30 p.m. at his office in the Bangladesh Secretariat. At the outset, he mentioned about his past visit to Bengal and The Bengal Chamber a few years back on the occasion of the Chamber’s annual India International Mega Trade Fair organized in partnership with GS Marketing Associates and subsequently spoke about bilateral trade related figures which is deep and is growing each day. He mentioned that over the years Bangladesh had been importing cotton and threads from India. The Hon’ble Minister highlighted the Government of India’s anti-dumping duty and Minimum Input Price (MIP) on jute products imported from Bangladesh and Nepal. Janab Ahmed also apprised the delegates about the Tariff barrier removal request to the Indian Government that the Bangladesh Government had placed. He assured the Delegation members who were looking for business opportunities in Bangladesh that 100 SEZs were coming up in Bangladesh out of which 3 would be dedicated for Indian businesses.

The leader of the delegation, Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta mentioned that West Bengal had all kinds of similarities with Bangladesh and the objective of bringing such a delegation was to strengthen the existing bilateral relationship between the two countries. Mr. Dasgupta requested the delegation members for their respective self-introductions, which they did and alongside also mentioned about the rationale of their visit. While providing response to the queries of this Multi Sectoral Delegation, The Hon’ble Minister mentioned the Priority Areas for Bangladesh, of which Information Technology was one and informed the delegation that “Digital Bangladesh” was a key focus area. Lots of IT parks were coming up and a realistic output target of USD 1 billion by 2018 and USD 5 billion by 2021 had been set. The other priority areas mentioned by him were Shipping (which provides 10% cash incentive); Leather, for which the target earning was USD 3-4 billion by 2021; Food processing (which offers 20% cash incentive); Jute, which had been a traditional and major exporting item to India (although the recent anti-dumping duty had acted as a dampener); Plastics; Agro Products, etc. Bangladesh was the 4th largest fish producing country in the world and there was a specific focus on the **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal (BBIN)** Initiative.

● **Meeting with Janab Nasrul Hamid, Hon’ble State Minister, Power Division, Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources:**

Some of the members of BCC&I Delegation had a meeting with the Hon’ble Power Minister and key officials of the Power Department at 2:00 p.m. in the Bangladesh Secretariat. The delegation members discussed possibilities of the Indian Private Sector companies making a penetration into the Power sector of Bangladesh – be it in generation or distribution of electricity in Bangladesh. The Hon’ble Minister also pointed out that Bangladesh currently was sourcing some of its power requirements from some Indian States. The Delegation members representing the power sector had a very fruitful meeting with the Power Minister focusing on 3 key initiatives:

- ♦ Long term power supply agreement (with a power plant at Haldia)
- ♦ Smart metering at Bangladesh distribution companies and
- ♦ Investment in solar or wind power business.

For Long term PPA, the Bangladesh Power Ministry requested to check on the Indian side as there were some regulatory clearances that were required prior to any project that maybe undertaken on that front.

● **B2B Meetings at the sidelines of the Indo-Bangla Trade Fair :**

◆ **Meeting with Mr. Sabur Khan, Chairman, Daffodil University:**

Mr. Dibya Sankar Das, Managing Partner, Delstar Overseas, Mr. Rafiqul Hasan, Chairman-cum-Managing Director with Mr. Syed A Nabi, Director, Techno Industry and Mr. Rabindranath Lahiri, Director and Vice Chairman, Techno India Batanagar with The Bengal Chamber Secretariat had a meeting with **Mr. Sabur Khan, Chairman of Daffodil University** at 4 p.m. at Pan Pacific SonarGaon Hotel. The focus sectors of this meeting were IT, Skill Development, Engineering, Instrumentation and Automation. Mr. Sabur Khan said that the education system in Bangladesh required further development. The students, after completing their education, did not get better job opportunities due to the lack of skillsets. The Skill Development scheme must be included in the education system to enable the students getting better opportunities in life. In Bangladesh, the engineering streams are, Computer Science, Electrical, Civil, Mechanical, Textile and Telecommunication Engineering. But Instrumentation and Automation engineering are required nowadays for proper training of instrumentation to the students and to enable them in getting better employable opportunities in industries. Mr. Khan said that the Bangladesh Government had decided to include the employability skills or soft skills course in the education system, as soft skills are considered as the key to workplace success. An IT Show would be held in Dhaka from 23rd to 25th March 2017. Mr. Khan requested Mr R N Lahiri and Mr Dibya Sankar Das to give a PowerPoint Presentation on Education & Skill Development and Instrumentation Course (Graduation and Diploma Course) respectively in that IT Show. Mr. Khan also requested Mr. Lahiri and Mr. Das to exchange their documents with him through email before the IT Show.

● **Meeting with Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry:**

The members of The Bengal Chamber Delegation had a meeting with Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) at 6 p.m. at BRAC EPL Stock Brokerage Office, Symphony, 3rd Floor, Road 142, Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka. The meeting was presided by Ms. Nihad Kabir, President of MCCI. The delegates introduced themselves briefing their sector of interest and business purpose in Bangladesh. While responding, Ms Kabir apprised that Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce is one of the oldest Chambers of Commerce in Bangladesh. It is an organization of manufacturers and from the services sectors (Banking and NBFCs). 90% of their members are big players/big investors. They are mostly into policy formulation, policy analysis, lobbying etc. It was also informed that Dr. APJ Adul Kalam visited the Chamber's 110th anniversary. MCCI Secretary General mentioned that

the country's macro economy was stable, macro indicators healthy with a GDP growth of 6.5% alongside a very vibrant private sector. The social indicators were also healthy. They also informed that the country's manufacturing standard was going through an upgradation with a booming IT sector. Skill development had a very bright opportunity. The alternative to the traffic situation in Petrapole and Benapole were barge services which needed a facelift. Pangaon port was at present a one-way traffic and economic feasibility of ocean going vessels to and fro Pangaon port needed to be looked into. Bengal was a good gateway for Bangladesh and hence talking a good talk was also to be followed by walking a good walk by the two countries. Ms. Kabir requested the delegates to share their business sectors through email for proper B2B facilitation going forward. The Delegation Leader, Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta invited the Metropolitan Chamber to The Bengal Chamber.

■ **Day 3: 17th February 2017: Dhaka**

● **Visit to Inauguration of ICT Pangaon :**

Capt. S B Mazumder, Chairman, Shipping Committee, The Bengal Chamber, with his colleague, Mr. Arup Bandhu Guha visited Pangaon Port upon invitation from the Ministry of Shipping, to be a part of the Inauguration of the International Container Terminal at Pangaon accompanied by Ms. Binti Jahan, an official from the BBIN desk of FBCCI. Those present in the Inaugural Ceremony of ICT Pangaon:

- ◆ Minister of Shipping, Govt. of Bangladesh
- ◆ Janab Tofail Ahmed, Hon'ble Minister of Commerce, Govt. of Bangladesh
- ◆ Secretary, Ministry of Shipping, Govt. of Bangladesh
- ◆ Indian Ambassador to Bangladesh
- ◆ Chairman, Chittagong Port Authority
- ◆ Terminal Manager, Chittagong Port Authority
- ◆ Commissioner of Customs, ICT Pangaon
- ◆ Terminal Manager, ICT Pangaon
- ◆ Abdul Matlub Ahmad, President, FBCCI
- ◆ Mehboob Alam, Owner of the Coastal Vessel on berth, M.V.Nou Kolan
- ◆ Several Shipping Agents
- ◆ Freight Forwarders & Clearing Agents
- ◆ Exim Trade Representatives
- ◆ Vizag Container Terminal, Business Dev. Manager
- ◆ Haldia Container Terminal, Business Dev. Manager

The ICT Pangaon is owned and built by Chittagong Port Authority. The construction was completed in 2013 and

formally inaugurated by the Prime Minister H.E. Sheikh Hasina on 7th November 2013. In the first voyage, the Coastal Vessel M.V. NOU KOLAN from Kolkata had arrived with 65 units of Import Cargo from Kolkata. After the inaugural speeches of the Ministers and other officials 'at the jetty front', the off-loading of the import loaded containers on the M.V. NOU KOLAN Vessel from Kolkata commenced. All the Ministers and Government Officials spoke on similar lines that the Government has incurred a large expenditure building the ICT Terminal and requested the Exim Trade, especially Importers and Exporters situated in and around Dhaka area, to support the ICT by using the facilities. They advised that purpose of the ICT was to reduce part of the road traffic between Chittagong Port and Dhaka, by IWT Barges undertaking a regular service between Chittagong Port and ICT Pangaon.

□ Day 4: 18th February 2017: Chittagong:

● Visit to Chittagong Port and meeting with key Port Officials:

Representatives of the Shipping sector, who were part of the Bengal Chamber delegation, visited Chittagong Port at 9.00 am on 18th February 2017. They had a drive through Chittagong port and then a detailed meeting with the Terminal Manager Mr. Golam Md. Sarwarul Islam and Assistant Terminal Manager. The key highlights of the Port visit and subsequent discussions were:

- ♦ Chittagong is a Riverine Port on the Karnaphuli River and open to Tides.
- ♦ There are only 19 berths in the Port of which 13 are reserved for Container vessels.
- ♦ Only 2 of the 13 container berths have shore crane facilities and so most container vessels calling on Chittagong have to be self-gearred vessels.
- ♦ The rise of tide is 1.5 – 2 mtrs and so ships at berth are subjected to the rise and fall of tides, in view of the Port not having Lock Gates.
- ♦ The throughput of the containers is 2.35 million Teus per annum.
- ♦ The annual increase in container throughput is high at 15-16%.
- ♦ The port has a yard capacity of 36357 Teus at any given time.
- ♦ 40% of the Imports are destuffed in Port and balance 60% is moved out to the off dock CFS.
- ♦ Container shipping being the lifeline of the port, there is generally berth congestion of average 1-2 days and at times much higher.

● B2B Meeting with The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry :

The members of The Bengal Chamber Delegation had a B2B Interaction with The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry at 11 a.m. on 18th February 2017 at WTC Building, Chittagong. At the onset of the meeting, there was a self-introduction of the delegates, followed by a video presentation by The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry showcasing the strategic location of Chittagong, its natural fundamental advantages and its unique

biodiversity. A similar video presentation of BCC&I showcasing West Bengal followed.

Mr. Md. Nurun Newaz, Senior Vice President of CCCI delivered the formal Welcome Address. He mentioned India and Bangladesh have huge potentials in bilateral trade. Local markets called Border Haats have been opened to facilitate trade between small scale industries and farmers to generate market opportunities for them. Cost of doing trade is high between Bangladesh and India mainly due to lack of trade facilitation on both sides. Almost all border crossings lack modern infrastructure. Other non-tariff barriers like regulatory measures and lack of trade services have affected the bilateral trade. The Chittagong Chamber, through BCC&I, would like to request the Indian Government to accept BSTI (Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution) certification in case of export. Joint measures should be taken to remove other barriers so that both the countries could be benefitted. The delegation comprising consultancy, education, engineering, finance, health, IT, tourism, shipping, skilled development, logistics and transportation exchanged views with their Bangladesh counterparts to share knowledge and extend cooperation for mutual benefit. Mr. Somnath Halder, Assistant High Commissioner of India, Dhaka was present and while addressing the audience, he mentioned that Bangladesh and India share a historic relationship. Both the Governments need to work together closely to enhance the relationships and bilateral trade between the two countries. He also said that India could participate in the development of the Chittagong Port. Infrastructure development and more investments were needed to improve the tourism industry in Bangladesh. Development of Infrastructure sector had become a primary necessity in Bangladesh. Bangladesh was also trying to develop the two economic zones Mongla and Anwara. There was a great opportunity to develop healthcare in Bangladesh. Mr R.N Lahiri, Co-leader of the Delegation delivered his speech. He focused especially on Education and Skill Development and the Media Sector. Dr. Alam, Immediate Past President of CCCI, representing the Health Sector in Bangladesh, said that more investments were needed to develop the health sector in Bangladesh. Advance training should be given to the people of HR from the Health Sector. Dr. Mahmud Hasan, representing the tourism sector in Bangladesh said that development of infrastructure and the medical sector was needed to improve tourism opportunities.

India and Bangladesh enjoy a very deep-rooted bilateral relation based on mutual trust and cooperation. The two countries are closely cooperating in the fields of trade, investment, sharing of skill and transfer of technology, education, training and through people-to- people contact. There has been exchange of high-level visits between the two countries that have helped develop mutual understanding. The two countries have signed a number of agreements to institutionalize the bilateral relations. India is now investing more and more in Bangladesh in infrastructure development. This is very good news for the business community of both the countries. Both nations can become complementary to each other and be benefitted.



The Members of The Bengal Chamber Delegation having informal meeting with Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad, President, Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) at Nitol Centre, Dhaka, Bangladesh



The Members of The Bengal Chamber Delegation having Discussion Meeting with Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI). L-R: Mr. Hussain Jamil, Secretary (International), FBCCI; Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad, President, FBCCI; Mr. R N. Lahiri, Co-Leader, BCC&I Delegation and Chairperson Emeritus, IT Committee, BCC&I



Capt. S. B. Mazumder, Executive Director, Seahorse Ship Agencies Pvt. Ltd. (and Chairman, Shipping Committee, The Bengal Chamber), sharing his perspective on Shipping Sector during B2B discussions with FBCCI



Mr. R. N. Lahiri, Co- Leader of the BCC&I Delegation, presenting a memento to Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad, President, FBCCI



Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad, President, FBCCI, presenting a memento to Mr. R N Lahiri, Co- Leader of BCC&I Delegation



The members of BCC&I Delegation with the President and other members of FBCCI



Inaugural Ceremony of Indo Bangla Trade Fair. L-R: Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, High Commissioner of India to the People's Republic of Bangladesh; Janab Tofail Ahmed, Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Bangladesh; Mr. Abdul Matlub Ahmad, President, FBCCI; Mr. Jahangir Bin Alam, Secretary & CEO, India-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry



A section of audience with the BCC&I Delegation members at the Inaugural Ceremony of Indo Bangla Trade Fair



Meeting of The Bengal Chamber Delegation with Shri Harsh Vardhan Shringla, High Commissioner of India to the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Meeting of The Bengal Chamber Delegation with Dr. A F M Manzur Kadir, Director General, Export Promotion Bureau



Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Immediate Past President of BCC&I and Leader of The Bengal Chamber Delegation with Janab Tofail Ahmed, Hon'ble Commerce Minister, Bangladesh



Members of BCC&I Delegation with Janab Tofail Ahmed, Hon'ble Commerce Minister, People's Republic of Bangladesh



Meeting of The Bengal Chamber Delegation with Janab Nasrul Hamid, Hon'ble State Minister, Power Division-Ministry of Power Energy & Mineral Resources



Members of the BCC&I delegation having a discussion meeting with Mr. Sabur Khan, Chairman of Daffodil University



Meeting with Ms. Nihad Kabir, President, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Dhaka (MCCI)



Members of BCC&I Delegation - on arrival at the Chittagong airport



Informal Meeting with Mr. Mahfuzul Hoque Shah, Director, The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry at Chittagong



Capt. S B Mazumder and Mr. Arup Bandhu Guha at the Pangaon Port upon invitation from the Ministry of Shipping accompanied by Ms. Binti Jahan, an official from the BBIN desk of FBCCI



Mr. R N Lahiri, Co-Leader of BCC&I Delegation with the members of CCCI



Mr. R N Lahiri, Co-Leader of BCC&I Delegation, during his speech at the B2B Meeting with CCCI



Mr. Somnath Halder, Assistant High Commissioner of India, addressing the audience during the B2B Meeting with CCCI



Mr. Md. Nurun Newaz , Senior Vice President, CCCI presenting a memento to Mr. R N Lahiri, Co-Leader of BCC&I Delegation



B2B Meeting with Chittagong Chamber of Commerce in progress



Members of The Bengal Chamber Delegation at World Trade Centre, Chittagong



Capt. S B Mazumder, Executive Director, Seahorse Ship Agencies Pvt. Ltd. with the Terminal Manager Mr. Golam Md. Sarwarul Islam and Assistant Terminal Manager of Chittagong Port



The BCC&I Delegation, found good coverage in Bangladeshi media

BUSINESS DELEGATION TO THE UNITED KINGDOM

10TH JULY 2017 TO 13TH JULY 2017

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry took a business delegation to the United Kingdom focusing on Education from 10th July to 13th July 2017. The delegation was led by Dr. Suborno Bose, Chairman Education Committee, BCC&I & Chairman and Chief Mentor, Indismart Group. The delegation comprised of industry representatives from West Bengal. The delegation members were:

Name	Designation	Organization
Dr. Suborno Bose	Chairman of the Education Committee of BCC&I and Chief Mentor	Indismart Group
Mr. Moloy Dutta	Director	Next Generation Career Pvt Ltd
Mr. Dhruv Bhalla	Vice President and Head - International Business, Corporate Strategy and Planning	SREI Infrastructure Finance Limited
Dr. Suman Kumar Mukerjee	Director General	The Bhawanipur Education Society College
Shri. Miraj Digvijay Shah	Vice Chairman-Governing Body	The Bhawanipur Education Society College
Ar. Somali Sinha	Director	PROFEX Institute of Technical Education
Mr. Anish Chakraborty	Chairman	Seacom Engineering College
Ms. Sila Singh Ghosh	Vice President- Corporate Relations	JIS Group
Mr. Simarpreet Singh	Director	JIS Group
Ms. Atrayee Seth	Director	Keya Seth Ayurvedic Solution Pvt Ltd
Ms. Sukanya Bose	Deputy Director	The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Day 1: London: 10th July 2017: Visit to Buckinghamshire New University for Discussions and B2B Meetings:

On 10th July 2017, the delegation members had B2B interaction with the professors, executives and departmental heads of the Buckinghamshire New University. The delegation was received Dr. Lorraine Watkins-Mathys, Dean of Faculty of Design, Media & Management and was welcomed and addressed by Professor Rebecca Bunting, Vice Chancellor of the University. Before the formal meeting, the delegation members had an informal discussion with the representatives of the University, briefing the latter about their sectors of interests and business purposes in the United Kingdom. The Formal B2B meeting was presided by the departmental heads and the faculty members. The Bengal Chamber Delegation was led by Dr. Suborno Bose, Chairman Education Committee of BCC&I, who delivered the opening remarks. Dr. Bose spoke about the close cultural and traditionalities that the two countries share and after highlighting the objectives of the trip to the UK, Dr. Bose requested the members to introduce themselves. In her closing remarks, Professor Rebecca Bunting, Vice Chancellor of the Buckinghamshire New University thanked the Bengal Chamber for bringing such a dynamic and

scholarly delegation, which led to a most stimulating and erudite discussion. Dr. Suborno Bose, along with Ms. Sukanya Bose, Deputy Director, The Bengal Chamber, thanked everyone present and expressed the interest of creating partner to partner based collaboration with the University.

