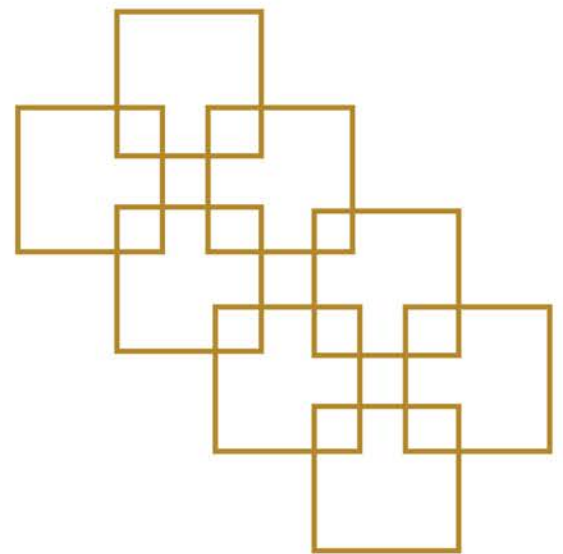




**SAARC CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE & INDUSTRY**

APEX BUSINESS ORGANIZATION OF SAARC

TERM REPORT
2016 - 2017



www.saarcchamber.org



SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION

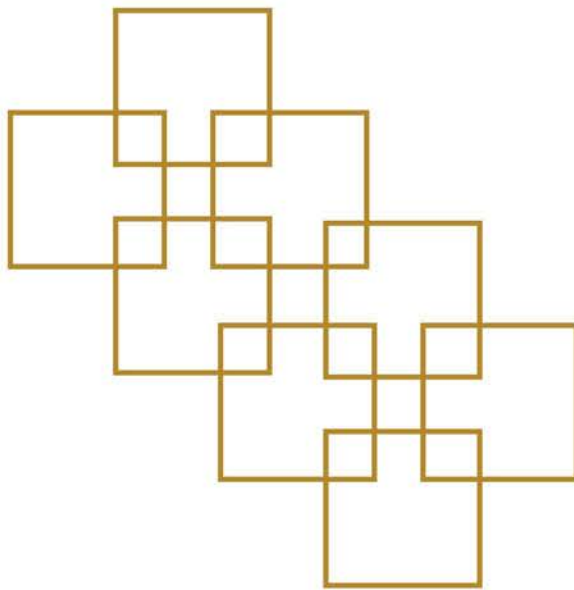




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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT SAARC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY



It has been a great privilege and honor for me to serve as the President of SAARC CCI, an institution that is the apex body of SAARC. With its glaring challenges and abundant opportunities, dawn of a new era is upon South Asia. We need to explore the prospects and carve a way forward together, to cope with the dynamic challenges we are facing today. Our 25 years long struggle has fortified our vision and commitment to our efforts to create a more dynamic South Asia.

The world is changing rapidly, the 21st century has witnessed a rapid change in all facets of the world. Be it economy, technology or business, over the last decade our world has been reshaped in entirety. The global turnaround in economic activity is going from strength to strength as

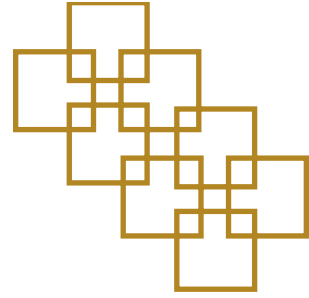
global growth projected to rise to 3.6 percent in 2017 and 3.7 percent in 2018. The South Asian region is no exception to this change, its potential to boost the economic growth is indubitable as the region today is known for its human and natural resources.

It is an honor for me to present to you the Annual Report 2016-2017 of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry. 2016-17 was an eventful term, as many regional developments unfolded and a significant number of new initiatives were taken.

I staunchly believe that the SAARC Region has as immense potential to explore. We feel that regional integration is laden with a number of challenges, the differences and turbulence seem to be persisting, like the eagerly awaited SAARC Summit could not take place.

