



**from the desk of the
PRESIDENT**

Dear Member, 28 February, 2014

Your Chamber is in the homestretch waters for this particular Financial Year. It has been a challenging year for all of us in the context of the grim economic scenario. Yet, the work of a Chamber has to continue and it is our duty to plant the seeds of optimism in our stakeholders through our eclectic mix of events and outreach activities.

What is exciting for us is that even in the last quarter, your Chamber has come up with newer ideas, newer concepts and interesting programmes, which we can carry forward and nurture in 2014-2015. Our Centre for Energy and Climate Excellence and e-portal towards energizing a behavioural response to energy conservation, both of which are very new concepts, deserve special mention. While the former is an Industry-Academia collaboration and our research backed consulting / project management division focusing on integration of sustainable technologies, the latter is a nationwide initiative to promote energy conservation amongst the urban youth. Our endeavour to catalyze real-time investments continue and we are following up and working with the State Government on all the investment proposals following the recent visits by overseas investors.

Sd/-
Kallol Datta
President

in a paradigm shift in the Apparel & Garments sector in WB by repositioning of skilled human capital needed for the same, Raymond Ltd., a household name regarded for trusted and quality fabric since 1925, signed a tripartite MoU with the Government of West Bengal and BCC&I on 14th February 2014. The objective of the MoU is for establishing "a few Centres of Excellence in tailoring to train 6800 top class tailors in 5 yrs." The MoU was signed in the presence of Smt. Mamata Banerjee, Hon'ble Chief Minister, other dignitaries like Smt. Mahasweta Devi, the renowned actor Shri Prosenjit Chatterjee and other dignitaries, amidst applause of thousands of common people present at Maati Utsav, Panagarh, Burdwan.

This industry-linked skill training project by such an industry major is presumed to be a landmark for business resurgence in Bengal having a cascading effect on the lives of its "Tailoring Community" comprising of 3.6 lakh poor tailors (10% of the total number of tailors in India), with the majority from the minority community. The initiative is also expected to revive the dying trade of tailoring, which has been facing decadence in the deluge of readymade garments and branded apparels across the Indian market.

A survey by the Government of India reveals that by 2020, "Tailoring" will be the biggest sector (shortage of tailors is assessed to the tune of 1.5 lakhs) after agriculture to provide job opportunities and open income generating avenues through entrepreneurship and self-help groups.

Being the second of three quintessential elements (Roti, Kaapda aur Makaan) of human life, Kaapda or Clothing and the related trade of stitching must survive with regained grandeur and sustainability, if leveraged with suitable technological interventions. More so, the demand will always be there for properly trained and qualified tailors from the new breed of fashion designers, multi brand fabric selling outlets, exporters of world class safety uniforms, etc.

Having faith and belief in this line of thinking, the three stakeholders (BCC&I, Department of Technical Education and Training, Government of West Bengal and Raymond as their part of CSR activity with 725 own outlets in line) joined hands in the setting up of two training centres (at Jnan Ch. Ghosh Polytechnic Campus, Mominpur, Kolkata and Gems Jewelry Park, at Domjur in Howrah respectively) with learning opportunity (certified under NCVT, Govt. of India) and livelihood scope to minority, underprivileged youth and women.

BCC&I has thus set a precedent in presenting a "skill based growth template".

NEWS FLASH



RAYMOND STEPS IN WEST BENGAL, CATALYZED BY THE BENGAL CHAMBER, WITH TAILOR-MADE PLAN FOR CREATING TOP CLASS TAILORS

A Skill Development Initiative of the Bengal Chamber

By
Partha Pratim Majumder
Executive Director
Business Enhancers (www.beskill.com)
Skill Specialist



Mr. Partha Pratim Majumder

(FROM THE EDITOR: Mr. Partha Pratim Majumder has been associated with many of the skill development initiatives mounted by the Bengal Chamber. Thanks to his untiring efforts as the local representative of Raymond, the project sped away to fruition.)

In an unprecedented initiative taken up by BCC&I in strategic collaboration with the Department of Technical Education and Training, Government of West Bengal for bringing

MEMBERS' NEWS CORNER

Welcome to the Bengal Chamber family! That's what we would like to convey to Wellman Wacoma Limited whose application for membership was tabled and approved by the Managing Committee at its meeting on 5th February 2014.

Mr. Chandan Kumar Bhattacharjee, Corporate Advisor, Alumni IMD, Laussane, Switzerland, Former MD, CIBA India JV Co., CIBA Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. also joined as Individual Professional Member.