Day 1: 10th July 2017: Visit to Brunel University:

On the same date, i.e., 10th July 2017, the delegation members had another interaction with the professors, executives and departmental heads of The Brunel University. The delegation was received Prof Andrew Ward, Director of Corporate Relations and was welcomed and addressed by Professor Ashley Braganza, Deputy Dean CBASS and Professor of Organizational Transformation at the University. Before the formal meeting, the delegation members had an informal discussion with the representatives of the University, briefing the latter about their sectors of interests and business purposes in the United Kingdom. The Formal B2B meeting was presided by the departmental heads and the faculty members. Dr. Suborno Bose, Chairman Education Committee of BCC&I, delivered the opening remarks.

Day 1: 10th July 2017: Meeting with Ambassador Dinesh Patnaik, Deputy High Commissioner of India at the High Commission of India in the UK, London:

The delegation was received by Shri. Saikat Sen Sharma, Counsellor Economic, High Commission of India and was welcomed by the Ambassador Dinesh Patnaik, Deputy High Commissioner of India. Shri. Patnaik congratulated the Chamber on bringing such a niche and focused delegation. He discussed about the opportunities and the demand for setting up incubation centres at different Universities especially at Cambridge University. Any Indian Company interested to open up incubation centres would be welcomed by the Universities. He also mentioned about scaling up the startups present in various universities in India, to have an ecosystem where Indian startups could tie up with the startups present in the United Kingdom, as the startup success rate now is 1:50. Universities become crucibles when startups try and test out their products or services. He also shared that India and UK are very close in all aspects. He suggested that for Masters programmes, the Universities should tie-up with the UK Universities so that the students could go through two years' course (one year in India and one year in the UK). In such cases where the VISA Application is genuine and are for studies or short stays, VISA is not a problem in the UK. He also suggested BCC&I Education Committee could communicate with the UK Universities regarding the internship programmes with a concept like KNOW INDIA, where they could send their students for unpaid internship in India for 3 to 4 months and the Chamber could coordinate appropriately. He also suggested the need for looking into FINTECH as after demonetization, he felt India should look into FINTECH more. UK is one of the best in Innovation and FINTECH. Dr. Suborno Bose thanked Shri Patnaik on behalf of the Chamber and the delegation and concluded with a Vote of Thanks to the Chair.

Day 2: London: 11th July 2017: Meeting with United Kingdom Department for International Trade

The BCC&I delegation had an excellent interaction with Ms. Caroline Plumb OBE, Prime Minister's Business Ambassador for Professional Services. She stressed on innovation and observed that there are many opportunities for the small scale industries in context of innovation.

Followed by Ms. Caroline Plumb, Mr. Phillip D'Costa, Partner, Commercial Dispute Resolution and India Group at Penningtons Law Firm made a presentation on technology transfer from the United Kingdom to international markets.

He also discussed on the trends and opportunities. The session was very useful for some of the members especially those into financial services and financing as they clarified as well as discussed various issues. Thereafter, the delegates had a most engaging session with Mr. Andrew McHallam, Head of FCO Scholarship Unit, UK Export Finance. Mr. McHallam spoke about the Chevening Scholarships programme as well as the fellowship programme. Following this the delegation met Ms. Julian Lynn, Export Finance Manager of UK Export Finance. SREI took a lead role and Mr. Dhruv Bhalla of SREI interacted with them extensively.

Day 2: London: 11th July 2017: Meeting with London Chamber of Commerce and Industry:

The Bengal Chamber officials met the officials of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Dr. Suborno Bose, leader of the BCC&I delegation introduced the Chamber. The Corporate Video of the Bengal Chamber was played for Mr. Peter Bishop, Deputy Chief Executive of London Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Mr. Peter Bishop expressed his keenness to draw up a Memorandum of Understanding between the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Such a partnership was agreed to in-principle.

Day 2: London: 11th July 2017: Meeting with Lord Nick Bourne at the House of Lords

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry had the rare privilege of attending a specially convened meeting at the House of Lords. The Education Committee of the Chamber was invited by Lord Nick Bourne. Apart from Lord Bourne, the meeting was attended by Prof. Dr. Zenobia Nadirshawand Dr. Sanjeev Kanoria, Managing Director Advinia Healthcare and SREI Group. Dr. Suborno Bose, Leader of the BCC&I Delegation introduced the Chamber and shared the various activities of the Chamber. Mr. Simarpreet Singh, Director, JIS Group presented a memento to Lord Nick Bourne.

Day 3: Birmingham: 12th July 2017: Visit to the Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce:

The delegation first reached the Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Mr. Paul Faulkner, Chief Executive, Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Industry formally welcomed the delegation. Dr. Suborno Bose, leader of the delegation introduced the Bengal

Chamber to the University representatives and the Chamber Members. The Birmingham City Council, Birmingham Commonwealth Association and various educational stakeholders in the City were present to meet the BCC&I Delegation. It was in this forum that the Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and Asian Chamber of Commerce and Industry expressed their eagerness to sign a Memorandum of Understanding between the individual Chambers.

After the formal introduction at the Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, the delegation had to split in order to have B2B meetings with different universities.

The visit concluded on 13th July 2017. The delegation marked the beginning of the international educational tie-ups facilitated by the Chamber and was appreciated by the members comprising the delegation.



Delegation with the Ambassador Dinesh Patnaik, Deputy High Commissioner of India at High Commission of India, India House, London, The United Kingdom.



BCC&I Delegation with Professor Ashley Braganza, Deputy Dean CBASS and Professor of Organizational Transformation of the University at the Brunel University.



Professor Rebecca Bunting, Vice Chancellor of the Buckinghamshire New University welcoming the delegation and inviting Dr. Suborno Bose, Chairman, Education Committee, BCC&I to introduce the delegation.



Prof. Andrew Ward, Director of Corporate Relations and Professor Ashley Braganza, Deputy Dean CBASS and Professor of Organizational Transformation of the University at the Brunel University addressing the BCC&I Delegation.



Delegation meeting with Ms. Caroline Plumb OBE, Prime Minister's Business Ambassador for Professional Services at UKDIT.



Discussion session with Ms. Natasha Borrroughs, Head of Great Investors, UKDIT (extreme right).



Visit to the London Chamber: L-R – Ms. Atreyee Seth; Ms. Sukanya Bose, Deputy Director, BCC&I; Mr. Peter Bishop, Deputy Chief Executive, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Dr. Suborno Bose, Chairman, Education Committee, BCC&I and Mr. Moloy Dutta, Member, Education Committee, BCC&I.



Meeting with Lord Nick Bourne at the House of Lords.



Visit to Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce.

BUSINESS DELEGATION TO SAINT PETERSBURG, RUSSIA

13TH- 19TH NOVEMBER 2017

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I) partnering The Consulate General of Russia in Kolkata, organized a focused Business Delegation to St Petersburg, Russia between 13th and 19th November 2017 for participation at the "Global Entrepreneurship Week 2017 (GEW - 2017)" which was organized between 13th and 19th November 2017 at Saint - Petersburg, Russia.

The Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) commenced in 2007 is an annual international symposium and exposition which is organized for entrepreneurs/MSMEs and also Startups from within Russia and overseas countries representing various sectors. This year, the Global Entrepreneurship Week – 2017 (GEW - 2017) was organized by Opora Russia (the largest non-governmental association of Entrepreneurs/MSMEs in Russia). The objective of GEW 2017 was to initiate a global movement to inspire people globally to unleash their ideas and take the next leap towards their entrepreneurial journey. This event provided the platform of a single global entrepreneurial ecosystem covering 170 countries to share ideas and turn them into promising ventures like creating jobs, accelerating innovation and strengthening economic stability around the world. As India was the focus country, there was a large participation from Indian entrepreneurs/MSMEs in this mega programme.

The Bengal Chamber was privileged to have with us in Saint Petersburg Shri S Kishore, IAS, Principal Secretary, Industry, Commerce and Enterprises Department, Government of West Bengal, who represented the State Government at GEW 2017 and invited the Government of Saint Petersburg to participate in BGSB 2018. The other delegates from the Chamber were,

- Mr Debkumar Basu, Chairperson, Manufacturing & MSME Committee, The Bengal Chamber and Director, ZETADEL Technologies P. Ltd.
- Mr Chiranjib Bhattacharya, Chief Executive Officer, Wizertech Informatics Pvt. Ltd.
- Ms Sila Singh Ghosh, Vice President- Corporate Relations, JIS Group
- Mr Supriyo Ghosh, Sr Member, Manufacturing & MSME Committee, The Bengal Chamber and Managing Partner, M/s Girish Ch Ghosh & GGS
- Mr Mahadi Hossain, Technical Supervisor, M/s Girish Ch. Ghosh & GGS

Apart from the Indian delegation, there were also delegations from other countries like China, Finland, Syria, UK, Philippines, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Japan,

USA, UAE, Nigeria, Kenya, etc.

In this long week of GEW – 2017, there were exhibitions and concurrent sessions like round-tables, lecture series, workshops, discussions, seminars, etc on various sectors for the budding entrepreneurs/MSME units and last but not the least there were separate B2B meetings for the delegates.

The delegates from the Chamber, as part of GEW - 2017, had the opportunity of having some good B2B meetings in Saint – Petersburg like meetings at The Saint – Petersburg Chamber of Commerce and Industry, INGRID Business Incubator, Russia, First Business Incubator in Russia and also a visit to The REP Holding, Nevskiy Plant.

Besides, there was a dedicated session organized for the Indian delegates which was on "India – Russia Co-operation" and the objective of organizing this session was to understand the different formats of business collaborations between India and Russia.

Shri S Kishore, IAS, Principal Secretary, Industry, Commerce and Enterprises Department, Government of West Bengal was one of the eminent speakers at this session. The entire session was conducted by Opora Russia. The GEW – 2017 was organized taking into account the emerging sectors like Engineering, Manufacturing, Oil & Gas, Leather, Textiles and Garments, Gems and Jewellery, Transport and Logistics, Education, Skill Development, Food Processing and Agro, Infrastructure, Energy and Power, Healthcare, Tourism, Hospitality, IT & ITeS, Refractories, Pharmaceuticals, Shipping, etc.



The Panelists at the Inaugural Session of the Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) – 2017 held at The Lenexpo, Saint – Petersburg, Russia, 13th– 19th November 2017. Second from left, Shri S. Kishore, IAS, Principal Secretary, Industry, Commerce and Enterprises Department, Government of West Bengal.



Shri S. Kishore, IAS giving his speech at the Inaugural Session.



Shri Arun Kumar Sharma, Consul General of India, Saint - Petersburg, Russia giving his speech at the Inaugural Session.



Meeting in progress between some of the very senior representatives of The Saint Petersburg Government. Extreme right, Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber.



Meeting in progress between Shri S. Kishore, IAS, Shri Arun Kumar Sharma and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh during the GEW – 2017.



Meeting in progress between Shri S. Kishore, IAS, Mr. Mikhail Gusev (Deputy Consul General, The Consulate General of the Russian Federation, Kolkata, West Bengal, India), Ms. Elena Kapustina (Deputy Chairperson of the Committee, Committee For Entrepreneurship and Consumer Market Development of Saint – Petersburg, Government of Saint – Petersburg) and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh during the GEW – 2017.



Mr. Subhodip Ghosh in a meeting with Mr. Starkovsky Daniel, Director, Centre of Entrepreneurship Development, Russia during the GEW – 2017.



The delegates present at the press conference.



The panelists of the Press Conference of GEW – 2017. Second from right is Shri S Kishore, IAS. Third from left, Shri Arun Kumar Sharma.



The Panelists at the Session on “India - Russia Dialogue” organized during the GEW – 2017. Third from left, Shri Arun Kumar Sharma, fourth from left, Shri S Kishore, IAS.



Mr. Subhodip Ghosh and the delegates from The Bengal Chamber during an interaction at the Session on “India - Russia Dialogue”.



A group photo of some of the Chamber delegates with some of the representatives of GEW – 2017.



The Bengal Chamber delegates with Shri S. Kishore, IAS (at the middle) at GEW – 2017. L-R: Mr. Chiranjib Bhattacharya, Chief Executive Officer, Wizertech Informatics Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Supriyo Ghosh, Managing Partner, M/s Girish Ch. Ghosh & GGS; Mr. Ramit Sircar, Assistant Director, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. S. Kishore, IAS, Principal Secretary, Industry, Commerce and Enterprises Department, Government of West Bengal; Mr. Mahadi Hossain, Technical Supervisor, M/s Girish Ch. Ghosh & GGS; Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. Debkumar Basu, Chairperson, Manufacturing & MSME Committee and Director, ZETADEL Technologies P. Ltd. and Ms. Sila Singh Ghosh, Vice President- Corporate Relations, JIS Group.



A group photo of some of the Chamber delegates with some of the representatives of GEW – 2017.



Mr. Debkumar Basu from The Bengal Chamber presenting a memento to Ms. Tamara from Opora Russia, the organizers of GEW – 2017.



Ms. Tamara presenting a memento to Mr. Debkumar Basu for bringing a Delegation from The Bengal Chamber for participation at The GEW – 2017.



Mr. Debkumar Basu presenting a memento to Ms. Veronika Peshkova, Board Member, Committee on Women's Entrepreneurship Development, Opora Russia.



Mr. Debkumar Basu presenting a memento to Mr. Mikhail Gusev.



Mr. Debkumar Basu presenting a memento to Mr. Supriyo Ghosh.



Mr. Supriyo Ghosh presenting a memento to Mr. Debkumar Basu.



The Bengal Chamber delegates in front of Lenexpo, the venue for the GEW – 2017.



A group photo of the delegates with the representatives of the First Business Incubator of Russia.



Meeting of the delegates with the representatives of the First Business Incubator of Russia.



A group photo of the delegates with the representatives of REP Holding, Nevskiy plant, Saint – Petersburg, Russia.



The snapshot of the REP Holding, Nevskiy plant.



A visit of the Chamber delegates to REP Holding, Nevskiy plant.



The visit of the plant in progress.



The visit of the delegates to the Museum of REP Holding, Nevskiy plant.



The visit of the delegates to INGRIA, business incubators of Saint – Petersburg, Russia.



A group photo of the delegates with Ms. Polina Lukianova, CEO, Business Incubator INGRIA (third from left).



A Roundtable meeting in progress between the Chamber delegates and INGRIA at their office premises.



A Session on IT/ITeS organized during the GEW – 2017. Extreme right, Mr. Chiranjib Bhattacharya.

A group photo after the meeting with the Saint – Petersburg Chamber of Commerce & Industry. L-R: Mr. Ramit Sircar, Assistant Director, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. Chiranjib Bhattacharya, Chief Executive Officer, Wizertech Informatics Pvt. Ltd; Mr. Debkumar Basu, Chairperson, Manufacturing & MSME Committee and Director, ZETADEL Technologies P. Ltd; Ms. Ekaterina Lebedeva, Vice President, Saint – Petersburg Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Mr. Supriyo Ghosh, Managing Partner, M/s Girish Ch. Ghosh & GGS.



INTERACTION WITH MR. JONATHAN WARD, PRINCIPAL COMMERCIAL OFFICER US CONSULATE GENERAL KOLKATA

3RD AUGUST, 2015, CHAMBER PREMISES

The members and invitees of the Managing Committee of the Bengal Chamber interacted with Mr. Jonathan Ward, who has recently taken over as the Principal Commercial Officer of the US Consulate General in Kolkata. Mr. Ward spoke about his experiences as a Foreign Service officer of the United States Government and briefed the members about the ongoing initiatives and focus areas of his department in the Eastern Region.



Mr. Jonathan Ward (extreme right) exchanging gifts with the President of the Chamber, Dr. Alok Roy, while Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, President Designate, looks on (extreme left).

SELECT USA ROADSHOW

16TH OCTOBER 2015, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry hosted The U.S. Department of Commerce's SelectUSA Road Show, the first-ever India event, in Kolkata on 16th October 2015. The other cities the Road Show included were Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai.