But even during such turbulent times we continued with our efforts to mitigate the confrontation and facilitate cooperation between the eight member nations of SAARC. We convened meeting or event in each of the SAARC countries every quarter. We visited places, we met people from different walks of life, we conversed with politicians and policymakers, we exchanged ideas with farmers and workers, we spent time with youth and women, debated a way out with journalists and experts, and lastly talked with the businessmen and bureaucrats. During all these meeting, I came to realize that, peoples of South Asia have common aspirations and hopes. The convergence of interests is much stronger than the divergence caused due to hatred and fear with a common strong willingness to move forward.

During my tenure as a President of SAARC CCI, I particularly focused on exploring the immense opportunities that the region has provided. In my opinion, the biggest problem in South Asia is impediments to do business and the policies that hinder business. At SAARC Chamber of Commerce we made 'Free Movement of People' our top priority in the region. We have experienced tremendous amount of problems as if people can't move, trade becomes an impossibility and investment stagnate. Thus to make it easier for business people to move around the region, SAARC Chamber has taken the mantle of leadership on the behalf of private sector. We made presentations to immigration officer of governments to make the movement of people in general and businessmen in general easier in the region.



When I took over as a president of SAARC CCI, I made a visit to SAARC CCI HQ Building in Islamabad, Pakistan. At that time the building was ground Zero Minus 2, I made a commitment with my team that before my term ends, we would complete the building. Now the SAARC CCI building is almost complete and I want to thank each and every one for the great accomplishment as this amazing achievement was possible only due to teamwork.

During my tenure, we were fortunate to host various events including seminars on regional Integration, youth, climate and empowering women. We were able to open two regional offices in Mumbai and Colombo. Also, we were able to form the intra-institutional linkages to enhance regional cooperation.

We held the 6th SAARC Business Leaders Conclave in Kathmandu, Nepal. The SBLC, a flagship event of SAARC CCI, has emerged as an event of immense importance not merely for the business community but also for the governments and the larger society as it provides a platform to exchange views and ideas outside of the official positions taken by the governments. The SBLC brought old people back, people who have been involved with SAARC CCI for a very long time. During 6th SBLC SAARC Chamber expanded its horizons as it established connections and partnerships by signing of 4 agreements with internationally reputed Research institutions and innovation Hub Centers.

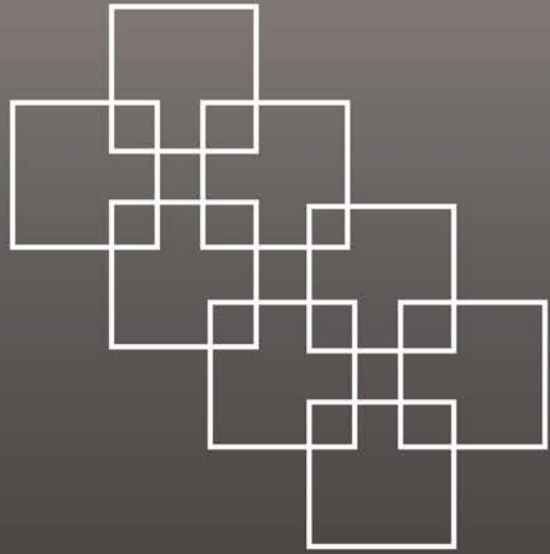
In the end, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our office bearers, Vice Presidents and Senior Vice President for their continuous commitment and support towards the SAARC CCI. Their dedication, love, passion and hard work are unparalleled so I thank them all for such a significant contribution.

Last but not the least, I want to thank the SAARC CCI Secretariat team for delivering their best. As I solemnly believe that without a strong Secretariat we can't progress. SAARC CCI is a great institution, an institution where you meet people, where you learn from people and there is nothing greater than learning and being with people and I want to extend my wishes to SAARC CCI Secretariat for doing a great job and I wish them all success to continue the efforts.