PROGRAMMES

THE BENGAL CHAMBER, IN ASSOCIATION WITH BLACK DOG AND THE TELEGRAPH, PRESENTED THE NEXT EDITION OF THE THINK SESSION

**27TH JANUARY 2014,
THE PALLADIAN LOUNGE**

SPEAKER : MR. ROHIT OHRI, CHAIRMAN, DENTSU INDIA, SPOKE ON "DEMOCRATIZATION OF BRANDS"



▲ Mr. Rohit Ohri, Chairman, Dentsu India, addresses the audience

At another interactive THINK Session organized by The Bengal Chamber along with Black Dog & The Telegraph, Mr. Rohit Ohri, Chairman, Dentsu India, spoke on "Democratization of Brands". Talking on the occasion, Mr. Ohri delved on how a Brand relates closely with its Target Audience. Elaborating, Mr. Ohri took the example of Gareth Kay, a globally renowned strategic planner at a US agency (Goodby, Silverstein & Partners), who spoke about how brands' behavior can be compared to the mating habits of birds. In particular, he

compared the genetic-hand-me-down attractiveness that peacocks rely on to attract the female of the species, versus the ingenious, custom built love nests that each of the plainer looking bower birds designs to attract the female of its species. The oversimplified takeaway: as for birds, so for brands. It's how you look, it's what you do *with* and *for* them that will

attract people to your brand.

But is it all as simple as that?

In politics, as in life, with brands, people want to feel empowered, to be partners in an ecosystem. Again, as we're seeing demonstrated in politics though, yielding complete control to consumers might just result in brand anarchy. The trick is to figure out how to give enough slack to the reins



▲ Mr. Sidhartha Roy, Chairperson, Marketing & Brand Committee, welcomes Mr. Ohri to the Session

and yet guide the course of the brand, letting consumers power it. Tough? One can bet it is!!!! In the participation economy, people don't want to merely buy your brand. They want to buy *into* the brand.

THE BENGAL CHAMBER SUPPORTED FCB ULKA'S CONSULTING DIVISION - COGITO CONSULTING IN ORGANIZING BRANDWEALTH 2014

**30TH JANUARY - 1ST FEBRUARY 2014,
CHAMBER PREMISES**

The BCC&I, along with FCB Ulka's Consulting Division - Cogito Consulting, organized BRANDWEALTH 2014 - a 3-day Executive Development and Continuing Education Programme on Brand Building Strategies. In past three years the Workshop was very successfully conducted at Mumbai, Bengaluru, Delhi and Chennai. For the first time BRANDWEALTH was scheduled in Kolkata on 30th Jan, 31st Jan and 1st Feb 2014 (Thu, Fri & Sat).

BRANDWEALTH Seminar was specially designed for mid-level managers in product development, branding, marketing, sales etc. All the delegates got an exposure from Brand Concepts to Retail Execution through 9 intensive

sessions. The sessions helped the delegates to get answers to some of the key branding questions:

- What is the real value of a brand?
- How to develop consumer insights?
- How to use analytics to build sales?
- Can social media strengthen brand loyalty?

The Sessions were conducted by the highly experienced industry experts of the Draftfcb-Ulka Group who have handled national brands across multiple industries.

INTERACTION WITH THE BRITISH DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER IN KOLKATA

**5TH FEBRUARY 2014,
CHAMBER PREMISES**



▲ Interaction in progress

(L-R): Mr. Harsh K Jha, Immediate Past President, BCC&I; Mr. Ambarish Dasgupta, Vice President, BCC&I; Mr. Scott Fursessedonn-Wood, British Deputy High Commissioner in Kolkata; Mr. Kallol Datta, President, BCC&I and Mr. P Roy, Director General, BCC&I

Members of the Managing Committee interacted with the new British Deputy High Commissioner for Eastern India, Mr. Scott Fursessedonn-Wood who addressed the Managing Committee Members of BCC&I following its meeting on 5th February 2014 in the Chamber. The discussions focused on the recent high-level visits by the British Prime Minister to Kolkata followed by the visit of the Minister of State for Energy and Climate Change, UK Government and the impact of such visits including those by high-level trade delegations on the business and economic environment of West Bengal. In fact, Mr. Fursessedonn-Wood mentioned that a large business delegation was visiting Kolkata and that British businesses were indeed looking to re-establish deep economic linkages with this part of India. The interaction concluded with a Q/A session during which the need for British Airways to re-start flight operations from the Kolkata airport was stressed by members.