The Bengal Chamber and U.S. Commercial Services in Kolkata convinced the delegation to include Kolkata in their itinerary. The U.S. delegation was led by SelectUSA Executive Director, Ambassador VinaiThummalapally who was effusive in his praise for the Chamber and mentioned that it was a 'perfect event'. Ambassador VinaiThummalapally is President Obama's friend and former room-mate and major campaign fund-raiser. This programme was closely monitored by Washington DC. This event re-positioned The Bengal Chamber and Kolkata in the business map of the USA. For the first time ever, at least in recent memory, such a delegation led by an Ambassador visited Kolkata and The Bengal Chamber had the honour of hosting it exclusively.

President Obama launched SelectUSA in 2011 to promote business investment into the United States. SelectUSA was created at the federal level to showcase the United States as the world's premier business location and to provide easy access to federal-level programs and services related to business investment. It provides information, data analysis, ombudsman services, and tools to connect investors with

state and local economic development organizations across the United States.

The Kolkata Road Show hosted in the Chamber premises featured a half-day seminar with sessions by American professionals on investment visas, legal and financial issues, investment incentives, and successful investment strategies, followed by one-on-one consultations with a range of participating U.S. States and localities. Participants gained insights about the unique incentives for each area, and gained key contacts to guide their investment decisions.

The Bengal Chamber and The U.S. Consulate General in Kolkata invited Indian companies looking to invest in the United States to register for SelectUSA's first-ever India Road Show.

From the Chamber, Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, President; Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President Designate and Mr. S Radhakrishnan, Past President and President, TiE Kolkata were present. The programme was also partnered by TiE Kolkata, TiE being the global organization for entrepreneurs headquartered in Silicon Valley.

Mr. Craig Hall, U S Consul General in Kolkata; Mr. Jonathan Ward, Principal Commercial Officer, US Commercial Services in Kolkata and Mr. Paul Frost, Commercial Officer, US Commercial Services in New Delhi were also present.

SELECT USA ROADSHOW

16TH OCTOBER 2015, CHAMBER PREMISES



(L-R): Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. S Radhakrishnan, Past President, The Bengal Chamber and President, TiE Kolkata; Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, President, The Bengal Chamber; Ambassador VinaiThummalapally, Executive Director, SelectUSA; Mr. Craig Hall, US Consul General in Kolkata; Mr. Jonathan Ward, Principal Commercial Officer, US Commercial Services in Kolkata and Mr. Paul Frost, Commercial Officer, US Commercial Services in New Delhi.



The Bengal Chamber Secretariat Team with the Delegation.



Ambassador Vinai Thummalapally, Executive Director, SelectUSA presenting The Certificate of Appreciation to the Chamber, to Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber in presence of Mr. Jonathan Ward, Principal Commercial Officer, US Commercial Services in Kolkata and Mr. Craig Hall, US Consul General in Kolkata.



Press Conference in progress.



(L-R): Mr. Craig Hall, US Consul General in Kolkata; Ambassador Vinai Thummalapally, Executive Director, SelectUSA; Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, President, The Bengal Chamber and Mr Greg Pardo, Acting Public Affairs Officer, US Consulate in Kolkata in the Press Conference.



Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General Designate, The Bengal Chamber briefing Ambassador VinaiThummalapally, Executive Director, SelectUSA about the activities of the Chamber especially in the context of its partnerships with overseas Chambers.

SEMINAR AND B2B ON INDIA-GULF BUSINESS EXCHANGE

26TH APRIL, 2016, ROYAL EXCHANGE, KOLKATA

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, organized a Seminar and B2B on India-Gulf Business Exchange on 26th April 2016 in the Chamber. The Chamber is initiating more and more overseas linkages for its Members and Stakeholders by organizing business delegations, organizing Seminars with Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India and Interactive Sessions with Diplomats.

Mr. Tariq Izzaldeen Hassan Al-Mouthen, Commercial Counselor, The Embassy of the Republic of Yemen to India delivered the Keynote Address on Promising investment opportunities in GCC and India. The Business Session included addresses on "Taxation: Cross-border taxation management" by Mr. Prasun Maiti, Director - Transfer Pricing, Price Waterhouse & Co. LLP; Overseas Business of India with special focus on GCC by Dr. Ranajoy Bhattacharya, Professor, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Kolkata; Policies on EXIM with special focus on GCC by Mr. Sudhakar Kasture, Director, Helpline Impex Pvt. Ltd. & Partner; Generation Next Business Consulting and Entrepreneurship Opportunities by Mr. Ashwin Srivastava, Co-founder & Director, Idein Ventures; Mr. Ardhendu Mandal, Chairman, International Trade Cell of the Chamber, moderated the Session. The session concluded with a lively Q/A session with the delegates coming up with diverse questions on Business with GCC.



Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, President, The Bengal Chamber delivering the Welcome Address



Mr. Tariq Izzaldeen Hassan Al-Mouthen, Commercial Counselor, The Embassy of the Republic of Yemen delivering the Keynote Address

Business Session in progress (L-R): Mr. Sudhakar Kasture, Director, Helpline Impex Pvt. Ltd. & Partner, Generation Next Business Consulting; Mr. Ashwin Srivastava, Co-founder & Director, Idein Ventures; Mr. Ardhendu Mandal, Chairman, International Trade Cell of the Chamber; Dr. Ranajoy Bhattacharya, Professor, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, Kolkata; Mr. Prasun Maiti, Director - Transfer Pricing, Price Waterhouse & Co. LLP

BUSINESS DIALOGUE - INDO-RUSSIA OPPORTUNITIES AND SCOPE

1st June 2016, Gorky Sadan, Kolkata

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and The Consulate General of the Russian Federation jointly organized a “Business Dialogue - Indo-Russia Opportunities and Scope” on 1st June 2016 from 2.30 p.m. onwards (IST) in Gorky Sadan - Russian Cultural Centre for Kolkata, 3 Gorky Terrace, Kolkata 17. The programme was streamed live between Kolkata and Russia.

The Chamber felt that it is a most opportune time to explore opportunities of Indo-Russian Business in the East and this video conference was the first dialogue between Russian and businesses from West Bengal in many years.

From the Indian side, representing West Bengal, the conference was attended by Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, President, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. Hemant Kanoria, Chairman & MD, Srei Infrastructure Finance Ltd; Dr. Rupali Basu, CEO, Apollo Gleneagles Hospital Ltd; Mr. S Radhakrishnan, Past President, Bengal Chamber; Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Chairman Energy and Environment Committee, The Bengal Chamber & MD, Enfragy Solutions India Pvt. Ltd; Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General Designate, The Bengal Chamber, along with a few more industry representatives. There were a total of 25 participants and around 25 representatives from the media, from the Indian side. The Russian side was represented by Mr. Konstantin Petrokov, President Advisor of OPORA, Ms. Veronica Peshkova, Executive Member of OPORA Russia, Ms. Elena Antonova, Ministry of Economy, Russian Federation, Asia Advisor, Mr. Vasily Petrechenko, Deputy Head of Moscow State University’s

Technopark and few more industry leaders. The entire session was moderated by Mr. Mikhail Gosev, the Acting Consul General of The Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Kolkata.

Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta spoke about the strategic importance of trade between the two countries and how the Government of India has emphasized to enhance the bilateral trade between Russia and India. Bengal being strategically located as a gateway to South East Asia and being rich in minerals, water and power has the true potential of bringing business and developing bilateral trade between the two countries. Mr Dasgupta also highlighted the fact that State Government has key focus in MSMEs and the State possesses huge intellectual capital for IT and ITeS. Therefore, there is a huge scope of Analytics, Skills, Education and Healthcare are other sectors wherein business opportunities are also quite bright. Mr. Hemant Kanoria, the Keynote Speaker, spoke about how two countries have been good partners for decades. He also reiterated the opportunities for MSMEs in engineering goods. He spoke about agriculture and agro based industries, consumer goods, tea, jute and other relevant sectors.

The Russian representatives discussed about various products from the Russian side focusing on analytics, biotechnology applications, wound dressing, molecular biotechnology products which are less expensive and have huge customer and distributor support system. The conference acted as a precursor to the Chamber’s upcoming business delegation to Russia later this year.



Video Conference in progress



Dr. Rupali Basu, CEO, Apollo Gleneagles Hospital Ltd during her address



Mr Mikhail Gosev the Acting Consul General of The Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Kolkata, moderating the conference.



The Russian Side.

BUSINESS DIALOGUE - INDO-RUSSIA OPPORTUNITIES AND SCOPE

1st June 2016, Gorky Sadan, Kolkata



Mr. Hemant Kanoria, Chairman & MD, Srei Infrastructure Finance Ltd during his address



Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, President, BCC&I during his theme address



Dr. Rupali Basu, CEO, Apollo Gleneagles Hospital Ltd and Mr. S Radhakrishnan, Past President, Bengal Chamber, during the conference



During the Video Conference



L-R Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, President, BCC&I; Mr Hemant Kanoria, Chairman & MD SREI Group; Mr Mikhail Gosev, Acting Consul General, Russian Federation to Kolkata



Members interacting with the Russian counterparts



During the session



Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General Designate, The Bengal Chamber

BUSINESS SESSION WITH THAILAND BOARD OF INVESTMENT, GOVERNMENT OF THAILAND

11th August 2016, The Taj Gateway, Kolkata

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a Business Session with Thailand Board of Investment, Government of Thailand on 11th August 2016 at Poolside Hall, The Taj Gateway Hotel, EM Bypass Kolkata, from 6.30 pm onwards followed by an Interactive Session and Networking Dinner.

Ms. Chitra Kulvanich, Executive Director, General Administration Bureau graced the session along with Ms. Kanokporn Chotipal, Senior Diplomat & Director of Investment from Board of Investment, Mr. Preecha Kaensa, Consul General of Royal Thai Consulate General, Kolkata and Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, President of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The objectives of the session were:

- Facilitating interaction on the growing level of engagement between Thailand and India.
- Highlighting opportunities and areas for India based

companies to successfully establish and grow their business in Thailand.

Ms. Kanokporn Chotipal, Senior Diplomat & Director of Investment from Board of Investment was the prolocutor of the session. Ms. Chitra Kulvanich, Executive Director, General Administration Bureau delivered a presentation on "Thailand's Dynamic Investment Environment and Opportunities".

Key topics of the presentation, addressed by Ms Kulvanich were :

- Thailand's globally established position
- Thailand as the ASEAN Hub
- Investment Incentives
- BOI Services



Welcome Address by Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Address by Mr. Preecha Kaensa, Consul General of Royal Thai Consulate General, Kolkata



Presentation by Ms. Chitra Kulvanich, Executive Director, General Administration Bureau



A section of the audience



Q/A Session in progress

FORGING STRONGER INTRA BRICS TRADE : EXPLORING COMPLEMENTARITIES

6TH SEPTEMBER 2016, CHAMBER PREMISES

West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation (WBIDC) and the Department of Agriculture, Government of West Bengal, in association with The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Indian Chamber of Commerce hosted the BRICS Young Diplomats Forum during their visit to Kolkata on 6th September 2016 at the Chamber Premises at an event titled "Forging Stronger Intra BRICS Trade: Exploring Complementarities". The event was a part of the initiative of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India's elaborate plan to publicize its foreign policy initiatives to reach out to more people, especially the youth, and a beginning was to be made at the BRICS Summit in Goa on October 15-16. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) is planning to hold 90 events across several cities ahead of the eighth meeting of the five-nation group – Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa – that holds 42 % of the world's population and 25% of the global GDP.

The Speakers included:

- Shri Amarendra Khatua, IFS, Dean FSI and Secretary, Government of India.
- Dr Sanjeev Chopra, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal.
- Shri Talleen Kumar, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of IT&E, Government of West Bengal.
- Ms Nayantara Pal Chowdhury, Senior Member from Indian Chamber of Commerce.
- Shri P Kamlakanth, IFS, Executive Director, WBIDC.
- Shri Pradip Majumdar, Advisor, Agriculture Department, Government of West Bengal.

The Young Diplomats, for whom the session was organized, included a team of at least five to six from each of the five BRICS nations. All the Diplomats from the BRICS nations stayed in Kolkata from the 3rd to the 6th of September and the session was part of their tour programme.

Dr. Sanjeev Chopra, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, in charge of Agriculture, Government of West Bengal presided over the Session.

Shri Amarendra Khatua, IFS, Dean FSI and Secretary, Government of India, thanked the Chambers of Commerce and the Government of West Bengal for hosting the forum at Kolkata. He felt that were a number of technical co-operation programmes open to the BRICS nations and the interactions here would surely add a lot of knowledge and experience for the participants.

Mr Sutanu Ghosh, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry, in his welcome address expressed his happiness at Kolkata being included by the MoEF in the BRICS schedule. He stated that with a cumulative global trade of 20 percent and generating over 40 percent of global economic growth, the BRICS countries and India specifically can position themselves as a prominent global leader in trade and are poised to strengthen their relationship through intra-BRICS trade. He also stated that the Bengal Chamber of Commerce in association with

the Government of West Bengal has envisioned to reposition Kolkata as a "niche city" promoting a select skill set, like the Silicon Valley in the USA.

Shri Talleen Kumar, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of IT&E, Government of West Bengal, in his detailed presentation on the "ICT landscape in West Bengal", distinctly elaborated on the IT sector and opportunities that exist in the State for members of the BRICS nations. Cyber security, big data analytics, designs and innovations were the areas of strength in West Bengal. He emphasized the availability of skilled manpower with presence of several renowned technical institutions in the State as well as the immense growth prospects of the State in the context of the large market it offers. An interesting round of Q&A followed Shri Kumar's presentation.

Ms Nayantara Pal Chowdhury from Indian Chamber of Commerce, stated that West Bengal was emerging as an important investment hub in the country and would provide the BRICS nations trade and investment opportunities especially in IT, agriculture, horticulture and fisheries and offered ICC's help from areas ranging from policy advocacy with the Government of India to identifying key sectors for investments by the BRIC nations.

Shri P Kamlakanth, IFS, Executive Director, WBIDC, in his presentation, emphasized the opportunities available in the State for investment in the manufacturing sector and the State's focus towards development of the industrial eco-system. The specially earmarked manufacturing belts and industrial parks, development of ports and dedicated freight corridors and skill development initiatives taken up were highlights of his presentation.

Shri Pradip Majumdar, Advisor, Agriculture Department, Government of West Bengal, presented in detail the growth story of India's agriculture in general, particularly highlighting the improvements brought about on West Bengal's agricultural front through use of IT and IT enabled services, and by addressing the problems faced by the farmers, 95% of whom are marginalized. IT support, financial support and legislative changes in the State has brought about immense improvements and today West Bengal happens to be the leading producer of rice and vegetables. 66% of land area in West Bengal is under cultivation against the Indian average of 50%. There exist immense opportunities for export of agricultural produce, including a variety of fruits from West Bengal.

The Panel Discussion which followed the opening session had Mr S Radhakrishnan, Chairman, TIE and Past President, Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry; Mr Kalyan Kar of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Prof Soikat Sinha Roy, Professor of Economics of Jadavpur University, who deliberated on the outcome and prospects of the cooperation in the BRICS group. Mr Snehasish Sur Moderated the session. The panel discussed a number of important issues ranging from the key economic and strategic measures to be adopted for sustained growth as well as harnessing each other's strengths through FDI flows and treaties.

**FORGING STRONGER INTRA BRICS TRADE :
EXPLORING COMPLEMENTARITIES**

6TH SEPTEMBER 2016, CHAMBER PREMISES



(From L – R) Shri Amarendra Khatua, IFS (Dean, Foreign Service Institute); Mr Sutanu Ghosh (President, The Bengal Chamber); Dr Sanjeev Chopra, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal; Shri Pradip Majumdar, Advisor, Agriculture Department, Government of West Bengal; Ms Nayantara Pal Chowdhury, Senior Member from Indian Chamber of Commerce and Shri P Kamlakanth, IFS, Executive Director, WBIDC.



Shri Talleen Kumar, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of IT&E, Government of West Bengal and Shri Amarendra Khatua, IFS (Dean, FSI) take questions from the audience, while Mr Sutanu Ghosh, President, Bengal Chamber, looks on.



Mr Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber, delivering the Inaugural Lecture.



The visiting Diplomats.



The visiting Diplomats.



The visiting Diplomats.

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH H.E. MS. MELBA PRIA, AMBASSADOR OF MEXICO IN INDIA

9TH SEPTEMBER 2016, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an Interactive Session with Her Excellency Ms. Melba Pria, Ambassador of Mexico in India on 9th September 2016 in the Chamber.

The Interactive Session was also graced by Mr. Sumit Mazumder, former President of The Bengal Chamber and Hony. Consul of Mexico in Kolkata.

Discussions in the session focused on opportunities to define the path of India-Mexico Partnership that allows the growth of bilateral relations in the fields of economy, science and technology. Emphasis was on increasing the importance of diversifying the economic exchanges to promote trade and investment.

The interaction commenced with an address by the Ambassador on 'Mexico- as an investment destination'.

Some of the statistics on Mexico which emerged are mentioned below:

- 15th largest economy in the world, projected to be one of the top 10 economies by 2050.
- Leading exporter in Latin America.
- Solid macroeconomic stability.
- Network of free trade agreements which gives the country access to 45 countries and 1.2 billion consumers.
- Part of the TPP and the Pacific Alliance.
- 120 million people = strong domestic market.
- One of the best ratios for working age population in the world.
- Competitive labor costs.
- Expanding skilled labor force.

The interaction with Members led to discussions on various issues like energy and environment, health, education, labour, industry specific issues like catalytic converter for automobile sectors and others.

