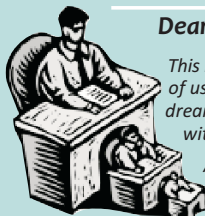




from the desk of the PRESIDENT

5 January 2012



Dear Member,

This is a Leap Year. One additional day for all of us to work towards and achieve our dreams! The Chamber looks upon this year with enthusiasm and great expectations.

As the pages of this newsletter will unfurl, you will get a glimpse of the diverse activities we have immersed ourselves into. From development projects in which we are joining hands with the State Government to co-branding trade fairs, organizing interfaces with leading diplomats and economic experts and focusing on skill development as a means for large-scale employment generation – the Bengal Chamber is into a mix of events and activities as the Upcoming Programmes section of the newsletter would reveal.

Our activities do not end with a one-off programme. We have launched projects which need to be sustainable first in order to bring value to our constituents and stakeholders. We are, therefore, launching new value-added services and shall unveil those shortly. In the meantime, I would request your whole-hearted participation and support to our activities and your valued suggestions so that we can take your Chamber ahead in keeping with our Vision and Mission statements and values and ideals that we have adhered to for the last 158 years of our existence.

Please make demands from the Bengal Chamber so that we can up scale and widen our reach.

Sd/-
HARSH K JHA
President

NEWS FLASH

CONGRATULATIONS TO ROHIT FERRO-TECH



We are delighted to share with you that **Rohit Ferro-Tech**, Patron of the Bengal Chamber, and leading Ferro Alloy Manufacturer and Exporter, has been conferred the **Star Performer Award** in the product group, "Ferro Alloys"



▲ Mr Ankit Patni, Joint Managing Director, Rohit Ferro-Tech Limited with the award.

by the Engineering Export Promotion Council of India. The award was presented by Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia, Minister of State for Commerce and Industries, Government of India.

MEMBERS' NEWS CORNER

Welcome to the Bengal Chamber family! That's what we would like to convey to **ESAB India Limited, Neuerth Coal Mining Pvt. Ltd. and Second Vivekananda Bridge Tollway Company Private Limited** whose applications for membership were tabled and approved by the Managing Committee at its meeting on 13th December 2011.

PROGRAMMES

12TH DECEMBER 2011
CHAMBER PREMISES

INTERVIEW OF MR. P ROY, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE BENGAL CHAMBER BY MR. PATRICK FOULIS, INDIA BUSINESS AND FINANCE EDITOR OF THE ECONOMIST MAGAZINE

The office of Mr. Patrick Foulis contacted the Bengal Chamber requesting to arrange interviews for Mr. Foulis during his visit to the city. The focus of the discussions was on the contemporary political and economic history of West Bengal, the economic realities confronting the State, the development paradigm for the newly elected Government and related issues. Mr. P Roy, Director General of the Chamber met Mr. Foulis in the Chamber and spent over an hour taking him through the politico-economic dynamics over the last 40 years for West Bengal.

13TH DECEMBER 2011
THE PALLADIAN LOUNGE,
CHAMBER PREMISES

THE BENGAL CHAMBER AND BALLANTINES PRESENT, IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE TELEGRAPH, THE NEXT EDITION OF THINK SERIES OF LECTURES – A TALK BY MR. DEAN R THOMPSON, CONSUL GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES IN KOLKATA ON "INDIA AND THE US: G2G, B2B, P2P"

As a part of the THINK SERIES The Bengal Chamber, in association with Ballantines, The Telegraph, Tata Metaliks and Anderson Printing, organized an interactive session with Mr. Dean Thompson, Consul General of the United States on 13th December 2011 at The Palladian Lounge.