**10TH-11TH FEBRUARY 2014,
UNIVERSITY CAMPUS, MEDINIPUR**

**BCC&I PARTNERED VIDYASAGAR UNIVERSITY IN THEIR INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON
“ADVANCEMENT IN MANAGERIAL THOUGHTS AND PRACTICES”**

**12TH FEBRUARY 2014,
CHAMBER PREMISES**

**NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY DAY CELEBRATION : LEAN MANAGEMENT
FOR PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT**



▲ Mr. P Roy delivering the welcome speech

at the Williamson Magor Hall in the Chamber premises.

The National Productivity Day Celebrations were held as part of the National Productivity Week, which this year, was observed between 12th and 18th February 2014.

The objective of the programme was to celebrate the National Productivity Day with the theme “Lean Management for Productivity Enhancement” wherein, BCC&I and NPC would deliberate in detail about Lean Manufacturing and Lean Management System (applicable in all sectors) for a clear understanding of our stakeholders (comprising of MSMEs and large scale corporates) for improvement in productivity as well as profitability in an organization.

Mr. P Roy, Director General, BCC&I welcomed the participants, while Mr. P Chakraborti, Regional Director, NPC delivered the opening address.

As part of the inaugural session, we had organized a Panel Discussion, which was chaired by Mr. Alope Mookherjea, Chairman, Solyvent Flakt (India) Private Limited and Past President, BCC&I. The panel comprised of eminent speakers from industry, who were Mr. B. Madhav Reddy, Managing Director & CEO, The Calcutta Stock Exchange Limited, Mr. Indrajit Sen, Managing Director, International Combustion (India) Ltd., Mr. Santanu Sengupta, Managing Director, Westinghouse Saxby Farmer Ltd. (under Govt. of West Bengal), Mr. Pinaki Niyogy, Associate Vice President - Manufacturing, TIL Limited and Mr. Suman Lahiri, Regional Manager,

European Business and Technology Centre (EBTC).

Apart from the above, there were other Guests of Honour and key speakers who spoke about the important technical aspects of lean manufacturing and lean management system. The speakers were Mr. Biswadip Gupta, Joint Managing Director & CEO, JSW Bengal Steel Ltd & Past President, BCC&I, who was our Guest of Honour; Prof P L Narasimhan, TVS Motor Chair Professor, Department of Industrial and System Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur & Prof (Dr.) Jitesh J. Thakkar, Assistant Professor, Department of Industrial and System Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur; Mr. S. Mallik, Sr. Deputy Director, NPC, Kolkata and Mr. Debkumar Basu, Member, MSME Development and Manufacturing Committee, BCC&I & Director, ZETADEL Technologies P. Ltd.

There was also a special screening of a presentation movie titled “Lean leads to better life”. Around 110 delegates, mostly from MSMEs and some from large corporates, were present. The programme was a relevant platform for participants to have a clear understanding about the policies, practices/principles and other aspects of Lean Manufacturing and Lean Management Systems, which in turn would encourage them to adopt lean manufacturing and lean management systems in their respective organizations for furthering growth and development of the overall organizational setup. Furthermore, the programme helped organizations (which already had lean manufacturing and lean management system in place) to redefine or re-brush the entire process of lean manufacturing and lean management system by identifying innovative tools and techniques and thereby incorporating them in their system and making it more in sync with the current trends.



▲ The delegates



◀ L-R seated on the dais are Mr. Suman Lahiri, Regional Manager, European Business and Technology Centre (EBTC); Mr. Pinaki Niyogy, Associate Vice President - Manufacturing, TIL Limited; Mr. Santanu Sengupta, Managing Director, Westinghouse Saxby Farmer Ltd. (under Govt. of West Bengal); Mr. Indrajit Sen, Managing Director, International Combustion (India) Ltd.; Mr. B. Madhav Reddy, Managing Director & CEO, The Calcutta Stock Exchange Limited; Mr. Alope Mookherjea, Chairman, Solyvent Flakt (India) Private Limited and Past President, BCC&I; Mr. Biswadip Gupta, Joint Managing Director & CEO, JSW Bengal Steel Ltd. & Past President, BCC&I; Mr. P. Chakraborti, Regional Director, National Productivity Council (NPC), Kolkata and Mr. P Roy, Director General, BCC&I during the Inaugural Ceremony



▲ Mr. B. Madhav Reddy delivering his speech



▶ Mr. Alope Mookherjea delivering his speech



◀ Mr. Indrajit Sen delivering his speech

PROGRAMMES

NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY DAY CELEBRATION : LEAN MANAGEMENT FOR PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT

12TH FEBRUARY 2014, CHAMBER PREMISES



▲ Mr. Pinaki Niyogy delivering his speech



▲ Mr. Biswadip Gupta delivering his speech



▲ The inaugural speakers are seated on the dais during the interactive session



▲ Mr. Alope Mookherjea presenting a memento to Mr. B. Madhav Reddy



▲ Mr. Alope Mookherjea presenting a memento to Mr. Biswadip Gupta



▲ Mr. Alope Mookherjea presenting a memento to Mr. Indrajit Sen



▲ Mr. Alope Mookherjea presenting a memento to Mr. Pinaki Niyogy



▲ Mr. Alope Mookherjea presenting a memento to Mr. Santanu Sengupta



▲ Mr. Alope Mookherjea presenting a memento to Mr. Suman Lahiri



▲ A group photo of the inaugural speakers



▲ L-R: seated on the dais are Prof P L Narasimhan, TVS Motor Chair Professor, Department of Industrial and System Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur; Mr. Debkumar Basu, Member, MSME Development and Manufacturing Committee, BCC&I & Director, ZETADEL Technologies P. Ltd.; Prof. (Dr.) Jitesh J. Thakkar, Assistant Professor, Department of Industrial and System Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur and Mr. S. Mallik, Sr. Deputy Director, National Productivity Council (NPC), Kolkata during the Technical Session of the National Productivity Day Celebration



▲ Prof. P L Narasimhan delivering his speech

**12TH FEBRUARY 2014,
CHAMBER PREMISES**

NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY DAY CELEBRATION : LEAN MANAGEMENT FOR PRODUCTIVITY ENHANCEMENT



▲ Mr. S. Mallik delivering his speech



▲ Mr. Debkumar Basu delivering his speech



▲ Mr. Debkumar Basu presenting a memento to Prof P L Narasimhan



▲ Mr. Debkumar Basu presenting a memento to Prof (Dr.) Jitesh J. Thakkar



▲ A group photo of the speakers of the technical session



▲ Mr. P Chakraborti presenting a memento to Mr. Aloke Mookherjea

**12TH FEBRUARY 2014,
CHAMBER PREMISES**

INDUSTRY ACADEMIA COLLABORATION IN THE AGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE : ANNOUNCING THE CENTRE FOR ENERGY AND CLIMATE EXCELLENCE – A NEW INITIATIVE FOR WEST BENGAL



▲ Exchanging of MOU Agreement (L-R): Mr. Peter P Mueller, Director, DFIC Management Consultants Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Prof. Abhijit Chakrabarti, Vice Chancellor and Dr. Pradip Kumar Ghosh, Registrar, Jadavpur University

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, India's oldest institution of its kind, tracing its origins to 1833, and Jadavpur University (JU), a pride of the State and a renowned centre of learning in the country, together with DFIC Management Consultants (Germany and India) have set up a "Centre for Energy and Climate Excellence (CECE)", the focus of which is to undertake consulting and research-based activities towards meeting the needs of businesses in the realms of energy conservation, energy planning and sustainable management practices. The overarching objective is to create a business model for value added services in energy and environment management.

The focus is to offer and execute various R&D Projects, Consultancy Services, Software Development, Management Development Programmes (MDPs) and other similar activities in the fields of energy and climate change mitigation and allied areas for delivering quality solutions to the public and private sectors while simultaneously working towards improving industry-academia collaborations.

In the context of energy policies of the Government governed by Climate Change related compulsions, the Centre perfectly blends the professional and academic knowhow with industry needs and international knowledge

access. This also creates a great opportunity to connect the students of JU with live projects and thus enable dissemination of knowledge and expertise while improving employability.

One of the country's leading research and academic institutions, JU is providing necessary subject specific knowledge through the faculty or researchers, while undertaking research-based / backed project work. The Bengal Chamber is providing the platform for this unique combination to work together while reaching out to the potential partners. DFIC is bringing to the table their project management expertise and international best practices and knowhow.

CECE is a self sustaining organization and point of reference for energy and climate mitigation related issues for the public sector units and MSMEs and corporates with international knowhow and local expertise.

To formalize the Centre for Energy and Climate Excellence, the three institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding at 11.30 a.m. on 12th February 2014 in the Bengal Chamber premises. The three partners were represented by their organizational heads, namely, Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Prof. Abhijit Chakrabarti, Vice Chancellor and Dr. Pradip Kumar Ghosh, Registrar, Jadavpur University and Mr. Peter P Mueller, Director, DFIC Management Consultants Pvt. Ltd.