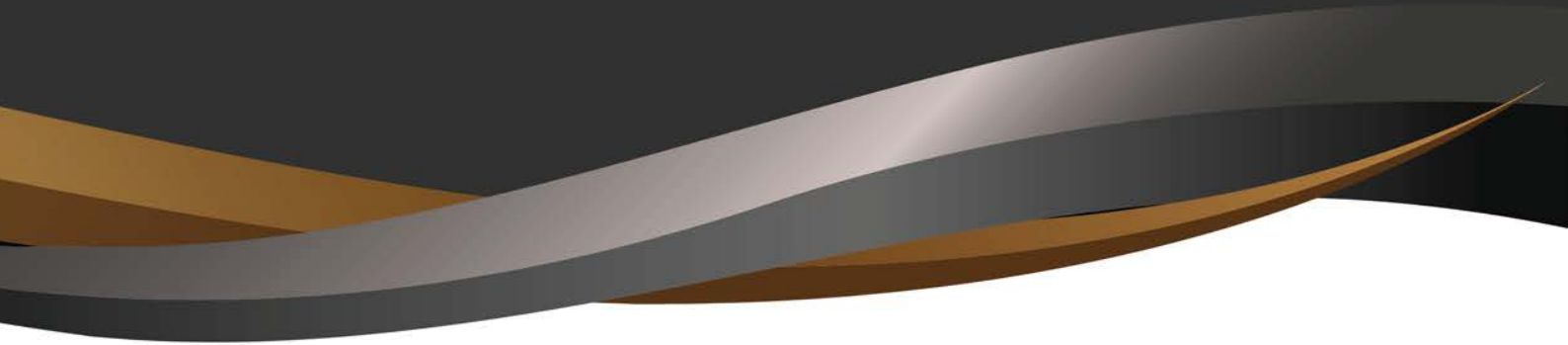
Lastly, I request the upcoming management under the leadership of the new President Mr. Ruwan Edirisinghe to carry the flagship of SAARC CCI with more dynamism and enthusiasm and I wish him grand luck in his future endeavors.

Suraj Vaidya





Term Activities



SAARC CCI PRESIDENCY HANDOVER TAKEOVER CEREMONY, MR. SURAJ VAIDYA ASSUMES OFFICE AS THE PRESIDENT.

March 14, 2016, Kathmandu, Nepal



Mr. Vikramjit Singh Sahney pinning Golden broach as symbol of handing out SAARC CCI Presidency to Mr. Suraj Vaidya in the presence of Prime Minister, Nepal

After the completion of the term 2014-15, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry held the Presidential Changeover Ceremony on March 14, 2016 in Kathmandu, Nepal. Mr. Suraj Vaidya, a leading Industrialist from Nepal, President, Vaidya Organization of Industries & Trading Houses and Former President, FNCCI

took over SAARC CCI Presidency for the term 2016-17 in an exhilarating ceremony. Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. KP Sharma Oli and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Nepal, Hon'ble Kamal Thapa graced the event with their presence.

In his inaugural address as the President of SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya outlined his vision. His vision holistically encapsulated in a six point agenda, which included greater investments, promotion of industrial parks, promotion of youth angels and development of smart green villages. With fresh ideas, vibrant and dynamic energy, Mr. Suraj Vaidya with his team of newly elected VP's assured that he and his team will dedicate their next two years for the development and economic integration of South Asia.

The ceremony was attended by more than 300 participants including representatives of diplomatic missions, government officials, private sector representatives, office bearers, Executive Committee and General Assembly members of SAARC CCI.