▲ Mr Harsh K Jha, President, The Bengal Chamber, delivering the Welcome Address

Mr. Thompson primarily spoke on Indo-US trade and policy matters, elaborating on business opportunities that lay ahead between the Governments of the 2 countries (G2G), the people of the 2 countries (P2P) and between business houses in the 2 countries (B2B). Mr. Thompson talked about how

sectors like Education, Automobiles, Student Exchange programmes, etc. have gone a long way in opening up a lot of bilateral opportunities between the two countries. Mr. Thompson observed that the US Government was keen to work with India in developing a long term relationship between the two countries, with particular emphasis on investment opportunities in a safe, free and democratically aligned society.



Mr Dean R Thompson, US Consul General, is welcomed into The Bengal Chamber by Mr Taranjit Singh, Chief Patron, The Bengal Chamber ▲

PROGRAMMES

THE BENGAL CHAMBER AND BALLANTINES PRESENT, IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE TELEGRAPH, THE NEXT EDITION OF THINK SERIES OF LECTURES – A TALK BY MR. DEAN R THOMPSON, CONSUL GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES IN KOLKATA ON “INDIA AND THE US: G2G, B2B, P2P”

**13TH DECEMBER 2011
THE PALLADIAN LOUNGE, CHAMBER PREMISES**



▲ Mr Dean R Thompson, US Consul General to Kolkata, delivering his lecture



▲ Section of the audience in rapt attention

CERTIFICATE COURSE IN SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT ALONG WITH EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

13TH-16TH DECEMBER 2011, CHAMBER PREMISES



The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry in association with Western Institute of Technology, Mangalore, recently organized a Certificate Course on Safety, Health, Environment and Emergency Management from 13th to 16th December, 2011 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day in the Chamber Premises. The Workshop was attended by delegates from some of the top industries, viz., Andrew Yule & Company, Coal India, Cognizant, DPSC, Eveready Industries, Hindustan Unilever, L&T, P&H Minepro and Wacker Metroark among others.

The Workshop was conducted by reputed national and international faculties, who brought the best of Safety practices to the attention of the delegates. The participants were trained on the world standards of O.S.H.A., USA and N.E.B.O.S.H., UK. Along with interactive theory classes, the delegates were also trained on simulated projects to enhance their skills on Safety and Emergency Preparedness for their organizations. The topics covered were – Indian Safety Laws, Safety & Environment Hazards, Safety Procedures, Hazard Control methods, MSDS, HMIS, Fire Safety and Building Fire & Evacuation. The participants were also enthralled by the Personality Development classes by international motivational speaker Br. James D' Rozario, Chairman Spread Peace Around (SPA) Trust.

◀ ENTRANCE: The banner at the entrance of the Bengal Chamber



◀ INAUGURATION: The inaugural ceremony of the Workshop. From L to R – Mr. Melwyn D'Souza – Faculty WIT; Mr. Subhodip Ghosh – Director, The Bengal Chamber; Mr. Stephan Mendes – MD, Western Institute & Mr. Norbert Rodrigues – Faculty WIT

The faculty for technical classes included Mr. Norbert Rodrigues, certified OSHA trainer and Mr. Melwyn Peter D'Souza, NEBOSH trainer.



▲ FELICITATION : Group photograph. From L to R – Mrs. Lilian Kushary - Member S.P.A. Trust, Br. James D' Rozario – Chairman S.P.A. Trust, Mr. Norbert Rodrigues – Faculty WIT & Mr. Nirmal Singh – Member S.P.A. Trust

◀ FACULTY: – Mr. Norbert Rodrigues, certified OSHA trainer addressing the delegates

15TH-25TH DECEMBER 2011, SCIENCE CITY



The Bengal Chamber of Commerce & Industry tied up with G. S. Marketing Associates to organize the India International Mega Trade Fair (IIMTF) 15 – 25th December, 2011.

Since the fair was held in the winter holiday season, it generated a huge number of B2B as well as B2C visitors.

The highlights of India International Mega Trade Fair are as follows:

- It was a Major Fair in Eastern India, approved by ITPO, which comes under the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India.
- It had many air-conditioned pavilions dedicated to different products/subjects with wooden platforms and synthetic carpets.