▲ Press Conference in progress

PROGRAMMES

VIEWING SESSIONS OF INTERIM UNION BUDGET 2014-15 & STATE BUDGET 2014-15

17TH FEBRUARY 2014,
CHAMBER PREMISES

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized the Viewing Sessions of the Interim Union Budget 2014-15 & State Budget 2014-15 on 17th February 2014 in the ITC Room of the Chamber. Mr. Kallol Datta, President, The Bengal Chamber and Chairman & Managing Director, Andrew Yule & Company Ltd; Mr. T.B. Chatterjee, Chairperson – Indirect Tax

Committee of the Chamber and Senior Executive Vice President & Company Secretary, DIC India Limited; Mr. Pallav Gupta, Chairperson – Direct Tax Committee and Head - Corporate Taxation, ITC Limited; Mr. Arun Kumar Mukherjee, Chairperson – Energy & Environment Committee of the Chamber and Dr. Abhijit Sen, Past President, BCC&I were present. While the members viewed the presentation of the Interim Union Budget in the morning, the State Budget presentation by the Finance Minister of West Bengal was in the late afternoon. Invitees included Dr. Suman K Mukerjee, Economist and others. Members from the Managing Committee, Direct Taxes Committee and Indirect Taxes Committee also attended the Sessions. The Budget Viewing Sessions also included analysis of the budget and media interaction. The Chamber's reaction to the Budget was telecast live in leading channels.



◀ Viewing Session of the Budget in progress



▶ Viewing Session of the Budget in progress (L-R): Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. Arun Kumar Mukherjee, Chairperson – Energy & Environment Committee of the Chamber; Dr. Abhijit Sen, Past President of the Chamber



◀ Viewing Session of the Budget in progress



▶ Media Interaction in progress

◀ Media Interaction in progress

DISCUSSION FORUM : MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES AND THEIR SUBSIDIARIES: THE CHANGING ROLE

18TH FEBRUARY 2014,
THE PARK

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCC&I) and Indian Institute of Management Calcutta (IIMC) organized a Discussion Forum: Multinational Enterprises and Their Subsidiaries: The Changing Role on 18th February 2014 at The Park Hotel, Kolkata.

IIMC had authored a case study about multinational Global In-house Centres (GICs) with a focus on the transformation at Microsoft India. The Case Report was released in Kolkata on this occasion. The Bengal Chamber hosted the programme.

The GICs that began by doing back-office operations have moved a long way to become key players in the global design and growth of the company. GICs have matured over these years. They have built expertise; have developed leadership and credibility that are integrated with the parent company. More important, the median age of GICs in India is 8 to 10 years and they have moved from execution centres to expertise centres. The Bengal Chamber is always eager to embark on endeavours to develop and share knowledge which will lead to sustainable development of our

business and economy and this was an outcome of this thought process.

Shri Partha Chatterjee, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Information Technology and Electronics and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of West Bengal was the Chief Guest. Shri S C Tewary, IAS, Principal Secretary, Information Technology and Electronics, Government of West Bengal was present. Dr. Saibal Chattopadhyay, Director, Professor of Operations Management, IIMC; Mr. Raj Biyani, Managing Director, Microsoft IT India and Mr. Salil Dave, Senior Director, Microsoft IT were also present. Dr. Indranil Bose, Professor of Management Information Systems, Coordinator of IIM Case Research Center, IIMC who was the architect of the Case Study made a presentation on the theme. Mr. Rafeeq Ellias, noted Documentary Maker, introduced a documentary on the transformation at Microsoft which was also shown to the audience.

The programme got wide coverage in the media. Over hundred guests attended the programme including some very senior representatives from the IT industry and IT user sector (corporates).

**18TH FEBRUARY 2014,
THE PARK**

**DISCUSSION FORUM : MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES AND
THEIR SUBSIDIARIES: THE CHANGING ROLE**



▲ Mr. P Roy, Director General, BCC&I delivering the Welcome Address



◀ Dr. Saibal Chattopadhyay, Director, IIMC delivering the Opening Remarks. Seated on the dais (L-R): Mr. Raj Biyani, Managing Director, Microsoft IT India; Mr. P Roy, Director General, BCC&I; Mr. S C Tewary, IAS, Principal Secretary, Information Technology and Electronics, Government of West Bengal; Mr. R N Lahiri, Chairperson, IT Committee, BCC&I



▲ Dr. Indranil Bose, Professor of Management Information Systems, Coordinator of IIM Case Research Center, IIMC addressing the audience



▲ The engrossed audience during discussions



▲ Mr. S C Tewary speaking



▲ Mr. Arup Dutta, Director Technical, KPMG addressing audience. Seated on the dais (L-R): Mr. Rafeeq Ellias, Noted Documentary Maker; Dr. Indranil Bose; Dr. Saibal Chattopadhyay; Mr. Raj Biyani