The Meeting was preceded by a Networking Lunch.

The Bengal Chamber proposed to take a business delegation to Mexico. The Ambassador encouraged the proposition and also advised that it would be a positive approach to showcase West Bengal in Mexico.



L-R: Mr. Sumit Mazumder, former President of The Bengal Chamber and Hony. Consul of Mexico in Kolkata; Her Excellency Ms. Melba Pria, Ambassador of Mexico to India; Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber



Her Excellency Ms. Melba Pria, Ambassador of Mexico in India addressing the Members.



Interaction in progress

INDO-RUSSIA B2B MEET

26TH SEPTEMBER 2016, CHAMBER PREMISS

The Russian Export Center represents a huge number of companies, manufacturers, exporters of goods and technologies from different areas, including IT, food, energy, mining, metallurgy, oil and gas, infrastructure projects, equipment etc, and they have a wide range of interests. Mr. Dmitry Makeev, Head of the E-Commerce Department (India) and Mr. Pavel Borisov, Special Project Manager (India) of the Russian Export Center visited Kolkata during the last week of September, when the Chamber organised a focused B2B meet of companies from the food sector which would like to have fruitful cooperation with the Russian businesses.

From the Indian side, Mr. Sashank Shah, Vice President, Keventer and Mr. Saurabh Maheshwari, Additional GM/Processed Food

and Dairy of Spencer's Retail Limited participated in the exploratory meeting and discussed import-export opportunities amongst the 2 countries. During discussions both parties presented their cases in terms of mutual product categories. The Russian delegates were requested to appoint a distributor (out of the list of distributors which would be provided) for supplying into the Indian market as a whole. The requirements have to be consolidated and while importing, FSSAI rules and regulations need to be complied with. The Russians would specify and share the packaged food and beverage product categories for import over email exchanges with respect to the linkages established during the meeting.



Seen in the picture (second from left) Mr. Saurabh Maheshwari, Additional GM-Processed Food and Dairy, Spencer's Retail Limited; (in the middle) Mr. Sashank Shah, Vice President, Keventer; (second from right) Mr. Dmitry Makeev, Head of the E-Commerce Department (India) and (extreme right) Mr. Pavel Borisov, Special Project Manager (India), of Russian Export Center



Mr. Mikhail Gosev, Dy Consul General, The Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Kolkata moderating the session

Interactive Session on 'Business Opportunities in the realm of IT between West Bengal and Russia'

28TH SEPTEMBER 2016, AT GORKY SADAN, KOLKATA

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and The Consulate General of the Russian Federation jointly organized an Interactive Session on 'Business Opportunities in the realm of IT between West Bengal and Russia' on 28th September 2016 from 3.00 p.m. onwards (IST) in Gorky Sadan - Russian Cultural Centre for Kolkata, 3 Gorky Terrace, Kolkata 17. The programme was streamed live between Kolkata and Russia.

A few months back, The Chamber had successfully organized a similar forum of Indo-Russian Business Dialogue to explore opportunities of Indo-Russian Business in the East. During the session, two key sectors emerged viz, Health and IT, in which closer bilateral business ties were possible. The Chamber, therefore, felt the need of organizing another Interactive Session with a more focused approach specializing in IT and IT Applications.



Address by Mr. Yuri Dubovoy, Head, Russian Centre of Science and Culture.



Mr. Mikhail Gosev, Deputy Consul General of The Consulate General of the Russian Federation in Kolkata, moderating the conference.

Interactive Session on 'Business Opportunities in the realm of IT between West Bengal and Russia'

28TH SEPTEMBER 2016, AT GORKY SADAN, KOLKATA

From the Indian side, representing West Bengal, the conference was attended by the following:

Name	Designation	Company
Shri Ritesh Mukherjee	Principal Engineer Computing	Centre for Development of Advanced
Mr. Subho Samanta	Founder	Dirac Business Solutions Pvt. Ltd
Mr Rajarshi Chatterjee	Founder	Dirac Business Solutions Pvt. Ltd
Mr. Goutam Ghosh	Co-founder & Executive Director	InfraStrat Private Limited
Mr Ranjay Ghosh	Vice President-Operations	Nevaeh Technology Pvt. Ltd.
Mr Rahul Naskar	Vice President-Software	Nevaeh Technology Pvt. Ltd.
Mr. Prabir Dasgupta		PDG Associates
Mr Nirmal Ray	GM-Technical	West Bengal Electronics Industry Development Corporation Limited
Mr Sanjib Banerjee	DGM	West Bengal Electronics Industry Development Corporation Limited
Mr. Bhaswata Sinharoy	General Manager	Wipro Limited
Mr Ankit Kumar	Founder and CEO	Re-rise
Mr Somik Banerjee	Director	Re-rise
Mr. Pronab Chatterjee	Executive Director- Tech Consulting Services	Strat Aid Consulting
Mr Indranil Mitra	Director-Advisory	PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd
Mr Ashis K Chakraborty	CEO	ITOrbital
Mr Akash Arora	Assistant Vice President Marketing	Management and Computer Consultants

The Russian side was represented by companies such as:

1. "RELEX" - software and IT services
2. "Comnet" - cyber security
3. "Kodofon-T" - hardware and software (mobile communications, broadband wireless access, navigation, etc).
4. "BI-Leasing" - corporate information systems
5. "Doctornet.pro" - design
6. "Peremena" - data storage
7. "Angels IT Group" - medical information systems

The discussions took place over video conferencing between Kolkata and Moscow, where the participants shared their individual as well as Company profile and explored opportunities in the realms of IT and IT allied services. Some of the elements of IT and IT related services like Analytics, IOT, medical informatics, Dot Net etc. were discussed where the aim was to develop an ecosystem for cooperation among the two countries and their businesses. Another interesting aspect which came out of the interactions was about certain Mobile Applications, the technology aspect of which has already been developed by one of the participants from the Russian side. The Indian counterpart was willing to explore whether the same can be made available in Indian Languages.

The Russian representatives also invited the delegates and also the BCC&I IT Fraternity to pay a visit to Voronezh sometime soon to explore more on mutually beneficial collaborative arrangements.



B2B interaction between India and Russia via video conferencing



Interactive Session in Progress

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH MR. PATRICK SANTILLO, MINISTER COUNSELOR FOR COMMERCIAL AFFAIRS, U.S. EMBASSY NEW DELHI

4TH OCTOBER 2016, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an Interactive Session with Mr. Patrick Santillo, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy –India, for its senior members, on 4th October 2016 from 11.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. in the Chamber.

Mr. Santillo was accompanied by Mr. Jonathan T. Ward, Principal Commercial Officer and Mr. Arup Mitra, Senior Commercial Specialist, US Commercial Service, US Consulate General Kolkata.

The Meeting was chaired by Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber. Mr Alope Mookherjea, Past President, The Bengal Chamber was also present. The other Members who joined the programme were:

Mr. Alope Das Ghosh, Advisor, Larsen & Toubro

Mr. A Mandal, President - Business Development, Techno Electric and Engineering Company Limited

Dr. Amit Ghose, Consultant Urologist, Apollo Gleneagles Hospital

Mr. Arnab Basu, Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Arun Kumar Mukherjee, Director (Technical), Prerana Engineers & Consultants Pvt. Ltd.

Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Director, Teknowlegion Private Limited

Mr. P S Bhattacharyya, Former Chairman, Coal India Limited

Mr. Samrat Sarkar, Indismart Group Worldwide

Mr. R. N. Ghoshal, Regional President and Mrs. Madhusree Daityari, Regional Director, Indo-American Chamber of Commerce were also part of the Session.

The focus areas of discussions were:

- Energy
- Health
- Infrastructure
- Information Technology
- Water

The sector focused discussions were as under:

Health

Dr. Amit Ghose initiated the discussions on Health which he mentioned as one of the booming sectors. His observations included the demography, social structure, increased affordability, emergence of insurance in healthcare sector as the factors behind growth of this sector. He also spoke about the gap between the demand and supply of quality doctors and paramedical staffers. He highlighted that the country is in apex performance in some specializations like robotics surgery. He identified e-commerce as a potential element for the healthcare industry. The increase in medical tourism in India is also another important factor for its growth.

Technology collaboration and tie-ups for medical education and training are the areas where partnerships may be explored with the US.

Energy

Mr. Deb A Mukherjee commenced the discussions on Energy speaking about India's INDC in COP 21, held in November 2016. Towards this, Mr. Mukherjee mentioned the value chain as:

- Policy
- Regulations
- Business Model
- Delivery
- Finance

He emphasized innovative financial models to make the renewable target viable. Technology collaboration and financial tie-ups with US companies will help India achieve its INDC target.

For solar, technology for smart and efficient grid is important for availability of power for all 24*7. In this context, he also talked about creating appropriate skills to maintain the assets which are being created in solar and other renewables. Discussions in this context highlighted that the materials and processes involved in generating solar energy may be

obtained from the US.

Nuclear Power was also mentioned which would be an area of focus in the near future.

Emphasis was on clean coal. Bacteriological intervention for coalbed methane was mentioned where technology transfer from the US would help. Need for environment friendly mining equipment was also identified.

Smart grid for electricity transmission and distribution is also important.

Water

Mr. Alope Das Ghosh started the discussions on Water. He mentioned that India had mostly use of ground water in earlier days. However, the use of surface water is increasing in recent times, which is more predominant in the western part of the country. In West Bengal, though the quantity of ground water is not a challenge, but quality is a concern both in terms of health and environment. He indicated that there are opportunities for US companies in the water segment. Opportunities are also in waste water treatment. The technology from the US would be helpful in this sector.

An important observation on network management of water was made. USA may play a major role by providing technology for reduction of wastage of water during distribution.

Infrastructure

The President mentioned that a deep sea port would be very crucial for West Bengal. It is expected that the Tajpur Port project will be executed. The Chamber is in the process of preparing a Position Paper.

Information Technology

Mr. Arnab Basu addressed on IT which is one of the key export identities of India. In IT, India has several large Indian companies operating alongside foreign MNCs. The sector is going through a transition. Policies like implementation of GST which will have impact on all organizations, across all sectors, will need major technological intervention. The Government's Digital India Campaign is also a major catalyst for the sector.

With the advancement of technology, the outsourcing jobs are being reduced. Value chain is witnessing a vertical movement.

Startups constitute a key feature of India's IT eco-system. Some of the home grown IT Start Ups are becoming major players with potential competition to global ones.

There is a gradual shift towards products from services. Major IT companies are making investments in products.

Innovations and revolution around cloud are changing the eco system. Establishment of datacenters of global IT companies in India has made a positive impact on building confidence as data is not leaving the boundary.

Many conventional organizations are revamping themselves as technology organizations. Technological interventions in conventional areas like agriculture are changing the paradigm.

Internet of Things (IoT) and Cyber Security are major areas of focus.

MSME development is a focus of the Government of West Bengal. Electronics hardware industry is primarily constituted with MSMEs. In this regard, the US may share suggestions and models to create electronics hardware growth in the State.



L-R: Mr. Jonathan T. Ward, Principal Commercial Officer, U.S. Consulate General Kolkata; Mr. Patrick Santillo, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy, New Delhi; Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Assistant Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce, Mr Alope Mookherjea, Past President, The Bengal Chamber.



Meeting in progress. L-R: Mr. Arun Kumar Mukherjee, Director (Technical), Prerana Engineers & Consultants Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. P S Bhattacharyya, Former Chairman, Coal India Ltd; Mr. A Mandal, President - Business Development, Techno Electric and Engineering Company Limited; Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Director, Teknowlegion Pvt. Ltd. and Big Solar Ltd.; Dr. Amit Ghose, Consultant Urologist, Apollo Gleneagles Hospital; Mr. Arnab Basu, Partner, Technology Consulting & Digital Leader, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Jonathan T. Ward, Principal Commercial Officer, U.S. Consulate General, Kolkata; Mr. Patrick Santillo, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy, New Delhi; Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Assistant Director, The Bengal Chamber; Mr Alope Mookherjea, Past President, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. R. N. Ghoshal, Regional President; Indo-American Chamber of Commerce.



Meeting in progress. L-R: Mr. Samrat Sarkar, Indismart Group Worldwide; Mr. Arup Mitra, Senior Commercial Specialist, US Commercial Service, US Consulate General Kolkata and Mrs. Madhusree Daityari, Regional Director, Indo-American Chamber of Commerce.



Meeting in progress. Mr. Patrick Santillo; Mr. Sutanu Ghosh; Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury; Mr Alope Mookherjea; Mr. R N Ghosal and Mr. Alope Das Ghosh, Advisor, Larsen & Toubro Limited seating next to Mr Alope Mookherjea (L-R)



Mr. Sutanu Ghosh and Mr. Patrick Santillo at the Calcutta Gallery of The Bengal Chamber.

Ms. Soma Mitra Mukherjee, Assistant Director, The Bengal Chamber with President Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, explaining the concept of The Calcutta Gallery to Mr. Patrick Santillo, Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs, U.S. Embassy -India.



INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH HIS EXCELLENCY NILS RAGNAR KAMSVAG, AMBASSADOR OF NORWAY TO INDIA,

18TH OCTOBER 2016, THE CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an Interactive Session with His Excellency Nils Ragnar Kamsvag, Ambassador of Norway to India on 18th October 2016 in the Chamber.

The Ambassador was accompanied by his gracious wife and his colleagues, Mr. Helge Tryti, Counsellor, Commercial Affairs, Embassy of Norway in New Delhi and Director, Innovation Norway and Mr. Johan Loov, Second Secretary, Political Affairs, Embassy of Norway in New Delhi. Ms. Nayantara Palchoudhuri, Hony. Consul, Royal Norwegian Consulate, Kolkata was also present.

The Ambassador commenced his address mentioning that Kolkata would be the ideal destination, as indicated by the map, for Norway to connect with India by sea route. He spoke about the historical linkage Norway shares with Calcutta. Their first Consulate was opened in Calcutta in 1845.

He exclaimed that India and Norway share the common vision of a prosperous, sustainable and peaceful future based on international law and diplomacy. India is now one of the world's largest economies and is set to emerge as a global power. He made special emphasis on Energy and Environment and Shipping. He applauded India's forward looking attitude in the realm of Energy. He mentioned that Norway's direct and indirect investment in India would be approximately USD 13-14 billion. There is a steady increase in Norwegian companies setting up business in India.

Mr. Helge Tryti reiterated His Excellency's views on the locational advantage of West Bengal and Kolkata for Norway to do business in India. He highlighted the under mentioned sectors which Norway is focusing on:

- Maritime
- Oil and Gas
- Water Treatment
- Innovation and Start Ups
- Renewable Energy
- Marine
- Health
- ICT
- Infrastructure and Smart Cities
- Defence
- Science and Technology

He spoke about the presence of Indian companies in Norway. He advised that West Bengal could showcase the opportunities it has to offer to the Norwegian companies.



Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber emceeding the Interactive Session.



Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber delivering the Welcome Address.



His Excellency Nils Ragnar Kamsvag, Ambassador of Norway to India addressing the audience.



Mr. Helge Tryti, Counsellor, Commercial Affairs, Norway Embassy in New Delhi and Director, Innovation Norway addressing the audience.



Mr. Indrajit Sen, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering the Vote of Thanks.



(L-R): Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Mr. Indrajit Sen, His Excellency Nils Ragnar Kamsvag, Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, Ms. Nayantara Palchoudhuri, Hon. Consul of Norway in Kolkata.



Distinguished audience.



Press Conference in progress.



His Excellency Nils Ragnar Kamsvag , with the delegation, at The Calcutta Gallery escorted by Mr. Subhodip Ghosh.



His Excellency Nils Ragnar Kamsvag at The Calcutta Gallery.

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH H.E. MR. ASFAW DINGAMO, AMBASSADOR, EMBASSY OF ETHIOPIA IN INDIA

25th November 2016 Chamber Premises

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry organised an interactive session with His Excellency Mr. Asfaw Dingamo, The Ethiopian Ambassador to India on Friday, 25th November at the Chamber premises.

His Excellency Mr. Dingamo was welcomed by The BCC&I President, Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, who delivered the welcome address. The Ambassador was accompanied by Mr. Kiros Hailemariam, Counsellor - I, who also delivered, a comprehensive presentation on Ethiopia and investment opportunities by Indian Industry in Ethiopia. From the Chamber, Mr. Ardhendu Mandal, Chairperson of the International Trade Cell was also present. Amongst the attendees, there were many delegates from the existing investors in Ethiopia.

His Excellency Mr. Dingamo spoke most eloquently about the history and culture of Ethiopia, from its proto-historic emergence in world history, to the reign of the Queen of the Kingdom S'aba, known in literature as Sheba, to its present day emergence as a developing power in the African vis-a-vis international perspective. He stated that Ethiopia is Africa's oldest independent country and its second largest in terms of population. Apart from a five-year occupation by Mussolini's Italy, it has never been colonised. It has a unique cultural heritage, being the home of the Ethiopian Orthodox Church - one of the oldest Christian churches - and a monarchy that ended only in the coup of 1974. It served as a symbol of African independence throughout the colonial period, and was a founder member of the United Nations and the African base for many international organizations. Ethiopia, officially known as the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia is a Sovereign State located in the Horn of Africa. It shares a border with Eritrea to the north and northeast, Djibouti and Somalia to the east, Sudan and South Sudan to the west, and Kenya to the south. With nearly 100 million inhabitants, Ethiopia is the most populous landlocked country in the world, as well as the second-most populous nation on the African continent after Nigeria.