A SESSION WITH SAARC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

March 16, 2016, Pokhara, Nepal

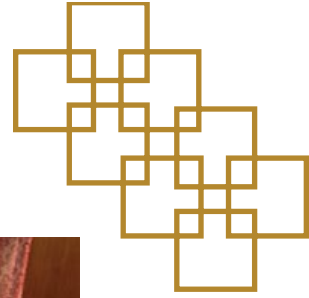
On the occasion of the 37th Session of the Council of SAARC Ministers held at Pokhara. SAARC CCI delegation led by Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI had a brief session with Hon'ble Foreign Ministers of all member states.

President SAARC CCI briefly reported the activities of the organization in the year 2015 and shared the action plan for the year 2016 which included setting up of sub-regional offices at Mumbai and Colombo, establishment of SAARC Industrial Parks, launching of CEO Forum and development of Smart Green Villages.

While interacting with the Foreign Ministers from South Asian countries, President SAARC CCI put forth the following suggestions to

promote intra-SAARC trade and investment:

- To consider signing of SAARC Motor Vehicle Agreement and Railway Agreement in next SAARC Summit scheduled in Pakistan and to ensure its implementation in phased-manner. This will help curbing the cost of doing business in South Asia.
- To allow private sector's representation through SAARC CCI in economic and development related Working Groups/ Eminent Persons for effective involvement of the private sector in policy-making process.
- SAARC CCI to be allowed to present view point of the private sector at Ministerial and Summit level.



Foreign Ministers of SAARC member states

- Services contribute more than 50% of all economies of SAARC member states. There is a need to consider implementation of South Asian Agreement on Trade in Services (SATIS) and creation of free trade areas under SAFTA vision by end of 2016.
- Investment to be allowed through direct channels while governments can guarantee to protect investment therefore signing of SAARC Double Taxation Avoidance and Investment Treaty has become quite essential in order to encourage and promote cross border and beyond border trade and investment in SAARC.
- Eradicating poverty is joint mission of the Governments and the Private sector,

for which leaders have pledged in every Summit. Unfortunately, movement of the private sector, which has the potential to create job opportunities and eradicate poverty, has been restricted. This potential has become hostage by 0.01% unwanted elements that hold the states by fear and terror. Therefore, the delegates urged Council of Ministers to allow free movement of business persons by allowing them SAARC Visa Exemption Sticker with one-year validity, on recommendation of SAARC CCI.

The Hon'ble Foreign Ministers assured their support for consideration of SAARC CCI proposals.

SAARC CCI FIRST EVER DELEGATION TO AFGHANISTAN

April 12, 2016, Kabul, Afghanistan

A 20-member delegation of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry led by the President SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya visited Afghanistan on April 12, 2016. This was the very first time a SAARC CCI delegation visited Afghanistan since the inception of SAARC CCI.

Facilitated by Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (ACCI), the delegation met high level government dignitaries of Afghanistan. The delegation had the privilege

to call on H.E Ashraf Ghani, President of Afghanistan, H.E. Hamid Karzai, Former President, Afghanistan and H.E Second Vice President Mohammad Sarwar Danish. Furthermore the delegation had the privilege to visit Dr. Davood Moradian, Director, Afghanistan Institute of Strategic Studies.

During these meetings Mr. Vaidya presented his six point agenda for taking SAARC CCI forward, which included promotion of regional connectivity, energy cooperation,



President SAARC CCI Mr. Suraj Vaidya presenting memento to His Excellency Ashraf Ghani, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

investment and trade promotion, setting up SAARC Industrial parks, smart green villages and free movement of goods and people. Important issues such as SAARC Motor Vehicle Agreement and Railway Agreement, Private Sectors' representation through SAARC CCI in economic and development related Working

Groups and policy-making process, efforts for implementation of South Asian Agreement on Trade in Services (SATIS), creation of free trade areas under SAFTA vision by end of 2016, cross border investment backed by respective governments and flexible and pro-business SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme were discussed.