▲ Mr. Salil Dave, Senior Director, Microsoft IT addressing the audience



▲ Mr. Rafeeq Ellias



◀ Shri Partha Chatterjee addressing the audience

▶ In conversation (L-R): Mr. Raj Biyani; Shri Partha Chatterjee, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Information Technology and Electronics and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of West Bengal; Mr. P Roy



▲ Release of the Case Study prepared by IIMC on Global In-house Centres (GICs) with a focus on the transformation at Microsoft India (L-R): Mr. Rafeeq Ellias, Mr. Arup Dutta, Dr. Saibal Chattopadhyay, Dr. Indranil Bose, Mr. Raj Biyani, Shri Partha Chatterjee, Mr. S C Tewary, Mr. P Roy, Mr. R N Lahiri

◀ Mr. R N Lahiri delivering the Vote of Thanks. Seated on the dais (L-R): Mr. Rafeeq Ellias, Mr. Arup Dutta, Dr. Indranil Bose, Dr. Saibal Chattopadhyay, Mr. Raj Biyani, Shri Partha Chatterjee.

PROGRAMMES

DISCUSSION FORUM : MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES AND THEIR SUBSIDIARIES: THE CHANGING ROLE

18TH FEBRUARY 2014,
THE PARK



▲ Mr. Raj Biyani addressing the audience.



▲ Mr. Debasis Basu, Co-Chairperson, IT Committee, BCC&I presenting memento to Mr. Raj Biyani



▲ Shri Partha Chatterjee addressing the media with Mr. Raj Biyani on the left and Mr. P Roy on the right

ICSI-EIRC CSR CONCLAVE 2014 IN ASSOCIATION WITH BCC&I AND LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL

18TH FEBRUARY 2014,
THE BENGAL CLUB

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry in association with Institute of Company Secretaries of India - EIRC and Lions Clubs International organized a CSR CONCLAVE 2014 on 18th February 2014 at the Bengal Club. The Conclave focused on certain provisions related to CSR in the Companies Act 2013, which creates an important legal framework for CSR activities. In India, PSUs have already been complying with the requirements of CSR under a separate code applicable to PSUs in India. Some renowned companies in India have been engaged in high levels of CSR through several dedicated activities. Social organizations have their own perspectives about social responsibilities. Different countries have different parameters for CSR.

Mr. B B Chatterjee, Chairman, Corporate Governance Committee, BCC&I and Director, ITC Infotech India Limited was the principal speaker representing the Chamber. He spoke on industry perspectives and issues on the ground in India related to CSR. The Conclave also had speakers from ICSI-EIRC, Kohana CSR, a Malaysia based organisation dedicated to research activities on CSR and Lions Club International.

The programme was successful and was well attended by more than seventy delegates.

THE BENGAL CHAMBER, IN ASSOCIATION WITH BLACK DOG AND THE TELEGRAPH, PRESENTED THE NEXT EDITION OF THE THINK SESSION

21ST FEBRUARY 2014,
THE PALLADIAN LOUNGE

SPEAKER : DR. AFTAB SETH, FORMER AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN, SPOKE ON "FROM BOSE TO MARUTI, A FRIENDSHIP FOSTERED"



▲ Mr. Krishnan Srinivasan, Former Foreign Secretary, Government of India, giving his views as a part of the Inaugural Session

The Bengal Chamber, in association with Black Dog and The Telegraph, presented another THINK Session on Feb 21, 2014. Dr. Aftab Seth, a retired diplomat and former ambassador to Japan, spoke about the oddities of India- Japan relations at this Think Session.

Japan has the third highest GDP in the world at about US \$ 4.4 trillion. That's four times more than India's. It has a population of 128 million that enjoys a per capita income of \$ 37,000. That's 37 times more than India's. It is pollution-free, chooses not to raise an army and has a delicate sense of design and

aesthetics. It also has a brutal World War II history.

Cold statistics give a glimpse of the gap between India the elephant and Japan the derby horse, but the odd couple had ticked despite occasional hiccups. The Rhodes scholar with a PhD from Greece harked back to events that unfolded 1,500 years ago when Indian thoughts and Buddhism gained roots in Japan. Cutting back to modern times, he said: "Tagore visited the country five times and Swami Vivekananda travelled to Japan on his way to Chicago. Rashbehari Bose, accused of trying to kill Lord Hardinge, was given refuge in Japan and Subhas Chandra Bose's INA was assisted by a group of young soldiers from Japan. At the International Military Tribunal, Justice Radhabinod Pal gave his dissenting judgment in favour of Japan. The Boses and Pal are revered at the Yasukuni shrine in Tokyo." Seth showed how the foundations were reinforced when India helped Japan with iron ore to rebuild its steel industry after the crippling World War.