Some of the oldest evidence for anatomically modern humans has been found in Ethiopia, which is widely considered the region from which modern humans first set out for the Middle East and places beyond. According to linguists, the first Afro-asiatic-speaking populations settled in the Horn region. Tracing its roots to the 2nd millennium BC, Ethiopia was a monarchy for most of its history. During the first centuries AD, the Kingdom of Aksum maintained a unified civilization in the region, followed by the Ethiopian Empire circa 1137. Ethiopia derived prestige with its uniquely successful military resistance during the late 19th-century Scramble for Africa, becoming the only African country to defeat a European colonial power and retain its sovereignty.

It was in July 1948, India and Ethiopia first established diplomatic relations at the level of legations. The relationship was raised to ambassadorial level four years later in 1952. India maintains an embassy in Addis Ababa and Ethiopia in New Delhi. The two countries have enjoyed close and friendly relations with India supporting Ethiopian developmental efforts while Ethiopia has supported Indian interests such as its claim to a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. India and Ethiopia share a common understanding on such issues as cross-border international terrorism, the need and direction for reform of the United Nations, and the importance of action on Climate Change.

He stated that trade between the two countries is expected to surpass \$1 billion by 2017. Indian exports to Ethiopia consists of drugs and pharmaceuticals, steel, machinery, food items, plastic and linoleum products, paper, textiles, chemicals, transport equipment and steel.

India's imports from Ethiopia include raw hides and skins, pulses, oil seeds, spices, leather and scrap metal. India is Ethiopia's second largest source of Foreign Direct Investments with investments amounting to \$5 billion. Indian investments in Ethiopia are expected to be worth \$10 billion by 2015 with India approving investments worth \$4.78 billion in 2011.

He further stated that India and Ethiopia signed a Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement in 2007 and a Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement in 2011 to promote mutual trade and investments. At the Second India Africa Forum Summit, the then Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh announced a \$300 million line of credit to help revive the Ethiopia-Djibouti rail route. The Duty Free Tariff Preference scheme that was announced at the summit allowing for imports from Least Developed Countries into India has however had a positive impact on bilateral trade with the value of Ethiopian exports to India now reaching \$120 million. The balance of trade however continues to remain in India's favour. India has also extended \$710 million in lines of credit to help in rural electrification and the revival of the sugar industry in Ethiopia.

Mr. Kiros Hailemariam, Counsellor - I, the diplomatic team member accompanying H.E. the Ambassador explained that labour costs in Ethiopia are 50% cheaper compared to India and power tariffs one-third, and it was a favoured destination because of its favourable political and economic climate. The Ethiopian government is offering attractive incentives to draw foreign investors, such as land on decades-long lease, cheap power and duty-free exports to key markets like the US and Europe. Ethiopia is emerging as a favoured low-cost destination for apparel makers on the lines of Vietnam, Bangladesh and India. It is not only Indian textile companies that are making a beeline for Ethiopia - companies from China, Korea and Turkey too are investing in this African nation.

Indian enterprises, both large and mid-sized, have taken note of the benefits and are setting up manufacturing facilities in Africa's oldest independent country. Fabric-to-apparel maker Raymond has invested \$100 million over the next two-three years for a garmenting unit in Awasa, a lake-side city, which will be one of its largest facilities. Arvind, another Indian textile major, has set up a six-million-piece garment plant in Ethiopia. Mr. Hailemariam further pointed out that, among various factors, the long-term lease for factories that the Ethiopian government offers is one of the main attractive propositions for the company's decision to invest in this east African nation. There is also single-window clearance for industrial projects. Kanoria Textiles, too, is setting up a project there. With its value proposition similar to that of Bangladesh which includes large population, cheap and young labour, Ethiopia also offers cheap power and a highly committed government. Ethiopia, without doubt, is set to be the epicentre of textiles across Africa. Mr. Hailemariam said that roads, railways, consultancy, telecommunication, power, mango plantation and water resource management are the areas where the Indian companies are jointly working with Ethiopian companies. He further stated, "We offer incentives such as tax holidays of one to five years depending on the project location, tax holidays of up to two years on income from expanded projects and unrestricted repatriation of profits, dividends, interest payments from approved projects." Investment activities eligible for income tax exemption are manufacturing or agro-industrial activities or agricultural products, and there are no stipulations

on foreign investors on re-investing profits or dividend, as long as at least 60 per cent of the output is exported, he added.

For exporters looking at longer term and a bigger picture, investing in Ethiopia is definitely an option. For Ethiopia to be able to integrate and assimilate foreign investment into its economy, the levels of technology and capital intensiveness should be appropriate for a developing economy. India's long experience in developing appropriate technology and in the promotion of small industries could be used by Ethiopia, keeping the above objective in mind. Opportunities for foreign investment in Ethiopia abound in the areas of mineral extraction, agro based industries and light manufacturing. Indian businesses can invest either individually or as a consortium in areas like infrastructure development and mineral extraction. Smaller units can be set up to tap opportunities in areas like leather & leather manufactures and food processing.

This was followed by a very proactive Q/A session, where several attendees from the industries, all of them prospective investors or existing business owners in Ethiopia, asked several questions with focus on Power, Trades, Infrastructures and similar industrial verticals forming a major percentage of the representation. The questions were noted down by HE Ambassador Dingamo, and he addressed all the issues mentioned. A gist of these solutions offered are as follows:

1. In response to the JIS Group, HE Dingamo stated The Ethiopian educational system is a good potential area for Indians. Of course the process of partnering was open to all, but he felt that it would be easy for any educational investor to expand in the country.
2. As regards transmission technology providers, in response to a query raised by the representative from Skipper, the Ambassador spoke of the UAP (Universal Electrical Access Programme) aimed at electrifying Ethiopia to 100% by 2025, and assured that there was good opportunity for investors. However, this would be a totally government owned project, he stated, as there was no private player in the Power or Transmission Sector as yet in Ethiopia.
3. Professor B.K.Chowdhury, HOD, Public Systems - IISWBM spoke of Energy systems prevalent in Ethiopia, as well as existing frameworks guiding the same. The Ambassador replied with the kinds of green initiatives that Ethiopia was taking, inclusive of its general climate conditions, which were extremely affable.
4. DCPL, a major Indian consulting firm operating in Ethiopia for more than two decades raised the issue of non-existence of foreign banks in Ethiopia, to which both Mr. Dingamo and Mr.Hailemariam commented that all the Ethiopian nationalised banks corresponded with all international banks.
5. RTS Power inquired as to whether the tax exemptions extended to existing operators in Ethiopia, to which he received a positive affirmation.
6. Mr. Indrajit Sen, Sr.VP, BCC&I inquired regarding which entity was the equivalent body to be approached to facilitate Ease of Doing Business in Ethiopia. This very relevant query was replied, and the Ethiopian Chamber of Commerce's coordinates were shared.
7. Dakshata Technical Academy and Mr.Zariwala also received affirmative responses to their queries regarding expansion opportunities in Skills domain and export of medium voltage switchgears to Ethiopia.

The programme was a great success. The high tea organised by BCC&I at the end of the programme provided excellent opportunities in the way of a networking platform for further exchanges between the overseas dignitaries and the delegates attending the programme.



The Ambassador, H.E. Mr. Asfaw Dingamo (extreme right) and the Counsellor I, Mr. Kiros Hailemariam taking a look at "The Calcutta Gallery" accompanied by the President, Mr. Sutanu Ghosh (extreme left) and the Senior Vice President of the Bengal Chamber, Mr. Indrajit Sen (second from left)



The speakers at the Interactive Session



During the Interactive Session

BUSINESS DELEGATION BY THE CRACOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY FROM CRACOW, POLAND TO KOLKATA

30th November 2016, Chamber Premises

The Cracow Chamber of Commerce and Industry from Cracow, Poland led by their President, Mr. Andrzej Zdebski organized a trade mission to Bengal. The objective of this mission was to identify potential business partners from this region and to discuss the possibilities, conditions and areas in which effective economic cooperation would be taken forward. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry met the Polish delegation members in Kolkata and organized a focused B2B meet for the delegation members with local industry participants on 30th November 2016 from 11 am to 1 pm at The Chamber premises.

The focused sectors of the business session were - Plastics & Polymer Products (Manufacturing), Sanitary Products, Hydraulics, Radiators (Consumer/Industrial Products Manufacturing), Safety & Security (Services), Conveyors, Rollers & Allied Mining/Production Line/Construction/ Industrial Tools (Manufacturing), Mining Accessories Including Gate Roof Support Control and Other Steel Accessories



Mr Andrzej Zdebski, President, The Cracow Chamber of Commerce and Industry and other delegation members at the Calcutta Gallery



Mr Indrajit Sen, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering the Welcome Address



Shri Kaushick Saha, Executive Director, WBIDC delivering the Special Address



Mr Andrzej Zdebski, President, The Cracow Chamber of Commerce and Industry during his speech

(Industrial Tools Manufacturing) and Chamber Of Commerce (Advisory; Not-For-Profit; Developmental Sector Company), which would like to have fruitful cooperation with the businesses of Poland and Bengal.

Mr. Andrzej Zdebski, President, The Cracow Chamber of Commerce and Industry graced the session along with Shri Kaushick Saha, Executive Director, West Bengal Industrial Development Cooperation and Mr Indrajit Sen, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Shri Kaushick Saha, Executive Director, WBIDC delivered a presentation on "West Bengal-Emerging growth engine of India". His insights made the discussions and B2B Networking thereafter more meaningful and relevant. Mr. Andrzej Zdebski, President, The Cracow Chamber of Commerce and Industry made a presentation on "Economic Potential of Malopolska, Poland". His insights on the business landscape of Cracow enlightened the representatives of the local industries on the opportunities of doing business in Poland.

The meeting included a most vibrant B2B session during which the 40-odd local business participants including those from large organizations, interacted across the table with their Polish counterparts.



L-R- Mr Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr Andrzej Zdebski, President, The Cracow Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr Indrajit Sen, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Shri Kaushick Saha, Executive Director, WBIDC



A Section of audience.



B2B interaction in progress

B2B MEETING WITH THE DELEGATION OF THE INDO-CANADA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

6TH JANUARY 2017 CHAMBER PREMISES

The Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce (ICCC) had embarked on their "Annual India Mission in January 2017". The objective of this trade mission was to strengthen the bilateral trade relationships between Canada and India. The delegation members of The Indo-Canada Chamber had intended to visit 7 Indian cities - Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, Bengaluru, Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad and New Delhi.

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized B2B meetings for the delegation members of the Indo-Canada Chamber with the industry participants on 6th January 2017 in the Chamber premises.

Her Worship Bonnie Crombie, Hon'ble Mayor, City of Mississauga graced the session along with Mr. Jay Banerjei, Chair-Trade Committee, Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Pappur Shankar, Vice President- Finance and SME, Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Arjun Kumar Dutta, Trade Commissioner, Canadian Trade Office, Kolkata and Mrs. Anjana Bharat, Regional Chair, Indo Canada Business

Chamber and NE Chapter. Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry were also present along with the senior members who participated in the Business session.

Mayor Bonnie Crombie delivered a presentation on the City of Mississauga. Her presence and insights on business opportunities and work-life balance in Mississauga made the session more prestigious and relevant. Mr. Jay Banerjei gave an induction on the "Annual India Mission" organized by the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Pappur Shankar spoke on manufacturing industry in Canada. Mr. Arjun Kumar Dutta addressed on Indo-Canada Trade Relationship and Mrs. Anjana Bharat highlighted the works of Indo-Canada Business Chamber in India.

The Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



Her Worship Bonnie Crombie, Mayor, City of Mississauga looking at the Calcutta Gallery.



Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry with the delegate members of the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce.



L-R: Mr. Arjun Kumar Dutta, Trade Commissioner, Canadian Trade Office, Kolkata; Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Ms. Bonnie Crombie, Mayor, City of Mississauga; Mr. Jay Banerjei, Chair-Trade Committee, Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce; Mr. Pappur Shankar, Vice President- Finance and SME, Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce; Mrs. Anjana Bharat, Regional Chair, Indo Canada Business Chamber and NE Chapter.



Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry commencing the session.



Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering the formal Welcome Address.



A section of the audience.



Mr. Jay Banerjei, Chair-Trade Committee, Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce.



Mr. Pappur Shankar, Vice President- Finance and SME, Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce.



Mr. Arjun Kumar Dutta, Trade Commissioner, Deliberating his speech.



Her Worship Bonnie Crombie, Mayor, City of Mississauga.



Mrs. Anjana Bharat, Regional Chair, Indo Canada Business Chamber and NE Chapter delivering her speech.



Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mr. Jay Banerjei, Chair-Trade Committee, Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce greeting each other after the MOU signing.



MOU signing between the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce and The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

INTERACTIVE SEMINAR ON “HOW TO GROW YOUR BUSINESS IN HONG KONG & BEYOND”

27TH FEBRUARY 2017, TAJ GATEWAY, KOLKATA

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in partnership with Invest Hong Kong, organized an Interactive Seminar on “How to grow your business in Hong Kong & Beyond” on 27th February 2017 at Taj Gateway Hotel, EM Bypass Kolkata, from 6.30 pm onwards followed by an Interactive Session and Networking Dinner.

The objectives of the seminar were:

- Ease of doing business in Hong Kong to cater to the Mainland China and Asia Pacific market.
- Highlighting the One Belt One Road initiative taken by China.
- Highlighting the opportunities and areas for India-based companies to successfully establish and grow their business in Hong Kong.

Mr. Smarajit Purkayastha, Assistant Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry set the tone

with his welcome speech while Mr. Francis Ho, Associate Director General, InvestHK (Government of Hong Kong) graced the session along with Mr. Rampat Gupta, Consultant, Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Delhi. Mr. Siddhant Gupte, Consultant, International Operations, Invest Hong Kong India Team moderated the Q&A session.

Mr. Francis Ho delivered a presentation on “Investment Promotion - Where Business Goes to Grow”. His presence and insights on business opportunities in Hong Kong and bilateral business relationships between Hong Kong and India made the session most relevant and meaningful. Mr. Rampat Gupta shared his perspectives on “Exploring Business Opportunities via HKTDC’s Integrated Marketplace.” His insights on the business landscape of Hong Kong enlightened the representatives of the local industries on the opportunities of doing business in Hong Kong.



L-R: Mr. Smarajit Purkayastha, Assistant Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Francis Ho, Associate Director General, InvestHK (Government of Hong Kong); Mr. Rampat Gupta, Consultant, Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Delhi; Mr. Siddhant Gupte, Consultant, International Operations, Invest Hong Kong India Team



Ms. Sukanya Bose, Deputy Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, emceeding the Session



Mr. Smarajit Purkayastha, Assistant Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, delivering the formal welcome address



Mr. Francis Ho, Associate Director General, InvestHK (Government of Hong Kong) addressing the audience



A section of the audience



Mr. Smarajit Purkayastha presenting a memento to Mr. Francis Ho



Mr. Smarajit Purkayastha presenting a memento to Mr. Rampat Gupta



Mr. Smarajit Purkayastha presenting a memento to Mr. Siddhant Gupte



Q/A Session in progress



Q/A Session in progress



Mr. Rampat Gupta, Consultant, Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Delhi, during his discourse



Mr. Rampat Gupta addressing the audience during the Q/A Session

A SPECIAL INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH HIS EXCELLENCY MR. PARAMASIVUM PILLAY VYAPOORY, HON'BLE VICE PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

17TH APRIL 2017, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a Special Interactive Session with His Excellency, Mr. Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory, Hon'ble Vice President of Republic of Mauritius on 17th April 2017 at The Chamber premises. The session was graced by His Excellency Mr. Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory, Hon'ble Vice President of Republic of Mauritius and Mr. Deven Coopoosamy, Partner - Client Relationship CORPORATE, Rogers Capital, Mauritius. The audience included important stakeholders and members of the Chamber. The objective of the session was to explore bilateral business opportunities between India and Mauritius in general and building new bonds between Kolkata/West Bengal and Mauritius in particular.

It was the first ever business forum His Excellency graced in the City.

His Excellency Mr. Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory and Mr. Deven Coopoosamy took a walk down the Calcutta Gallery accompanied by Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, BCC&I, Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General BCC&I and Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Deputy Director, BCC&I, following which the interactive session commenced.

Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, in his welcome speech, highlighted the Indo-Mauritius bilateral relations and also introduced the Hon'ble Vice President to the audience. Mr. Abhishek Basu, Executive Trustee of Basu Foundation for the Arts, the cultural partner of BCC&I for this event, showcased the gamut of interesting work that The Basu Foundation had been doing on connecting people through art, through an audio visual presentation.

An Introduction of Business Opportunities along with the Ease of Doing Business in Mauritius was presented by Mr. Deven Coopoosamy with the help of an audio visual presentation.

Subsequently, His Excellency Mr. Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory addressed the gathering by elaborating on the ideal environment for doing business in the island nation and the bilateral relationship between India and Mauritius. The Hon'ble Vice President mentioned that Mauritius had a

skilled workforce and modern infrastructure for setting up factories. He shared how Mauritius used to be a mono-crop model economy at the time of their Independence when sugar used to constitute 90% of their trade which accounted for only 1% of their GDP, and how the Government now envisions raising Mauritius to the level of a high income economy as part of the Vision 2030 exercise. His Excellency spoke of the trade links Mauritius has had with India, where he mentioned certain facts like - India has been the largest exporter of goods and services to Mauritius and how India and Mauritius have been sharing strong trade relations even in the recent past, and how the double tax avoidance convention has helped play a key role in enhancing the financial statistics.