He further presented the idea of setting up SAARC Industrial Parks in the member countries, seeking special concessions on the pattern of specialized economic zone with incentives like 10 years tax holiday, zero-rated duty on raw material and capital goods, which will help to promote cross-border trade and Investment. He further gave a briefing on SAARC CEO Forum as a joint initiative of SAARC CCI and the SAARC Secretariat, which is likely to be approved in the upcoming SAFTA Ministerial Round with an objective to involve influential business figures across South Asia.

SEMINAR ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR AFGHANISTAN

April 13, 2016, Kabul, Afghanistan

SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ACCI) and in partnership with Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF) organized a conference on "Trade and Investment Opportunities for Afghanistan".

Hon'ble Mr. Humayoon Rasaw, Minister of Commerce and Industries, Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan was Chief Guest and delivered a key note address. The seminar was also addressed by Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President of SAARC CCI, Mr. Om Bahadur Raj Bhandary, Vice President SAARC CCI (Nepal), Mr. Mohammad Yonass Mohmand, Vice President SAARC CCI (Afghanistan)

& Commercial Vice Chairman ACCI. Mr. Atiqullah Nusrat, CEO ACCI delivered a welcome address and moderated the session.

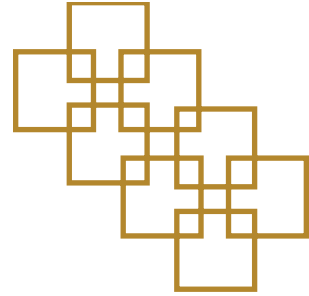
Mr. Muhammad Iqbal Tabish, Secretary General SAARC CCI gave a brief introduction of SAARC CCI.

The Hon'able Minister in his key note address urged South Asian private sector to actively participate in development of Afghanistan and also get benefitted with dividends of this land.

Earlier Mr. Atiqullah Nusrat, CEO of ACCI delivered a welcome address to the delegates of South Asian countries and said the prime



Pictorial view of Seminar on Trade and Investment Opportunities for Afghanistan



Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI addressing the seminar.

objective of the gathering was availing the opportunity of face to face meetings among the members of SAARC in order to enhance regional integrity. “Let’s together find the potential sector of South Asia for cross border investment, which will help Afghanistan to rebuild infrastructure of the country”, Mr. Nusrat said.

Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI, referred Afghanistan as the land of opportunities with enormous untapped natural resources and called on international investors to come and invest in Afghanistan. “The trade turnover among the regional countries would witness a dramatic increase with providing facilities in access to visas” he added.

Mr. Alhaj Mohammad Younass Momand, Vice President SAARC CCI (Afghanistan) urged the SAARC member countries and relevant authorities to actively participate in economic development of Afghanistan through investment in economic infrastructure.

Mr. Muzamil Shinwari, Afghanistan Deputy Commerce Minister while briefing the participant on multilateral agreements among Afghanistan and SAARC member countries, termed the better implementation of aforesaid agreements in the best interest of the entire region. On behalf of Ministry of Commerce and Industries, Mr. Shinwari assured the delegation of full support from the Ministry of Commerce and Industries.

Mr. Walid Majidyar, Director of AISA presented the potential business and investment opportunities of Afghanistan during a presentation. He highlighted the regional connectivity of the SAARC Region and the role of Afghanistan in connecting the SAARC region to the central Asia and beyond, he requested all the SAARC countries to visit Afghanistan for investment.

The seminar concluded with vote of thanks.

CONFERENCE ON SOUTH ASIA: SHAPING THE NEW PARADIGM FOR GROWTH

June 3, 2016, Kalutara, Sri Lanka



Mr. Subodh Kumar, Executive Programs FnF India, Deshabandu Macky Hashim, Former President SAARC CCI, Mr. Sarath Kahapalarachchi, President FCCISL, Mr. Suraj Vaidya President SAARC CCI, Mr. Ajith Wattuhewa Senior Vice President SAARC CCI, Mr. Ali Altaf Haider, Director SAARC Secretariat and Mr. Vijay Kharbanda, Project Director, SARI/EI at the opening session of the seminar.

SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a conference on two vital issues of the region, Energy and Transportation under the title of “South Asia: Shaping the New Paradigm for Growth” on June 3, 2016 at Kalutara, Sri Lanka. The conference entailed one inaugural session and two technical sessions namely Securing South Asia’s Energy Future and Moving South Asia Forward: SAARC Motor Vehicle and Railway Agreement.

Mr. Ajith Wattuhewa, Senior Vice President SAARC CCI welcomed the participants and said that energy and connectivity has become indispensable for the



Pictorial view of Securing South Asia’s Energy Future

economic development of the region.

In his comments Mr. Ali Haider Altaf, Director, SAARC Secretariat said that each member country in the region is blessed with unique promising and extensive opportunities awaiting investments to unleash these opportunities. Moderate policies are required to be framed for brighter and prosperous future of the citizens of the South Asian region, he added.

Addressing the occasion, Former President of SAARC CCI, Deshabandhu Macky Hashim said that despite of all the differences the nature has linked us geographically and we are connected by the trade. He maintained that, SAARC CCI has been the driving force behind the initiatives of the SAARC for the prosperity

of the people of the region. He applauded Mr. S. M. Inam for founding the SAARC CCI as voice of the private sector in the region.

The President of SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya in his speech briefed the session with activities and initiatives taken, following his six point agenda. Updating the session he briefed the session about his visits to Afghanistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. He said that we are very quick to blame the governments for lack of policies and failures of initiatives, but we have to equally blame ourselves for not advocating, supporting in our capacities and partaking in it. He also maintained that mere ranting for changes may not bring significant changes, we the private sector have to react proactively and find every possible opportunity to invest in the areas that could result in social benefit across the region.

The inaugural session was followed by technical sessions.

The speakers during technical session revealed that the intra-regional trade costs in South Asia is markedly higher at about 114% compared to that of South East Asia at 76% and East Asia at 51% due to the poorly developed soft connectivity and trade facilitation. Moreover poor transport connectivity and facilitation prevents the region from exploiting benefits of geographical proximity, scale of economies and potential for regional production networks.



Group picture of SAARC CCI delegates with Hon’ble President SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya

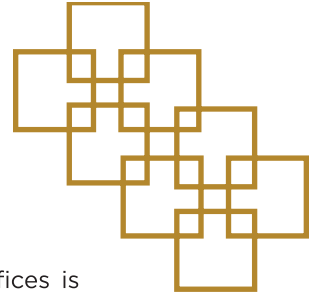
OPENING OF SAARC CCI FIRST SUB-OFFICE IN COLOMBO

June 5, 2016, Colombo, Sri Lanka

Pursuing to decision of the General Assembly Meeting and one of the important organ of the Mr. Suraj Vaidya’s core initiatives, SAARC CCI opened its first sub-office in Colombo within the premises of Federation of Chambers of

Commerce & Industry Sri Lanka.

Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI inaugurated the sub office in Colombo on June 5, 2016. Mr. Ajith Wattuhewa, Senior Vice



President, Mr. Jalaluddin Saeed, EC Member (Afghanistan), Mr. Rajeev Chadda, GA Member (India), Mr. Zubair Ahmed Malik, EC Member (Pakistan), Mr. Zulfiqar Butt, Deputy Secretary General, Mr. Bader Munir, Deputy Secretary, Mr. Imran Ali, Research Associate, Mr. Ajith Perera, Secretary General, FCCISL and Mr. Sarath Kahapalarachchi, President, FCCISL were present at the occasion.

“Notion behind opening these sub offices is to strengthen SAARC CCI via enhancing the capacity and outreach of the secretariat across the region. The sub-offices shall help SAARC CCI to brand itself as the true representative body of private sector, in the South Asian region” Mr. Vaidya said on the occasion.



Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI while inaugurating the SAARC CCI Sub Office in Colombo.