INDIA INTERNATIONAL MEGA TRADE FAIR WITH G S MARKETING ASSOCIATES

- The Event also generated unmatched and extensive publicity through Print and Electronic Media, Outdoor Media and Outdoors.
- More than 1600 Participants, besides participation from Overseas Countries like Thailand, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Turkey, Egypt and Ghana.

A Press Conference was organized post the Inauguration of the Fair on the first day of the exhibition where reporters from all the leading dailies attended the venue, giving a further fillip to the exhibition.



Mr. P Roy, DG of The Bengal Chamber, delivering the Vote of Thanks after the Inauguration of the Fair

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH JANAB FIRHAD HAKIM, HON'BLE MINISTER-IN-CHARGE, URBAN DEVELOPMENT, TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING & MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL ON "DEVELOPMENT OF TARATALA",

15TH DECEMBER 2011, VESUVIUS INDIA LIMITED, TARATALA

The meeting was an exclusive interaction with companies in the Taratala belt in continuation to the discussions at an earlier session in the Bengal Chamber on 21st October 2011, which was addressed by the Hon'ble Firhad Hakim. At the earlier meeting some fundamental issues concerning infrastructure development in Taratala were discussed and the Hon'ble Minister promised to look into the matters of development and focus on developing Taratala as a leading business hub in the region. Moreover, the area was part of his constituency.

Following this curtain-raiser, the Hon'ble Firhad Hakim met some select Taratala based companies in the office of Vesuvius India Limited on 15th December to focus and pin-point on the areas in which infrastructure

development work could begin. Mr. Taposh Roy, Chairperson, Taratala Initiative of the Chamber made a detailed presentation on the specific projects that could be taken up and completed at the earliest. This would set a momentum for the projects to follow and would serve as pilot projects for the entire infrastructure development work. Mr. Roy focused on street repairing and widening and showed photographs of specific streets, absence of footpaths, road



Janab Firhad Hakim interacting with the industry representatives during the meeting focusing on infrastructure development in Taratala.



▲ Mr. Harsh Jha, President of the Bengal Chamber (left) and Mr. Taposh Roy, Chairperson, Taratala Initiative of the Chamber walking with Janab Firhad Hakim, Hon'ble Minister-in-Charge, Urban Development, Town & Country Planning and Municipal Affairs, Government of West Bengal (middle) to the venue of the meeting in the premises of Vesuvius India Limited.

encroachments, non-existence of garbage disposal vats and garbage clearance systems, need for street lights, passenger shelters and drainage systems. The Hon'ble Minister took note of the presentation, a copy of which was handed over to him and recalled the detailed KMDA Master Plan for development that had been prepared earlier. A copy of the same report was presented to Janab Hakim by Mr. Taposh Roy. Mr. Harsh Jha, President of the Bengal Chamber also suggested a systemic approach to the infrastructure

development issue.

Janab Hakim introduced Shri D Baral, Executive Engineer (Borough IX, KMC) to the group and explained that Shri Baral would be the co-ordinator of this exercise from his Department. The first task would be to,

- Find out the areas with no encroachment where roads could be widened.
- Initiate a dialogue with encroachers with the objective of widening the road where there are encroachers.
- Focus on street lighting.

With some funds from the companies towards CSR activities and with their support, construction of bio-toilets, lighting arrangements and garbage disposal could be undertaken by KMC. The MLA funds for local area development could also be used.