To highlight the strong Indian influence on Mauritius, His Excellency Mr. Vyapoory named several places/monuments that were named after famous Indians including Mahatma Gandhi, Jawaharlal Nehru, Swami Vivekananda and Rabindranath Tagore. The relations between the armed forces of India and Mauritius have also been good. The famous Mauritius navy ship, Barracuda was constructed by an Indian shipbuilder, while even today India carries out patrols and surveillances with Mauritius.

India is Mauritius's leading trading partner and has been the largest exporter of goods and services to the country since 2007. His Excellency highlighted the joint operations that both the countries are carrying out presently, with a reference to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India His Excellency Shri Narendra Modi's Mauritius visit in 2015. His Excellency complimented the Hon'ble Prime Minister for redefining the bilateral relationship between the two countries during his visit.

The proposed Indo-Mauritius Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement is expected to be signed later this year as both countries finalised the areas of exchange, he added. He said that the two sides had agreed upon the areas in which the agreement would be implemented. Areas which have been identified are financial services, ICT, health, education, R&D and construction. He said that the agreement would lead to an expansion of trade

on both sides and enhanced investment besides enhanced economic relations. Sectors which offered investment opportunities to Indian companies were ICT and BPO, banking services and insurance. He also mentioned that investments in Mauritius will give Indian companies preferential market access to USA and to Africa.

Regarding the Direct Tax Avoidance Convention (DTAC) between India and Mauritius, he said that it was due to this agreement that the cumulative equity inflow to India till April, 2015 was to the tune of USD87 bn. He said that India had extended several lines of credit to Mauritius, the last one being USD500 million announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in March, 2015. Mauritius is also ready to offer financial incentives to the Indian film industry, he observed. His Excellency thanked The Bengal Chamber for providing a relevant platform for exploring bilateral trade and B2B interfaces.

Mr. D N Mitra, Chairperson, Legal Committee and Member, Managing Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivered the formal Vote of Thanks.



Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry welcoming H.E. Mr. Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory, Hon'ble Vice President, Republic of Mauritius to the Chamber.



H.E. Mr. Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory, Hon'ble Vice President, Republic of Mauritius walking through The Calcutta Gallery.



H.E. Mr. Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory, Hon'ble Vice President, Republic of Mauritius entering the Chamber premises with Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



L-R: Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber; H.E. Mr. Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory, Hon'ble Vice President, Republic of Mauritius; Mr. Dip Narayan Mitra, Chairperson, Legal Committee and Member, Managing Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Deven Coopoosamy, Partner – Client Relationship, CORPORATE, Rogers Capital, Mauritius on the dais.

A SPECIAL INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH HIS EXCELLENCY MR. PARAMASIVUM PILLAY VYAPOORY, HON'BLE VICE PRESIDENT OF REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS

17TH APRIL 2017, CHAMBER PREMISES



Mr. Deven Cooposamy, Partner – Client Relationship, CORPORATE, Rogers Capital, Mauritius with Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber.



Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry emceeding the interactive session.



Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering the formal Welcome Address.



Mr. Abhishek Basu, Executive Trustee, Basu Foundation for The Arts addressing the audience.



Mr. Deven Cooposamy, Partner – Client Relationship, CORPORATE, Rogers Capital, Mauritius during his presentation.



H.E. Mr. Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory, Hon'ble Vice President, Republic of Mauritius gracing the session.



Mr. Dip Narayan Mitra, Chairperson, Legal Committee and Member, Managing Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering the formal Vote of Thanks.



Q/A session in progress.



Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a memento to H.E. Mr. Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory, Hon'ble Vice President, Republic of Mauritius.



Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a memento to H.E. Mr. Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory, Hon'ble Vice President, Republic of Mauritius.



Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a memento to Mr. Deven Coopoosamy, Partner – Client Relationship, CORPORATE, Rogers Capital, Mauritius.



L-R: Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; H.E. Mr. Paramasivum Pillay Vyapoory, Hon'ble Vice President, Republic of Mauritius; Mr. Deven Coopoosamy, Partner – Client Relationship, CORPORATE, Rogers Capital, Mauritius; Mr. Dip Narayan Mitra, Chairperson, Legal Committee and Member, Managing Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



A section of the audience.

MEETING WITH MR. ARCHIL DZULIASHVILI, AMBASSADOR OF GEORGIA TO INDIA

12TH JULY 2017, CHAMBER PREMISES

A meeting with Mr. Archil Dzuliashvili, Ambassador of Georgia to India on 12th July 2017 was held at the Chamber. He interacted with Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President of the Bengal Chamber along with members of the Chamber Secretariat. This was his first visit to Kolkata. The objective of the meeting was to explore the possibilities of building trade relations between West Bengal and Georgia and to understand Georgia's potentiality as a preferred investment destination. The Ambassador gave a presentation discussing the same in details. Film tourism emerged as a focus area for the Ambassador.



(L-R): Mr. Archil Dzuliashvili, Ambassador of Georgia to India; Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



Mr. Archil Dzuliashvili, Ambassador of Georgia being presented a memento by Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

MEETING WITH MR. PETER TRUSWELL, DIRECTOR- INDIAN POLITICAL SECTION, INDIA AND INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT BRANCH, AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT- DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE, SOUTH AND WEST ASIA DIVISION

20TH JULY 2017, CHAMBER PREMISES

A meeting with Mr. Peter Truswell, Director-Indian Political Section, India and Indian Sub-Continent Branch, Australian Government-Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, South and West Asia Division, was held on 20th July 2017 at the Chamber. Mr. Truswell was accompanied by Dr. Jibby Thomas, Senior Research Officer, Australian High Commission and Mr. Partha Sen, Business Development Manager, Eastern India, Australian Trade Commission, Australian Government.

In Discussion: At Right Mr. Peter Truswell, Director- Indian Political Section, India and Indian Sub-Continent Branch, Australian Government- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, South and West Asia Division.



INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH MR. BRUCE BUCKNELL, DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER, BRITISH DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSION, KOLKATA

28TH JUNE, 2017, CHAMBER PREMISES



L-R – Mr. C S Ghosh, President Designate of the Chamber; Mr. Bruce Bucknell, Deputy High Commissioner of the UK and the President of the Chamber, Mr. Sutanu Ghosh introducing Mr. Bucknell.

Mr. Sutanu Ghosh, President, introduced Mr. Bruce Bucknell, British Deputy High Commissioner in Kolkata, who represented the UK in the 13 Indian States of West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, Chattisgarh, Assam, Sikkim, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Before taking up his assignment in Kolkata, Mr. Bucknell was Her Majesty's Ambassador to the Republic of Belarus from 2012 to 2016. Earlier, he was the Deputy Head of Security in Estates and Security Directorate of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office (2009-2011) and Deputy Head of the Joint FCO and Department for International Development's Sudan Unit (2007-2009). He served as First Secretary in the British Embassy in Madrid from 2003 to 2007, and his previous postings were in Milan (1995-99) and Amman (1988-91). He studied modern history at Durham University, and takes a keen interest in the history of the places he visits.

Mr. Bruce Bucknell thanked the Chamber for inviting him over for an interactive session with its Managing Committee. He was aware that there was a business delegation from the Chamber visiting the UK next month. He stated that he would not be speaking too much on the current state of affairs in the UK because far more information was available with all from the English media. Mr. Bucknell's talk covered the following points.

- There were more than one and a half million people of Indian origin living in the UK and that means a lot insofar as Indo-British relations are concerned which has been good, especially commercial



The President of the Chamber and Mr. Bucknell exchanging notes during the interactive session.

relations. Financial trade between the UK and India has been to the extent of over 16 billion Pounds and investments from the UK has been almost 21 billion Pounds (between 2006 to 2016) to India, followed by 15.6 billion Pounds to Japan, 15.3 billion Pounds to America and 17.7 billion Pounds in Germany. UK-India bilateral investment partnership was very strong, and would get better.

- On the issue of jobs and growth, actually British Companies from former colonial India had increased the number of employees to more than 110000. Acquiring Companies in the UK was also easy.
- The issue of Brexit and the results of the latest general elections in the UK were realities to be faced. In this scenario Britain was committed to widening its economic and diplomatic relations outside EU. There were uncertainties but Britain was confident about the fundamental strengths of UK's economy and optimistic about the role it would forge by building on its strength as a trading nation.

- UK Export Finance (UKEF) would play a major role in boosting Britain's international trade. UKEF is UK's export credit agency which provides export finance and insurance that complements commercial business. It works closely in partnership with UK Trade & Investment and ensures that no viable UK export fails for want of finance or insurance. Export Finance was well recognized by the US, Japan and other international trading nations.

- The International Ease of Doing Business Index of Britain remains higher than the US. It has the lowest Corporate Tax, currently at 19% and was committed to reducing it to 17% by 2020. In Global Innovation it was above the US, for the third year in a row. UK was a very open and welcoming place to do business.

Mr. Bruce Bucknell's talk was followed by a very invigorating round of discussions which covered matters ranging from restoration of direct flights from Kolkata to London, UK's focus on Kolkata and West Bengal and its various programmes towards development, poverty alleviation and climate mitigation in this part of the country as well as challenges the UK would face post-elections. Mr. Bucknell assured that he would be looking into the prospects of restoration of flights between the UK and Kolkata. He also gave a detailed account of the climate, energy and poverty alleviation programmes that were underway in Kolkata, West Bengal and the Eastern and North Eastern States of the country.



Mr. Sutanu Ghosh thanking Mr. Bruce Bucknell and presenting a memento.

LUNCHEON MEETING WITH HON. MR. KEITH PITT MP, ASSISTANT MINISTER FOR TRADE, TOURISM AND INVESTMENT, FEDERAL MEMBER FOR HINKLER, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

30TH AUGUST, 2017, THE OBEROI GRAND, KOLKATA

An exclusive Luncheon Meeting with the Australian MP and Minister, Hon Mr. Keith Pitt MP, Assistant Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Federal Member for Hinkler, Queensland was held on 30th August 2017 at The Oberoi Grand, Kolkata. Mr. Pitt was accompanied by Mr. Chris Elstoft, Deputy High Commissioner, Australian High Commission, New Delhi and Mr. Lindsay Hermes, Assistant Adviser, Office of the Hon Keith Pitt MP, Assistant Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment. From The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. B B Chatterjee, Vice President; Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Chairperson of Energy and Environment Committee; Dr. Suborno Bose, Chairperson of Education Committee and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General were present at the meeting.

The objective of the meeting was to discuss the collaboration and business opportunities between Bengal and Australia.



L-R: Mr. Chris Elstoft , Deputy High Commissioner, Australian High Commission, New Delhi; Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Chairperson, Energy and Environment Committee, The Bengal Chamber; Hon Mr.Keith Pitt MP, Assistant Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, Government of Australia and Federal Member for Hinkler, Queensland; Dr. Suborno Bose, Chairperson, Education Committee, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. B B Chatterjee, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber.

INFINITY - GROW YOUR BUSINESS

1ST SEPTEMBER 2017, THE BENGAL CHAMBER

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry, in association with ALIBABA.COM, a leading global wholesale trading platform and a subsidiary of Alibaba Group, organized a Conference titled "Infinity – Grow your business" for Indian resellers of leather products in Kolkata on 1st September 2017 at the Williamson Magor Hall, The Bengal Chamber premises. The objective of the Conference was to empower the resellers to further expand their business and increase their presence in the global market. The Conference also focused on enlightening the exporters & traders about numerous Government policies related to exports and innovation in the SME sector. The programme was supported

by Indian Leather Products Association (ILPA) and Council of Leather Exports (CLE).

The programme was graced by Mr. Debkumar Basu, Chairperson – Manufacturing & MSME Committee, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Mr. Zia Nafis, Panel Convenor – Finished Leather, Eastern Region, Council of Leather Exports, Mr. Vinay Bhartia, Senior Vice President - Strategic Partnership, Alibaba.com and Mr. Syed Tariq Ali, Partner – Oriental Overseas Exports. The conference was attended by more than one hundred delegates from the leather sector in Kolkata.



Mr. Zia Nafis, Panel Convenor – Finished Leather, Eastern Region, Council of Leather Exports delivering his address.



Mr. Vinay Bhartia, Senior Vice President - Strategic Partnership, Alibaba.com delivering his address.

AN INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH HIS EXCELLENCY DR. DEMETRIOS A. THEOPHYLACTOU, HIGH COMMISSIONER OF CYPRUS TO INDIA

25TH NOVEMBER 2017, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in association with TAFI, organized an Interactive Session with His Excellency Dr. Demetrios A. Theophylactou, High Commissioner of Cyprus to India on 25th November, 2017 at the Tata Steel Room of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry on “ Cyprus : An Exotic Tourist Destination”.

The Programme started with Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering the formal welcome address. Mr. Anil Jhunjhunwala, Honorary Consul, Honorary Consulate of Cyprus introduced H.E. Dr. Demetrios A. Theophylactou to the audience.

A man of letters, the High Commissioner very aptly started by describing the geographical demographic composition of Cyprus. It was a part of the British Empire, as a military occupation from 1914 to 1925 and a Crown colony from 1925 to 1960. Cyprus became an independent nation in 1960. Cyprus joined European Union in May, 2004. He also touched upon the rich culture and heritage of the country and went on to describe the socio economic developments in the country till date. H.E. Dr. Demetrios A. Theophylactou mentioned that tourism accounts for 10.7% of GDP indicating a heavily tourism driven economy. One of the main attractions of Cyprus is the beaches. It ranks first in cleanest water in EU. To attract more tourists, the Government of Cyprus is proceeding with licensing in the development of the Integrated Casino Resort. Cyprus is also a full member of the World Tourism Organization due to the huge tourism prospects in the country.

He however mentioned that apart from tourism, situations are also conducive for the growth of other sectors like shipping, banking and healthcare. H.E Dr. Theophylactou specially harped upon the safety aspect of the country stating

that it ranks number one in the safest small country category. He also stated that India Cyprus relation is being further boosted by a recent agreement increasing maritime trade between the two countries. Of the thirteen other agreements signed, the important sectors include Education, Defence, IT and Mining. He also mentioned that Cyprus was one of the largest foreign direct investors in India following Brexit. The investments can also be attributed to the much lower tax structure.

The programme concluded with Mr. Anil Punjabi, Chairman, Tourism Committee of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering the formal vote of thanks to H. E. Dr. Demetrios A. Theophylactou and other dignitaries present at the session and Deb A Mukherjee presenting a memento to His Excellency Dr. Demetrios A. Theophylactou on behalf of The Bengal Chamber.



Mr. Deb A. Mukherjee, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and H. E. Dr. Demetrios A. Theophylactou during the interaction

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH MR. THOMAS VAJDA, ACTING DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SOUTH ASIAN AFFAIRS, DEPARTMENT OF STATE, US GOVERNMENT, WASHINGTON DC

1ST DECEMBER 2017, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an Interactive Session with Mr. Thomas Vajda, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for South Asian Affairs, Department of State, Washington DC on 1st December 2017 in the Chamber premises. The theme of the discussions was Regional Connectivity and Trade.

Mr. Thomas Vajda was accompanied by Mr. Craig L Hall, U.S. Consul General in Kolkata; Mr. Prasenjit Gupta, Consul for Political & Economic Affairs, U.S. Consulate General in Kolkata and Mr. Jonathan T. Ward, Principal Commercial Officer, U.S. Consulate General in Kolkata.

Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Past President, The Bengal Chamber shared the Chamber's insights on Regional Connectivity. His address included Global Value Chain (GVC) and West Bengal's potentiality to explore the advantage of GVC, with its strategic location and MSME focus for the economic development of not only the State or the Country but also the Region of South and South East Asia. Mr. Dasgupta's address was followed by a presentation by Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber on the initiatives being made by South and South East Asian Countries for developing multimodal connectivity for a shared economy and how West Bengal is featuring prominently in this landscape.

Mr. Thomas Vajda, who was most impressed with the Chamber's presentation, shared his perspectives on trade relationship between USA and India and addressed issues

like potentiality of West Bengal and North East, entrepreneurship for Global Economic Development, influence of China as an emerging superpower, market access of US companies in India, India's IT industry and prospect of US technologies for Smart Cities, Digital India, Make in India Missions, US crude oil being purchased by India and other issues.



Mr. Craig L. Hall, U. S. Consul General in Kolkata and Mr. Jonathan T. Ward, Principal Commercial Officer, U. S. Consulate General in Kolkata with Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry at The Calcutta Gallery in The Bengal Chamber Premises.

L-R: Mr. Prasenjit Gupta, Consul for Political & Economic Affairs, U. S Consulate General in Kolkata; Mr Craig L. Hall, U. S Consul General in Kolkata; Mr. Thomas Vajda, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for South Asian Affairs, Department of State, Washington DC; Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.



Mr. Thomas Vajda, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for South Asian Affairs, Department of State, Washington DC addressing the session.



Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry addressing the audience.



Distinguished audience.



Interaction in progress.



Distinguished audience.



Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a memento to Mr. Thomas Vajda, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for South Asian Affairs, Department of State, Washington DC.



Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a memento to Mr. Craig L. Hall, U.S. Consul General in Kolkata.