Group Photo of SAARC CCI office bearers at SAARC CCI sub office, Colombo.

SAARC CCI LEADERSHIP’S FLOOD RELIEF CAMPAIGN

June 5, 2016



Flood relief campaign in Sri Lanka

SAARC CCI leadership initiated a campaign for flood relief victims in Sri Lanka on June 5, 2016. The President SAARC CCI Mr. Suraj Vaidya visited the flood affected areas with other office bearers and SAARC CCI team in Sri Lanka. They distributed dry food items, blankets, mosquito nets, cloths and other items of necessities. The President and office bearers also visited a school, which was affected by floods in Sri Lanka, and announced new computers and books for the students and dresses for the teaching staff.

100 DAYS OF UNLEASHING SOUTH ASIA, MEDIA BRIEFING

July 21, 2016, Kathmandu Nepal

A program was organized by Honorable President of SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya to mark the completion of 100 days by the new Presidium and Executive Committee of SAARC CCI of the term 2015-17 which has been titled “Unleashing South Asia. Speaking on the occasion Mr. Vaidya said that the world should come out of illusion that SAARC is all about two or three countries.



President SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya and Mr. Om Bahadur Rajbhandari, Vice President SAARC CCI (Nepal), during the completion of 100 days of Presidency of SAARC CCI

He maintained that this illusion is hindering trade among SAARC member countries as well as SAARC’s international trade. The Honorable President SAARC CCI emphasized the need to remove this misconception. “SAARC CCI will work to remove this incorrect conception about SAARC” he opined. He also said that SAARC CCI was preparing to raise the issue in future dialogues in the USA and the United Nations.

While appraising his vision of Unleashing SAARC, Mr. Vaidya said that SAARC CCI is launching ‘Beyond SAARC’ campaign in the near future with an aim to bring foreign investment to SAARC countries. He also highlighted the need to increase regional investment, promote industrialization, and develop smart green villages and youth entrepreneurship to enhance economy of the region.

TRAINING OF TRAINERS ON “NON-TARIFF MEASURES AND NON-TARIFF BARRIERS IN THE SAARC REGION”

August 24-27, 2016, Islamabad, Pakistan

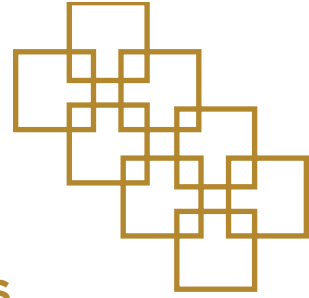


EC member (SAARC CCI) Mr. Zubair Ahmed Malik formally opened the session by welcoming all the participants of the training.

SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with SAARC Trade Promotion Network (TPN), in partnership with GIZ, organized a four day training programme on Training of Trainers on “Non-tariff Measures and Non-tariff Barriers in the SAARC Region”, from August 24-27, 2016 in Islamabad.

The four day training programme was attended by 15 participants from national level trade relevant stakeholders. In close collaboration with SAARC TPN and GIZ, a competitive recruitment procedure took place and Mr. Asif Jamil was selected as the Master Trainer to conduct the training.

The training was opened by Mr. Zubair Ahmed Malik, EC member, SAARC CCI. He emphasized on the importance of need of such training programs on Non-Tariff Measures and Non-Tariff Barriers in Pakistan, in his opening remarks.



COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY WORKSHOP TOWARDS A CONTENT STRATEGY FOR THE SAARC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

September 21 - 22, 2016, Mumbai, India

A Communication Strategy Workshop for office bearers of SAARC CCI and the Secretariat staff was organized by Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FnF) on September 21 - 22, 2016 in Mumbai, India.

Mr. Ronald Meinardus, Regional Director, FNF facilitated the program and shared his valuable insights on developing a successful communication strategy.