PROGRAMMES

15TH DECEMBER 2011,
VESUVIUS INDIA LIMITED, TARATALA

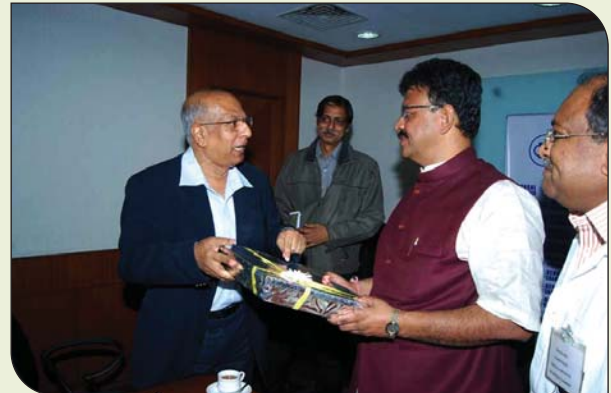
INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH JANAB FIRHAD HAKIM, HON'BLE MINISTER-IN-CHARGE, URBAN DEVELOPMENT, TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING & MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL ON "DEVELOPMENT OF TARATALA",

Thereafter, the Hon'ble Minister briefly interacted with representatives of industry who were present and addressed specific and individual issues of concern like double payment of taxes to KoPT,

garbage disposal and others and explained that the State Government had some plans in mind, e.g., the setting up of an IT hub in Taratala and exploring the PPP route to transform abandoned



▲ The group.



▲ Mr. Harsh Jha presenting a memento to Janab Hakim.

warehouses and the land available in the area into buildings for industrial operations focusing on MSMEs. Janab Hakim also spoke about his on-going dialogue with the Planning Commission on such development-related work.

The meeting was most successful and all present were greatly optimistic that work would soon commence and that Taratala would soon be shining again.

PROGRAMMES

THE BENGAL CHAMBER PARTNERING THE FORUM FOR INTEGRATED NATIONAL SECURITY (FINS) IN THE NATIONAL INTERACTIVE SEMINAR ON FORTY YEARS OF BANGLADESH - DYNAMICS OF INDO-BANGLA RELATIONSHIP

16TH DECEMBER 2011, CHAMBER PREMISES

FINS (Forum for Integrated National Security), organized this seminar in association with The Bengal Chamber, on 16th December 2011, Vijay Diwas, celebrating the 40th Independence Day of Bangladesh. It was an interactive whole-day seminar with experts and eminent personalities across the society, who placed their views and opinions and discussed the dynamics of Indo-Bangla relationship.

by the Director General of the Bengal Chamber, Mr. P Roy. The session was on reaffirming the shared history, traditional and trade links, the desire of the peaceful co-existence of the two countries and launching a new phase in their bilateral relations. FINS will watch these developments and indeed be happy in extending their expertise and knowledge and views in association with The Bengal Chamber, on the principles of :

ACT WITH INTEGRITY, EXIST WITH LOVE AND WORK FOR PEACE.

The seminar was inaugurated and attended by the Hon'ble Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh, Mr. M Rahman, and also attended

Lighting the ceremonial lamp. ▼



(Left) Mr. P Roy, Director General of the Chamber during the programme. ▶



▲ On the dais (L-R): Dr. B P Saha, Mr. V M Patil, Mr. M Rahman, Deputy High Commissioner of Bangladesh, Lt. Gen. (Retd.) D B Shekatkar and Mr. S N Desai.



16TH DECEMBER 2011, CHAMBER PREMISES



▲ Dr Singh during his delivery of speech.

Prof R C Bhattacharya, Vice Chairman – Globsyn Business School, & Director, Globsyn Technologies Limited inaugurated the session, with a short discourse on the journey of Globsyn from its inception till date and by introducing Dr Harminder Singh.

Dr. Singh started the session by highlighting the causes and impacts of the Eurozone Crisis, from fiscal deficits to budgetary deficits and the factors influencing and conditioning these reasons. Dr Singh also harped on the Irish Crisis, its reasons and impacts and moved on to the Asian Markets, the depreciation of the currencies and how it had its effects on the Asian Exim scenario. He also briefly touched upon the gold reserves and bullions of Asian nations and their credit markets and economic conditions.

▶ During the programme.

INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH DR. HARMINDER SINGH, DEAKIN UNIVERSITY (AUSTRALIA) ON "EUROZONE FINANCIAL CRISIS AND ITS IMPACT ON CAPITAL MARKETS"



▶ Presentation in progress on the Eurozone Crisis.



21ST DECEMBER 2011, CHAMBER PREMISES

MEETING OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE ON 'DEFINE THE CLUSTER DESIGN' (FOLLOW UP MEETING)



▲ L-R: Mr. Sourav Daspatnaik, Chairperson, Skill Development Task Force, The Bengal Chamber; Dr. Parijat De, Director, Technical Training and Education, GoWB answering the media.

Mr. Sourav Daspatnaik, Chairperson, Skill Development Task Force, re-affirmed that the Bengal Chamber would encourage the Government of West

Bengal to upgrade the major Employment Exchange and convert them into Facilitation Centres for Skill Development as well as Counseling Centres for prospective employees. Dr. Parijat De, Director, Technical Training & Education, GoWB invited the members of the Task Force to share their expertise on building a new Bengal in Skill Development Training Programme through Cluster Development approach. Later, he made a presentation on the same for the members of the media who were present at the meeting.

Highlights of the discussions:

- Industry to come forward to provide Trainers

and the Government of West Bengal, Technical Education and Training Department to provide full technical and infrastructure training. Thus industry to finalize the area, function, location and course content for such skill development centres using the current Polytechnic infrastructure.

- To set up skill development centre for Construction Workers on the same lines of L&T Skill Development Centre located at Kona. The TCS affirmative action programme covering 80 hrs course in Data Processing for the youth from SC & ST as well as financially deprived sections would be enhanced keeping in mind their current experience in the State of West Bengal.

- Using the German Chamber of Commerce Skill Development Technology Transfer programme (SES). Messrs Tally Selection Private Limited has provided a proposal for skill training of representatives from BPL youth which can be taken up in partnership with the Bengal Chamber and the Government of West Bengal.

- A large garment and apparel manufacturing

PROGRAMMES

MEETING OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE ON 'DEFINE THE CLUSTER DESIGN' (FOLLOW UP MEETING)

21ST DECEMBER, 2011, CHAMBER PREMISES

company is keen to set up tailoring centres using advanced techniques for commercial viability. It was also mentioned that a Chinese Tools and Processing Company was keen to set up a Training School in West Bengal for Tool & Processing engineering. A visit would be undertaken in consultation with the Government of WB.

It was felt that specific trades with respect to West Bengal could be taken up as follows:

- Training for automobile and motor mechanics, construction workers.
 - Skill development in the area of Accounting Software, A.C. and Computer mechanics, tailoring and garment manufacturing, agriculture and farming technology.
- It was suggested by the Government of West Bengal that

the Bengal Chamber should come forward for setting up "Incubation Centres" which would promote skilled manpower and take up relevant items for commercialization.

- It was suggested by the Government of India Technical Education & Training Department that the Chamber should provide their Website for registration of experienced skill trainers who could take up specific courses or behavioral courses for the skill development.
- It was suggested that Railway Workshops be approached to provide their facility for skill development which should be identified jointly. This would be done during the off hours of the Railway Workshops.

The next meeting will take place at the Chamber premises on 31st January, 2011 at 3 p.m.



▲ Discussions during the meeting

PROGRAMMES

SEMINAR ON DIRECT TAXES

22ND DECEMBER 2011, CHAMBER PREMISES

The Direct Taxes Committee of The Bengal Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a full day Seminar on Direct Taxes on 22nd December 2011 in the Chamber premises.

Mr. B S Sondhi, Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Kolkata I graced the Seminar as the Chief Guest. Mr. Sondhi spoke about the 'Vision 2020' which spells out the Vision, Mission and Values of the Income Tax Department in the first part and challenges and opportunities in the new decades in the second part. The Vision covers a period of 5 year covering 2011-2015.