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH MR. THEO J.J. GROOTHUIZEN , SPECIAL ENVOY FOR THE HAGUE SECURITY DELTA AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS

11TH DECEMBER 2017, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Entrepreneurs' Committee of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an interactive session with Mr. Theo J.J. Groothuizen, an international consultant for international collaboration in science & technology, Special Envoy for The Hague Security Delta and the Municipality of The Hague, Netherlands on 11th December 2017 at Tata Steel Room, The Bengal Chamber Premises.

Mr. Theo J.J. Groothuizen has a Masters Degree in Industrial Design Engineering from the Delft University of Technology and also studied architecture at the same university. He worked for Royal Dutch Telecom for 6 years after which he started running his own professional design practice. He was co-founder of Design Consultancy Landmark in the Netherlands (1986), of which he became Principal in 1994, and Founder of Landmark Switzerland. He is CEO and Principal of Groothuizen Beheer BV, a consultancy for international collaboration and innovation. During his professional life he was Executive Board member of the Dutch Designer's Association (BNO) and the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design (ICSID) and Convener for the Bureau of European Designers Associations (BEDA). Theo is honorary member of BNO, Regional Advisor for ICSID and Fellow of

Design for the World. He has lectured at several universities and was member of the external research advisory board of the faculty of Design, Engineering and Manufacturing at the Delft University of Technology. Theo Groothuizen has been invited on numerous occasions as speaker, workshop leader, jury member, moderator or curator and he organized several events to promote Dutch Design & Innovation abroad.

The objective of the interactive session in Kolkata was to explain to the participants about the HSD (Hague Security Delta) organization and to discuss how the State of West Bengal could develop a similar ecosystem like the triple helix model and a relevant innovation ecosystem. Participants included senior executives from ITC Ltd, Ericsson Global India Services, Infosec Foundation, Integral Technocom, Department of IT&E, Government of West Bengal and many more. Post the interaction the participants expressed their interest to set up an ecosystem which could offer multiple opportunities for collaboration with HSD and experts in the Netherlands on safety & security, in particular on Cyber Security. A draft proposal would be prepared at the earliest involving HSD to suggest a roadmap to bring the international best practices on Cyber Security in West Bengal.



Participants interacting over breakfast with Mr Theo J.J. Groothuizen an international consultant for international collaboration in science & technology, Special Envoy for The Hague Security Delta and the Municipality of The Hague, Netherlands.



Session with Mr Theo J.J. Groothuizen in progress.

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH MR MA ZHANWU, CONSUL GENERAL, CONSULATE GENERAL OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA IN KOLKATA

20TH DECEMBER 2017, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Members of the Managing Committee of the Bengal Chamber interacted with Mr. Ma Zhanwu, Consul General, Consulate General of People's Republic of China in Kolkata on 20th December 2017 in the Chamber premises.

Mr. Zhanwu said that he had been in the City of Kolkata for two and a half years now and that he loved Bengal and Kolkata which he thought was indeed a city of vitality, knowledge, development, joy and a city of prosperity. He felt that with the growth and development in this part of the world, this City should rank amongst the top cities of the world in the next few years. Mr. Zhanwu stated that he greatly admired the history and heritage of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and felt happy to be at the Chamber.

The Consul General spoke about current Chinese infrastructure and connectivity initiatives spanning continents, trade relations and prospects of trade with India and specifically Bengal, while focusing on the scope of future Chinese investments in Bengal.

He commented that China's growth story is currently transforming from 'high-speed growth' to 'high quality growth'. From an average yearly growth rate of about 9% over several years, China has come down to a growth rate of 6.9% per annum this year and it should settle at around 6.5% with its new thrust on quality and efficiency. Innovation was the new course to be adopted in place of extension of scale. The traditional ties between Bengal and China could provide further scope for expansion of business here.



L-R: Mr. Indrajit Sen, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Ma Zhanwu, Consul General, Consulate General of People's Republic of China in Kolkata; Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Managing Committee Meeting in progress



Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Deputy Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Ms. Sukanya Bose, Deputy Director, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry interacting with Mr. Ma Zhanwu.



Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a token of appreciation to Mr. Ma Zhanwu, Consul General of People's Republic of China in Kolkata

POLAND - INDIA BUSINESS FORUM: B2B INTERACTION WITH THE DELEGATION FROM INDO POLISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, WARSAW (IPCCI)

15TH JANUARY 2018, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized B2B Interaction (Poland-India Business Forum) with the Delegation from the Indo Polish Chamber of Commerce and Industry (IPCCI) on 15th January 2018 in The Bengal Chamber premises.

The Delegation of IPCCI also participated in the Bengal Global Business Summit on 16th and 17th January 2018 at the Biswa Bangla Convention Centre.

The meeting in the Bengal Chamber was addressed by Mr. Marek Magierowski, Hon'ble Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland who was accompanied by Mr. Grzegorz Tobiszowski, Hon'ble First Deputy Minister of Energy of Poland and Mrs. Malgorzata Ocheduszko-Ludwik, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of the Silesia Province, Poland. His Excellency Adam Burakowski, Ambassador of Poland to India also graced the occasion.

Other dignitaries gracing the session were, Mr. Maciej Falkowski, Deputy Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland; Mr. Krzysztof Dobrowolski, Deputy Joint Secretary (Asia-Pacific Department), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland; Mr. Bartomiej Pawlak, President, Polish Development Fund; Mr. J. J. Singh, President, Indo Polish Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Shri Prasanta Kumar Barai, Joint Secretary, Industry, Commerce and Enterprises Department, Government of West Bengal and Ms. Kuhuk Bhushan, IAS, OSD, West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.

It was a high profile delegation with majority of the representatives from energy and mining sectors. The objective of the programme was to create a platform to facilitate dedicated B2B Meetings with the delegate members of IPCCI. It was the first B2B of the Polish Delegation to BGBS, hosted by The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry. There was a positive feedback of taking the relationship forward by organizing a return business delegation to Poland.

The session commenced with the addresses by Mr. Indrajit Sen, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mr. J. J. Singh, President, Indo- Polish Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Poland. Ms. Kuhuk Bhushan, IAS shared insights on "West Bengal –Emerging growth engine of India". She focused on the opportunities of doing business in West Bengal.

Mr. Marek Magierowski, Hon'ble Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland addressed on Poland-India Business and Economic Relationship. Mr. Magierowski highlighted the importance of mining and its contribution to the economic growth of Poland. He showcased Silesia in Poland, famous for

its Coal and Industry, as a potential region for economic partnership with Bengal. He also mentioned that mining, coal, food processing, power, academic, medical, information and communication technologies were the potential sectors for bilateral collaboration between Poland and India.

Mr. Grzegorz Tobiszowski, Hon'ble First Deputy Minister of Energy of Poland addressed on Economic collaboration between Poland and West Bengal.

Mr. Maciej Falkowski, Deputy Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland addressed on "Poland and India- towards a business partnership." His address covered topics like Poland-India economic cooperation's state of play, Poland-India trade dynamics, Poland's GDP- past and present, the reasons for investment in Poland, Poland-foreign trade, Poland as an attractive investment market, Poland with a stable financial sector, sound banking system in Poland, Poland-India-perspectives for economic partnership and Poland-India-possible cooperation in the environmental protection sector.

Mr. Daniel Ozon, President, JSW presented an overview of JSW Group. He mentioned that JSW was the largest producer of high quality coking coal and the key independent producer of coke in the European Union. JSW's coking coal was used mainly to produce coke, which in turn was an important element in the steel production process. He also highlighted the investment opportunities in Poland.

Mr. Miroslaw Skowron, President, PeBeka shared his perspectives on PeBeka, one of the largest specialist construction companies in Poland. His address included, galleries and Chamber working; shaft works; infrastructure construction engineering; industrial construction engineering; surface drilling work; innovation directions- mechanical excavation of galleries in hard rock conditions, construction of mining central air conditioning system, utilization of drilling holes as alternative way of connecting surface and underground infrastructure; 22 completed international contracts- wide spectrum of operations from the comprehensive execution of Shaft Sinking through the construction of hydro technical, road and railway tunnels, to construction project in domestic areas; PeBeka's potentiality in Shaft, Tunnel and Horizontal Work.

Mr. Jan Bondaruk, Assistant General Director, GIG shared information on GIG-Central Mining Institute in Poland. He spoke about the basic areas of GIG activity- mining and geoengineering, occupational safety in the industry, environmental engineering, material engineering, socio-economic studies, certification, attestation, integrated

management systems, training and education; R&D staff and infrastructure; Experimental Mine “Barbara”- a unique place for mining investigations in a real scale; Clean Coal Technology Centre; Environmental Engineering Centre (EEC); Silesian Centre for Environmental Radioactivity; International Centre of Excellence on Coal Mine Methane; Location of Polish coal basins and coal production in Poland in 2016 and Polish hard coal mining industry in 2016.

The meeting included a very vibrant B2B session during which the local business participants interacted with the Polish participants.



Mr. Indrajit Sen, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering the formal Welcome Address. (L-R) on the dais: Mr. J. J. Singh, President, Indo-Polish Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Poland; Mr. Bartomiej Pawlak, President, Polish Development Fund; Mr. Krzysztof Dobrowolski, Deputy Joint Secretary (Asia-Pacific Department), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland; Mr. Grzegorz Tobiszowski, Hon’ble First Deputy Minister of Energy of Poland; Mr. Marek Magierowski, Hon’ble Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland; Mrs. Malgorzata Ocheduszko-Ludwik, Hon’ble Deputy Chief Minister of the Silesia Province, Poland; His Excellency Adam Burakowski, Ambassador of Poland to India; Mr. Maciej Falkowski, Deputy Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland; Shri Prasanta Kumar Barai, Joint Secretary, Industry, Commerce and Enterprises Department, Government of West Bengal; Ms. Kuhuk Bhushan, IAS, OSD, West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Limited



Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry commencing the session



Mr. J. J. Singh, President, Indo - Polish Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Poland addressing the audience



Mr. Marek Magierowski, Hon’ble Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland gracing the occasion



Mr. Grzegorz Tobiszowski, Hon'ble First Deputy Minister of Energy of Poland gracing the occasion



Mr. Maciej Falkowski, Deputy Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Poland addressing the audience



Mr. Miroslaw Skowron, President, PeBeka addressing the audience



Mr. Daniel Ozon, President, JSW during his speech



Mr. Jan Bondaruk, Assistant General Director, GIG during his speech



Mr. Indrajit Sen, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber addressing the press conference with Mr. Marek Magierowski, Hon'ble Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland; His Excellency Adam Burakowski, Ambassador of Poland to India and Mr. Bartomiej Pawlak, President, Polish Development Fund



Mr. Indrajit Sen, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry with Mr. Marek Magierowski, Hon'ble Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Poland and His Excellency Adam Burakowski, Ambassador of Poland to India at The Calcutta Gallery in the Chamber premises



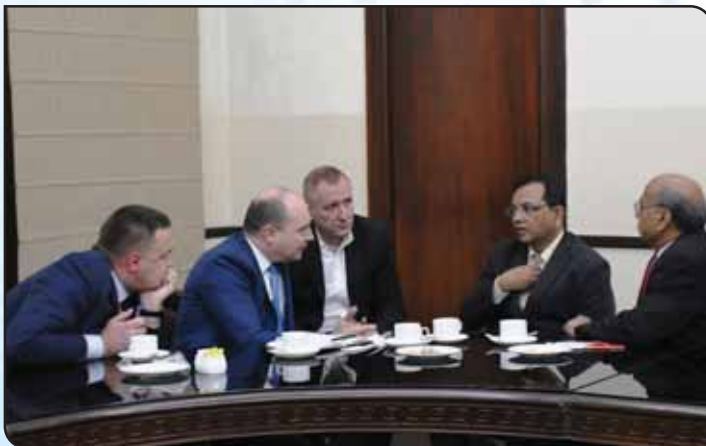
Distinguished audience



Distinguished audience



B2B Networking in progress



B2B Networking in progress.



Ms. Kuhuk Bhushan, IAS, OSD, West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation Limited sharing her perspective on Business Opportunities in Bengal

MEETING WITH MS. FRANCES ADAMSON, SECRETARY OF AUSTRALIA'S DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE (FOREIGN SECRETARY)

23RD JANUARY 2018, THE BENGAL CHAMBER PREMISES

An exclusive meeting with Ms. Frances Adamson, Secretary of Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Foreign Secretary) was held on 23rd January 2018 in The Bengal Chamber Premises.

Ms. Adamson was accompanied by Mr. Chris Elstoft, Deputy High Commissioner, Australian High Commission, New Delhi; Ms. Hilary McGeachy, First Secretary (Economic), Australian High Commission, New Delhi and Mr. Partha Sen, Business Development Manager, Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade), Kolkata.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, President; Mr. B B Chatterjee, Senior Vice President; Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Vice President; Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Past President and Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General were among the attendees from The Bengal Chamber.

The summary of discussions is as follows: Indo-Australia relationship has three conspicuous areas of importance, which are strategic dimensions, regional connectivity and economic reforms in India. Strengthening of these three areas will lead to a greater strategic partnership and synergy between the two nations. Australia sees enormous opportunity in 10 major sectors, where both the nations can work jointly. Out of which the 4 lead sectors are:

- Education (inter disciplinary and huge opportunity as there is already inflow of students from India including West Bengal and Eastern India to Australia)
- Agriculture (particularly potato cultivation and cold chain facilities)
- Energy
- Tourism (Eco Tourism)

These sectors are followed by niche skill development in services sectors such as

- Health and IT
 - Financial services
- and subsequently
- Infrastructure (Urban development)
 - Environment management
 - Defense
 - Sports (Sports Management, where opportunities may be created here with Australian expertise)

West Bengal plays a key role as far as the aforesaid sectors are concerned. The State has a pivotal role in trans-national connectivity. The ports, riverine and coastal routes of the State play an extremely significant role in the Sub-ASEAN region.



L-R- Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Chris Elstoft, Deputy High Commissioner, Australian High Commission, New Delhi; Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Ms. Frances Adamson, Secretary of Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Foreign Secretary); Mr. B. B. Chatterjee, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber; Ms. Hilary McGeachy, First Secretary (Economic), Australian High Commission, New Delhi; Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Past President, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber



L-R : Mr. Partha Sen, Business Development Manager, Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade), Kolkata; Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta; Mr. Deb A Mukherjee; Mr. Chris Elstoft; Mr. B. B. Chatterjee; Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh; Ms. Frances Adamson; Mr. Smarajit Purkayastha, Assistant Director General, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. Subhodip Ghosh; Ms. Hilary McGeachy; Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Deputy Director, The Bengal Chamber; Ms. Sukanya Bose, Deputy Director, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. Sambit Dasgupta, Sr. Manager, Market Research & Development, The Bengal Chamber



Interaction with Ms. Frances Adamson, Foreign Secretary of Australia



Mr. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh, President, The Bengal Chamber presenting a token of appreciation to Ms. Frances Adamson, Foreign Secretary of Australia

MEETING WITH MR. ROBERT GARVERICK, MINISTER COUNSELOR, ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AFFAIRS, EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN NEW DELHI

24TH JANUARY 2018, CHAMBER PREMISES

Mr. Robert Garverick was accompanied by Mr. Jonathan T. Ward, Principal Commercial Officer, U. S. Consulate General Kolkata and Ms. Sangita Dey Chanda, Economic Advisor, Consulate General of the United States of America in Kolkata. From The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Vice President, Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General and Ms. Angana Guha Roy Chowdhury, Deputy Director were present in the meeting.

The economic strengths of Bengal, the regional dynamics, sectors of focus and cross-border trade and infrastructure issues were discussed.



L-R- Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Robert Garverick, Minister Counselor, Economic, Environment, Science and Technology Affairs, Embassy of the United States of America in New Delhi; Ms. Sangita Dey Chanda, Economic Advisor, Consulate General of the United States of America; Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. Jonathan T. Ward, Principal Commercial Officer, U.S. Consulate General Kolkata



Interaction with Mr. Robert Garverick, Minister Counselor, Economic, Environment, Science and Technology Affairs, Embassy of the United States of America in progress



Mr. Subhodip Ghosh presenting a memento to Mr. Robert Garverick

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH MR. JAMES C. F. HUANG, CHAIRMAN, TAIWAN EXTERNAL TRADE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

24TH JANUARY 2018, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized an Interactive Session with Mr. James C.F. Huang, Chairman, Taiwan External Trade Development Council and former Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Taiwan on 24th January 2018 in the Chamber Premises.

The objective of the session was to discuss about the possible areas of collaboration and business opportunities between West Bengal and Taiwan.

Mr. Huang was accompanied by Mr. Ho-Ching Huang, Vice Chairman, Dairen Chemical Corporation (DCC); Mr. Michael Lin, Director, Taipei World Trade Center Liaison Office in Mumbai; Mr. George Lin, Director, Taipei World Trade Center, Liaison Office in Kolkata and Mr. Kyle Chiu, Special Assistant to Chairman, General Administration Department, Taiwan External Trade Development Council.

Mr. Indrajit Sen, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr Alope Mookherjee, Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Past President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Arun Kumar Mukherjee, Chairperson Emeritus, Energy and Environment Committee, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. R N Lahiri, Chairperson Emeritus, IT Committee, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. A. B. Guha, Sr. General Manager, Marine Container Services (I) P. Ltd. and Mr. Ashok Mukherjee, Managing Director, Sonodyne were also present at the meeting.

Mr. Huang shared his objectives of visiting Kolkata. He

emphasized that there was lack of information about West Bengal amongst the business fraternity in Taiwan. His principal interest for this trip was to understand the business dynamics in this part of the country and identify the synergies. There was a positive feedback of taking the relationship forward by engaging in preparation of reports, organizing delegations and other possible collaborations.