Japan returned the favour. India was the first country to receive the Japanese Overseas Development Aid (ODA) after the Korean conflict. The Cold War distanced the two friends for a while, but "during the worst forex crisis of

India, Prime Minister Hashimoto bailed India out with a loan", Seth said. India's May 1998 nuclear test at Pokhran ruffled Japanese feathers, though. "They felt we let them down and they cut all fresh ODA to us." When the boat was rocking post- Pokhran, a band of Indonesian pirates rubbed the frost off the Indo- Japan ties. Indian navy rescued the Japanese crew, left adrift in the high seas in a lifeboat without food or water, after the pirates hijacked their ship.

Soon after, then Finance Minister, Jaswant Singh was invited to Japan in November 1999. "Close on the heels came (Bill) Clinton's five- day love fest in India and four months later Yoshiro Mori came and announced global partnership for the 21st century with (Atal Bihari) Vajpayee. This was a comprehensive security dialogue between India and Japan," Seth said.

"It was Osama Suzuki who came to India in the '80s even before the economic liberalization and, in a leap of faith, set up shop with a public sector company, thus forming Maruti Suzuki India Ltd. This was pioneering coming at a time when it did," he added.

Signing off, the former Ambassador hoped that the recent visits of Emperor Akihito and Queen Michiko and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe would bolster ties between the two countries. He said that Indo- Japan ties were like a kite's string, invisible in the sky but visible on the finger.

▶ Mr. P Roy, Director General of BCC&I, welcoming Dr. Aftab Seth to the Session



PROGRAMMES

**21ST FEBRUARY 2014,
THE PALLADIAN LOUNGE**

**THE BENGAL CHAMBER, IN ASSOCIATION WITH BLACK DOG AND THE TELEGRAPH,
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**SPEAKER : DR. AFTAB SETH, FORMER AMBASSADOR TO JAPAN, SPOKE ON
“FROM BOSE TO MARUTI, A FRIENDSHIP FOSTERED”**



Senior Vice President of BCC&I – Dr. Alok Roy, presents a memento to Dr. Seth



A section of the audience

**21ST FEBRUARY 2014,
CHAMBER PREMISES**

STAKEHOLDERS’ MEETING WITH THE TAX ADMINISTRATION REFORM COMMISSION (TARC)

The Ministry of Finance, Government of India organized a Stakeholders’ Meeting with the Tax Administration Reform Commission (TARC) on 21st February 2014 at the Williamson Magor Hall which was supported by The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry. It was addressed by Dr. Parthasarathi Shome, Advisor to the Hon’ble FM, Government of India & Chairman, TARC. Other dignitaries were Mr. M. K. Zutshi, Member, TARC; Mr. S S N Moorthy, Member, TARC; Ms. Sunita Kaila, Member, TARC; Mr.

Y. G. Parande, Member, TARC; Mr. S. Mahalingam, Member, TARC; Mr. M. R. Diwakar, Member, TARC and Mr. Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, TARC. The Stakeholders’ Meeting with the TARC was attended by the chartered accountants, taxation advocates, industry representatives and secretaries and Tax committee members of the other Chambers of Commerce in Kolkata.



Welcome address by Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber



Dignitaries on the dais from TARC



▲ Dr. Parthasarathi Shome, Advisor to the Hon’ble FM, Government of India & Chairman, TARC addressing the audience



▲ Interactive session in progress



▲ Media interaction in progress

**26TH FEBRUARY 2014,
CHAMBER PREMISES**

INTERACTION WITH MR. DAVID WASKOW, DIRECTOR OF THE RENOWNED WORLD RESOURCES INSTITUTE’S INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE ACTION SIGNATURE INITIATIVE

The members of the Energy and Environment Committee of BCC&I had an exclusive meeting with an international and leading climate expert, Mr. David Waskow, the Director of the renowned World Resources Institute’s International Climate Action Signature Initiative. The Initiative is focused on international cooperation that catalyzes and supports action on climate change in developed and developing countries. The initiative includes work on the elements of a 2015 international climate agreement and issues of climate change and equity. Mr. Waskow spoke on the topic, “Synergies and challenges for the post-2015 development agenda and climate action”.