Seated from (L-R): Mr. P Roy, Director General, The Bengal Chamber; Mr B S Sondhi, Chief Commissioner of Income Tax, Kolkata I and Mr. Pallav Gupta, Chairperson, Direct Taxes Committee, The Bengal Chamber



The topics of discussion in the Seminar included :

- ❖ Transfer Pricing
 - Current Issues
 - Pre-emptive Strategies for future
- ❖ TDS
 - On foreign payments – current issues and future strategies
 - On domestic payments – issues and clarifications

The speakers were Mr. Rahul Krishna Mitra, Partner – Transfer Pricing, Price Waterhouse & Co; Mr Kaushik Mukherjee, Executive Director and Partner- Tax & Regulatory Services, PricewaterhouseCoopers Pvt Ltd and Mr. Sanjay Bhattacharya, Chartered Accountant, Sukumar Bhattacharya & Co.

◀ Mr. B S Sondhi addressing the audience



Mr. Rahul Krishna Mitra, Partner – Transfer Pricing, Price Waterhouse & Co addressing the audience ▲



▲ Mr. Kaushik Mukherjee, Executive Director and Partner- Tax & Regulatory Services, PwC addressing the audience



Mr. Sanjay Bhattacharya, Chartered Accountant, Sukumar Bhattacharya & Co addressing the audience ▲

UPCOMING PROGRAMMES

- ▶ Lecture by Prof. R P Srivastava, Ernst & Young Professor and Director, Center for Auditing Research and Advanced Technology, University of Kansas, School of Business on “Balanced Scorecard for Indian Business - Scope of Application”, 6th January 2012, Chamber premises
- ▶ The Bengal Chamber International Forum and Best Western Premier Vedic Village Spa Resorts with The Times of India and Vennfer present “Developing Global Hospitality Trends – The Best Western Experience”: Talks by Mr. David Kong, President and CEO and Mr. Devang Amin, Chairman, Best Western International Inc., 7th January 2012, Chamber premises
- ▶ Adda Session with Heroes of Satyajit Ray organized with Onnomon in association with EILM, 9th January 2012, Chamber premises
- ▶ The Bengal Chamber and Ballantines present, in association with The Telegraph, the next edition of Think Series of Lectures – A talk by Dr. Chris Borroni-Bird, Director of Advanced Technology Vehicle Concepts and EN-V Program (Electric-Networked Vehicle), General Motors on “Re inventing the Automobile: Personal Urban Mobility for the 21st Century”, 10th January 2012, The Palladian Lounge, Chamber premises
- ▶ The Bengal Chamber taking a Business Delegation as the exclusive Chamber of Commerce partner of the ‘Second Prabashi Bangiya Sammelan’, to be organized by Non Residents Overseas Association of Bengal (NROAB) on 20th and 21st January, 2012 in Dubai (Dhow Palace Hotel Ballroom)
- ▶ The Bengal Chamber joining the Indian Society for Training & Development (ISTD)’s 42nd National Convention as Associate Partner, 20th-21st January 2012, Mini Auditorium, Science City
- ▶ Workshop on Skill Development (follow-up meeting), 31st January 2012, Chamber premises
- ▶ The Third Annual Bengal Chamber IT Quiz 2012, 2nd February 2012, Chamber premises
- ▶ Seminar on Environment Management, Industrial Infrastructure and Entrepreneurship and Employment Opportunities, Haldia, 3rd-4th February 2012
- ▶ Rural Marketing Conclave, 11th February 2012, Chamber premises

EVENTS AT

9TH NOVEMBER 2011, TAJ BENGAL, KOLKATA



Christmas joy warms the heart



THE PALLADIAN LOUNGE

21st December 2011 children's annual christmas party for the children of towards life foundation supported by eilm, the bengal chamber and the palladian lounge & its members, in association with birla high school boys- helping hands (csr):