L-R- Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Past President, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. James C. F. Huang, Chairman, Taiwan External Trade Development Council; Mr. Indrajit Sen, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. George Lin, Director, Taipei World Trade Center, Liaison Office in Kolkata



Mr. Indrajit Sen, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering the formal Welcome Address



Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta sharing his perspectives on West Bengal and its opportunities



Mr. James C.F. Huang, Chairman, Taiwan External Trade Development Council gracing the session



Mr. Alope Mookherjea, Past President, The Bengal Chamber interacting with Mr. James C. F. Huang, Chairman, Taiwan External Trade Development Council



Interaction in progress



Mr. George Lin, Director, Taipei World Trade Center, Liaison Office in Kolkata addressing the audience.



Participants at the Roundtable meet



Participants



Mr. James C.F. Huang, Chairman, Taiwan External Trade Development Council gracing the session



Mr. Alope Mookherjea, Past President, The Bengal Chamber interacting with Mr. James C. F. Huang, Chairman, Taiwan External Trade Development Council



Interaction in progress



Mr. George Lin, Director, Taipei World Trade Center, Liaison Office in Kolkata addressing the audience.



Participants at the Roundtable meet



Participants



L-R: Mr. Indrajit Sen, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. George Lin, Director, Taipei World Trade Center, Liaison Office in Kolkata; Mr. Ho-Ching Huang, Vice Chairman, Dairen Chemical Corporation (DCC); Mr. Kyle Chiu, Special Assistant to Chairman, General Administration Department, Taiwan External Trade Development Council; Mr. Michael Lin, Director, Taipei World Trade Center Liaison Office in Mumbai



Interaction in progress



Mr. Indrajit Sen, President Designate, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a memento to Mr. James C.F. Huang, Chairman, Taiwan External Trade Development Council



Mr. James C.F. Huang presenting a memento to Mr. Indrajit Sen

MEETING WITH AUSTRIAN DELEGATES

25th January 2018, Chamber premises

An exclusive meeting with the Austrian delegates - Mr. Gunter Dorflinger, COO, Christof Industries GmbH; Mr. Mag Bobo Ristic, Partner, EPIC and Mr. Heinz Wiene, Sales Director, Oschatz Energy and Environment GmbH, was held on 25th January 2018 in the Bengal Chamber Premises. Mr. Sourav Daspatnaik, Chief Executive Officer, Swach Environment Private Limited and Mr. Rituraj Borah, Lead-Business Development (SWM), India Power Green Utility Private Limited were also present at the meeting. The principal interest of the Austrian delegates was to visit The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry-India's oldest Chamber of Commerce, to understand the business dynamics of West Bengal and West Bengal Industrial Policy and to discuss about the collaboration and business opportunities between Bengal and Austria, especially in the Energy Sector.



L-R: Mr. Sourav Daspatnaik, Chief Executive Officer, Swach Environment Private Limited; Mr. Sambit Dasgupta, Sr. Manager, Market Research & Development, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Mr. Mag Bobo Ristic, Partner, EPIC; Mr. Rituraj Borah, Lead-Business Development (SWM), India Power Green Utility Private Limited; Mr. Gunter Dorflinger, COO, Christof Industries GmbH; Mr. Heinz Wiene, Sales Director, Oschatz Energy and Environment GmbH

Mr. Sourav Daspatnaik, Chief Executive Officer, Swach Environment Private Limited presenting a token of appreciation to Mr. Mag Bobo Ristic, Partner, EPIC; Mr. Gunter Dorflinger, COO, Christof Industries GmbH and Mr. Heinz Wiene, Sales Director, Oschatz Energy and Environment GmbH



FELICITATION OF MS. MANUSHI CHHILLAR-MISS WORLD 2017

2ND FEBRUARY 2017, THE BENGAL LOUNGE, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a Special “Adda” Session & Felicitation of Ms. Manushi Chhillar, Miss World 2017 on 2nd February 2018 at The Bengal Lounge, The Bengal Chamber Premises.

Ms. Manushi Chhillar was accompanied by Ms. Julia Morley, Chairperson & CEO, Miss World Limited, Ms. Stephanie Del Valle, Miss World 2016 and other Continental Winners of Miss World. Their felicitation was followed by a special ‘Adda’ session, the discussion topic being “Women in India”. The objective of this session was to discuss and promote awareness about Sanitation, Hygiene and Quality of Life.

Eminent panelists at the session were Mr. Sujoy Prasad Chatterjee - Essayist, Poet & Actor; Dr. Rupali Basu, Chairperson

– Women Empowerment Committee, BCC&I; Ms. Agnimitra Paul, Fashion Designer; Ms. Keya Seth, Entrepreneur- Keya Seth Exclusive; Ms. Urmi Basu, Founder – New Light and Mr. Jaydeep Mandal, Founder & Managing Director, Aakar Innovations Pvt. Ltd. and Co-founder & Director, Aakar Social Ventures. Ms. Manushi Chhillar and Ms. Julia Morley also joined the session. Ms. Monideepa Banerjee, Executive Editor East - NDTV moderated the session.

The programme also included a performance by some special children representing APT Centre Kolkata. The programme was very well attended by guests from various walks of life.



Welcome Address by Mr. Subhodip Ghosh, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Presentation of tokens of appreciation to the students of APT centre



Performance by students from APT Centre



Ms. Manushi Chhillar, Miss World 2017 along with her team enjoying the performance of the students from APT Centre.



Ms. Manushi Chhillar, Miss World 2017 being felicitated by Dr. Rupali Basu, Chairperson – Women Empowerment Committee, BCC&I and Ms. Keya Seth, Entrepreneur- Keya Seth Exclusive



Ms. Stephanie Del Valle, Miss World 2016 being felicitated by Dr. Rupali Basu, Chairperson – Women Empowerment Committee, BCC&I and Ms. Keya Seth, Entrepreneur- Keya Seth Exclusive



Ms. Julia Morley, Chairperson & CEO, Miss World Limited being felicitated by Ms. Keya Seth, Entrepreneur- Keya Seth Exclusive and her daughter



Mr. Sanjay Sen, Co-Chairperson, Information Technology Committee, BCC&I and Senior Vice President, ITC Infotech India Limited presenting memento to one of the winners of the Continental Miss World contest



Mr. Abhijit Hazra, Chairperson – The Entrepreneurs' Committee, BCC&I and Founder and Managing Director, Touchstone Tie-up Pvt. Ltd. presenting memento to one of the winners of the Continental Miss World contest



Special Address by Ms. Julia Morley, Chairperson & CEO, Miss World Limited



Special Address by Ms. Manushi Chhillar, Miss World 2017



Panel Discussion on 'Women in India'. To the left of Ms. Manushi Chhillar - Ms. Julia Morley, Chairperson & CEO, Miss World Limited; Dr Rupali Basu, Chairperson – Women Empowerment Committee, BCC&I; Ms. Agnimitra Paul, Fashion Designer and Mr. Jaydeep Mandal, Founder & Managing Director, Aakar Innovations Pvt. Ltd. and Co-founder & Director, Aakar Social Ventures. To her right -Ms. Stephanie Del Valle, Miss World 2016; Mr. Sujoy Prasad Chatterjee - Essayist, Poet & Actor and Ms. Urmi Basu, Founder – New Light



Ms. Monideepa Banerjee, Executive Editor East - NDTV moderating the session



Team Bengal Chamber with Ms. Manushi Chhillar- Miss World 2017



A section of the audience

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO INDIA, H.E. KENNETH I. JUSTER

7TH FEBRUARY 2018, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, in association with the American Chamber of Commerce, Eastern Region chapter, and the U.S. Consulate General, Kolkata organized an Interactive session with the 25th United States Ambassador to India, His Excellency Kenneth I. Juster on 7th February 2018 at 2.30 p.m. in the Chamber premises.

Ambassador Juster was accompanied by Mr. Craig Hall, Consul General of the US Consulate General Kolkata and Mr. Jonathan T. Ward, Principal Commercial Officer, US Commercial Service, US Consulate General Kolkata.

The session was opened by Mr. B. B. Chatterjee, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry by delivering the formal Welcome Address. Mr. Debdas Sen, Chairman, AmCham Eastern Region, moderated the session. Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry formally closed the session with Vote of Thanks to The Ambassador. Mr. Gulshan K. Sachdev, Vice Chairman, AmCham National Executive Board was also part of the Session.

The US Ambassador to India, H.E. Juster's speech primarily centered around two areas:

- (1) The US Government's Indo-Pacific Strategy and
- (2) Bilateral economic relationship – which he emphasized is the cornerstone of Indo-US strategic partnership.

He mentioned that The US Indo-Pacific strategy reflected the growing range of shared interests between the two countries and it was a natural complement to India's "Act East" Policy. It was vital that the Indo-Pacific region continued to be free and open. The US-India strategic partnership was designed to strengthen both countries and have a beneficial impact on the region. Promotion of economic connectivity through private sector-led growth, free and fair trade, use of responsible debt-financing practices, and the transparent development of infrastructure. Preserving regional stability and security, preventing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and eliminating the scourge of terrorism were all being aimed at.

The Ambassador believes that a strong foundation for strategic partnership that can have a significant positive impact on the 21st century and beyond had been laid and it is time now to build upon this partnership, make it durable and bring about remarkable economic rise of the region. It is believed that Indo-Pacific was increasingly a place of peace, stability and growing prosperity, rather than one of disorder, conflict, and predatory economic policy. Cooperation in

defense and counter-terrorism has been a key pillar of Indo-US partnership, he said. The US sought to assist India's efforts to build up its indigenous defense capabilities, as well as enhance the inter-operability of the two forces as major defense partners in the Indo-Pacific region.

The US sought to pursue the same strategic policies on its economic relationship that it had applied to its defense relationship. While India was in the midst of an economic surge as it integrates fully in the global economy, the US trade and investment relationship with India also continues to grow. Bilateral trade has gone up from USD 20 billion in 2001 to USD 115 billion in 2016. There was plenty of room to expand these numbers by increasing flow of goods and services in both directions. He said "America First" and "Make in India" are not incompatible. Rather, investing in each other's markets will be mutually beneficial as it will increase economic interactions and volume of trade, lead to collaboration on emerging technologies and create jobs in both countries.

India could now seize the strategic opportunity through trade and investment, to become a major hub for US business in the Indo-Pacific region. Continued reforms and trade liberalization will enable India products to more readily become part of the global supply chain, thereby accelerating job creation.

The US Ambassador enumerated a number of merits that US-India bilateral relations would have in the long run – some of which are as follows:

- America is a leader in entrepreneurship and innovation, and already has extensive linkages with India in the technology sector. Opening India's market further to U.S. trade and investment will spur the collaboration on many emerging technologies that will drive and protect the two economies, including those related to advanced manufacturing and cyber security.
- Greater US trade and investment, combined with a strong environment protecting intellectual property could lead to increased flows of capital and further sharing of intellectual know-how.
- Opening India's market further to the US trade and investment will spur collaboration on many emerging technologies that will drive and protect both economies including those related to advanced manufacturing and cyber security.

- Increased flow of capital and sharing of intellectual know-how through greater US trade and investment combined with strong environment protecting intellectual property.
- Private sector investment in improved infrastructure and overall connectivity to get stimulated through increased openness to US goods and services and expanded presence of US companies in India.
- The US shall try to enhance their efforts to promote connectivity within South Asia and are coordinating with India on financing for regional infrastructure projects to develop one of the least economically integrated regions of the world.
- Increased heft in the overall economic relationship would necessarily provide a broader and deeper, long term U.S. commitment to India and the Indo-Pacific region. This will complement the growing defense and counter-terrorism partnership and thus help in moderating any policy differences that might arise along the way.

The Ambassador felt that the defense sector provides ample opportunities for the two countries as India's defense needs are vast and because the US as a global leader in developing advance military technology is committed to enhancing India's security. India's digital economy, digital services and

healthcare industry and environmental technology is expected to grow many fold and the US is ready to adhere to these sectors. US Technology can also help India address its food security and agricultural concerns. He also mentioned about Travel, Tourism and Education sectors which play critical role in Indo-US trade relationship.

Another important area which the Ambassador touched upon was about the US business presence in Eastern India which he considered as an important part of the overall picture. There were close to 200 American companies operating here in various sectors with companies such as Cognizant and IBM, food processing, chemicals and petrochemicals etc. US companies were also involved in engineering, automotives, life science, banking, insurance, consumer products etc. all of which were examples of enormous potential of mutually beneficial economic relationship.

The Ambassador stated that while both India and the US cherish their independence and sovereignty, the true value of the partnership is that it can better enable each country to positively influence global affairs and achieve their aspirations for the security and prosperity of its people.



Mr. B. B. Chatterjee, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering the formal Welcome Address.



Mr. Gulshan K. Sachdev, Vice Chairman, AmCham National Executive Board addressing the audience



His Excellency Kenneth I. Juster, The 25th United States Ambassador to India gracing the occasion



Mr. Debdas Sen, Chairman, AmCham Eastern Region during his speech



Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry delivering the formal Vote of Thanks



L-R: Mr. Gulshan K. Sachdev, Vice Chairman, AmCham National Executive Board; H. E. Kenneth I. Juster, United States Ambassador to India; Mr. Debdas Sen, Chairman, AmCham Eastern Region; Mr. Craig Hall, Consul General, U.S. Consulate in Kolkata; Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Mr. B. B. Chatterjee, Senior Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry presenting a token of appreciation to H.E. Kenneth I. Juster, United States Ambassador to India



Distinguished audience

INTERACTION WITH DR. RICHARD BELLINGHAM, DIRECTOR, INSTITUTE FOR FUTURE CITIES, UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE

28TH FEBRUARY, CHAMBER PREMISES

An Exclusive Interaction was organized with Mr Richard Bellingham, Director, Institute for Future Cities, University of Strathclyde on 'Integrated Energy Planning for Sustainable Cities' on 28th February 2018 at the Chamber. Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Chairperson, Energy and Environment Committee, The Bengal Chamber led the discussions. Mr. Bruce Bucknell, British Deputy High Commissioner in Kolkata was present. The interaction was also attended by Mr. Arnab Roy IAS, Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal; Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman, West Bengal Pollution Control Board and Dr. Subrat Mukherjee, IFS, Member Secretary, West Bengal Pollution Control Board



L-R: Mr. Ashok Kumar Goswami, Whole time Director, India Power Corporation Limited; Dr. Kalyan Rudra, Chairman, West Bengal Pollution Control Board; Mr. Deb A Mukherjee, Vice President, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry;; Shri Arnab Roy, IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Environment, Government of West Bengal; Mr. Richard Bellingham, Director, Institute for Future Cities, University of Strathclyde; Mr. Bruce Bucknell, Deputy High Commissioner, British Deputy High Commission, Kolkata; Dr. Robert Rogerson, Deputy Director, Institute for Future Cities, University of Strathclyde and Dr. Subrat Mukherjee, IFS, Member Secretary, West Bengal Pollution Control Board during the interactive session

JAPAN HOUR DURING HEALTHTECH 2018

9TH MARCH, HYATT REGENCY, KOLKATA

Japan Hour

"Japan Hour" was organised in the afternoon of 9th March 2018 as a parallel session to Healthtech 2018.

A Japanese Delegation, comprising of five Japanese companies, participated in the "Japan Hour".

The delegation was led by Mr. Kazuya Nakajo, Chief Director General, JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization),(under Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry, Government of Japan).

It was a high profiled Delegation with the representatives from Health Care Sector including • Hiroshima University Hospital; • Hitachi India Pvt. Ltd; • Asahi Intecc Co. Ltd; • Omron Healthcare India Pvt. Ltd. and • Air Water India Private Limited.

The objective of the programme was to create a platform to facilitate dedicated B2B Meetings with the delegate members

of Japan and to strengthen the business collaboration between Japan and India.

The session was opened by Mr. Chiranjib Bhattacharya, CEO, Wizertech Informatics Pvt. Ltd. by delivering the formal Welcome Address. Mr. Yasuhiko Tanaka, Deputy Consul General, Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata also graced the occasion.

Mr. Kazuya Nakajo, Chief Director General, JETRO shared his insights on population of Japan in respect of aging, health care system in Japan, the economics of Health Care in Japan and business opportunities in Japan in the realm of Health Care sector.

The meeting included a very vibrant B2B session during which the local business participants interacted with the Japanese companies.



Mr. Chiranjib Bhattacharya, CEO, Wizertech Informatics Pvt. Ltd. delivering his Opening Remarks.



L-R- Mr. Kazuya Nakajo, Chief Director General, JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization) (under Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry, Government of Japan); Mr. Yasuhiko Tanaka, Deputy Consul General, Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata; Mr. Tomohiko Kisaka, Clinical Lecturer, Hiroshima University; Mr. Masayoshi Tamura, General Manager- Digital Solutions & Services Group, Hitachi India Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. Yasuaki Yamane, General Manager, Asahi Intecc Co., Ltd.; Mr. Kazunori Tokura, Managing Director, Omron Healthcare India Private Limited; Mr. Kazuya Higuchi, General Manager, Air Water India Private Limited



Mr. Kazuya Nakajo, Chief Director General , JETRO (Japan External Trade Organization), (under Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry, Government of Japan) gracing the occasion



Mr. Yasuhiko Tanaka, Deputy Consul General, Consulate General of Japan in Kolkata addressing the audience



Distinguished audience



Distinguished audience



B2B Interaction in progress.



B2B Interaction in progress.



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