L-R: Mr. Arun Kumar Mukherjee, Chairperson, Energy and Environment Committee, BCC&I; Mr. David Waskow, Director, World Resources Institute’s International Climate Action Signature Initiative



PROGRAMMES

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS OF STATE BANK OF INDIA

27TH FEBRUARY 2014,
CHAMBER PREMISES



◀ L-R: Shri Pradip Kumar Dutta, Dy. General Manager, Industrial Finance Branch, State Bank of India, Kolkata; Shri J Karthikeyan, General Manager, MCRO-I, State Bank of India, Kolkata; Mr. P Roy, Director General, BCC&I; Shri Debabrata Dutta, General Manager, MCRO- II, State Bank of India, Kolkata; Shri Ashok Kumar Gulla, Dy. General Manager, Jeevandeep Branch, State Bank of India, Kolkata and Shri Jyoti Saran, Dy. General Manager, Commercial Branch, State Bank of India, Kolkata.

An Interactive Session with the senior managers of State Bank of India and MSME members of the Chamber was held on 27th February 2014 with the primary

objective being to create a forum for MSMEs to share and discuss their issues of concern with senior bankers representing India's largest bank. The meeting also served as a useful forum for discussing the products and services being offered by SBI especially for MSMEs and to apprise the bankers about the arbitration, mediation and conciliation services that the Chamber is offering as an alternative mode of dispute resolution.



▲ The delegates present in the interactive session

Shri J Karthikeyan, General Manager, MCRO-I, Kolkata; Shri Debabrata Dutta, General Manager, MCRO-II, Kolkata; Shri Pradip Kumar Dutta, Dy. General Manager, Industrial Finance Branch, Kolkata; Shri Dinesh Pandey, Dy. General Manager, Overseas Branch, Kolkata; Shri Ashok Kumar Gulla, Dy. General

Manager, Jeevandeep Branch, Kolkata and Shri Jyoti Saran, Dy. General Manager, Commercial Branch, Kolkata were present from SBI.

Mr. P Roy, Director General of the Chamber, while speaking about the yeoman services of the Bengal Chamber, also highlighted the services BCC&I has been rendering almost since inception in the matter of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) to the business and trading community with respect to their dealings

and transactions. ADR Services of the Bengal Chamber were re-launched during the national conference on "Proposed Amendments to the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 and ADR" held in April 2011. The rules of Arbitration, Conciliation and Mediation have been framed and uploaded on the website of the Bengal Chamber.



▲ The delegates present in the interactive session

Mr. Roy further referred to the Chamber's panel of arbitrators comprising competent, reputed, established and experienced personnel from all professions including legal luminaries, i.e., retired judges of Supreme Court and High Court.

Participating MSMEs, represented by their owners / senior management, deliberated mainly on the difficulties in availing loans from the bankers without co-laterals and inadequacy and delay in sanctioning project loans. Members pointed out that co-laterals are not required for MSMEs for loans up to Rs. 1 crore and requested SBI's intervention to sanction loan expeditiously. The representatives of the banks elaborated that their function essentially was risk management and also to support the MSME Sector's growth. However, their activities were governed by the regulators and they would always have to act within the purview of the guidelines especially in view of increasing NPAs. They however, assured that SBI would not spare any efforts to accommodate the needs of the MSMEs. For any project finance, pointed out by the bankers, proposals need to be evaluated by the appropriate rating agency with the feasibility report. MSMEs were requested to co-ordinate with the relevant State Bank branches in their areas and could always approach SBI personnel attending the seminar for help and assistance. The meeting concluded with a Vote of Thanks by the Director General, BCC&I.

EVENTS AT THE PALLADIAN LOUNGE

▶ Children Christmas party for special needs children of SICW (Society of Indian Children's Welfare) on 19.12.13 in association with DPS, Ruby Park Kolkata

▶ Justice Sainen Talukdar distributed the gifts among the children



▶ Santa Claus greets the children during the Children Christmas Party

▶ Sapphire Arts Quarterly Dance Workshop on 20.12.13



▶ Chief Guest Mr. Fabrice Etienne inaugurated the event



▶ Sapphire dance performance

▶ 4nations- A Classical Guitar Concert by Adam Wasiak, Salam Babak, David Stroh and Steven Truong from Germany, 09.02.14 in association with Open Doors





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Mr. Taranjit Singh's contributions have been discernibly crowned with the illustrious title of **Education Evangelist 2013** by **ET Now** in association with Skill Tree for bringing about innovation and transformation in the evolution of learning.



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JIS Group Educational Initiatives received the prestigious JD Tanna Memorial Award 2014 at the 38th International Kolkata Book Fair from Publishers and Booksellers Guild.

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