The objective of the workshop was to capacitate the participants on the basic rules

of successful communications, understanding the elements of content strategy and formulation of such a strategy for SAARC CCI. The workshop focused on basics of communications and content strategy, audit of communications at SAARC CCI, drafting the SAARC CCI Communications core strategy statement and secondary messages, identifying target audiences and channels to reach them, analyzing workflow and governance, analyzing SAARC CCI organogram, editorial planning and monitoring tools.



Mr. Suraj Vaidya President, SAARC CCI addressing Communication Strategy Workshop

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF SAARC CCI

September 23, 2016, Mumbai, India

Mr. Vikramjit Singh Sahney, Chair SAARC CCI Advisory Committee and the immediate past President SAARC CCI held first Advisory Committee Meeting in Mumbai, India on September 23, 2016. The advisory meeting was attended by Mr. Macky Hashim, Mr. Suraj Vaidya, Former and existing President

SAARC CCI respectively, Mr. Vinod Juneja, Vice President (India), Mr. Shafquat Haider, EC Member (Bangladesh), Mr. Rajeev Chadha, GA Member (India) and Ms. Hina Saeed, Executive Director SAARC CCI.

INAUGURATION OF SAARC CCI SUB-OFFICE, IN MUMBAI, INDIA

September 24, 2016, Mumbai, India

Pursuing the decision of the General Assembly Meeting and one of the many integral initiatives by Mr. Suraj Vaidya, SAARC CCI opened its second Sub-Office at the premises of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry, in Mumbai.



Mr. Kantikumar R. Podar while inaugurating SAARC CCI sub office in Mumbai, India.

Mr. Kantikumar R. Podar, Former President SAARC CCI, inaugurated the sub office in Mumbai on September 24, 2016. While sharing his views, Mr. Podar recalled his past experiences of SAARC CCI and narrated how the Former Presidents have worked hard to strengthen the voice of private sector of South Asia in shape of SAARC CCI. He congratulated the existing President of SAARC CCI and Mr. Vinod Juneja, Vice President SAARC CCI, India, for opening the SAARC CCI sub-office in Mumbai.

At the occasion Mr. Vaidya, President SAARC CCI shared that the notion behind opening these sub-offices was to strengthen SAARC CCI by enhancing capacity and outreach of the secretariat across the region. The sub-offices shall help SAARC CCI to brand itself as the true representative body of the private sector of the South Asian region. Prior to the event, Mr. Kanti Kumar Podar hosted a dinner in the honour of Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI and the delegates from South Asian countries at his residence in Mumbai, India.

SAARC CCI CONFERENCE ON UNLEASHING SOUTH ASIA CONNECTIVITY, SUB REGIONAL INITIATIVES, ENERGY AND INVESTMENT PROTECTION

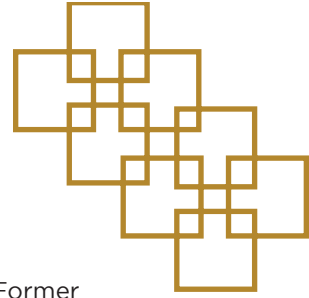
September 24, 2016, Mumbai, India



Unleashing South Asia Connectivity, Sub regional initiatives, Energy and Investment Protection

“Unleashing South Asia Connectivity, Sub regional initiatives, Energy and investment Protection”, was organized by SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry and in partnership with FNF, on 24th September, 2014, in ITC Maratha Hotel, Mumbai, India.

Mr. Anurag Sharma, Deputy Secretary, FTSA, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, was invited as guest of honour at the conference whereas, Mr. Subodh Kumar, Executive Programmes, FNF, moderated the session. The session was addressed by Mr. Vinod Juneja, Vice President, SAARC CCI (India), Mr. Vikramjit Singh Sahney, Former President SAARC CCI, Mr. Macky Hashim, Former President,



Mr. Zubair Ahmed Malik, EC member SAARC CCI chairing the session

SAARC CCI, Mr. Zubair Ahmed Malik, Former President, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry and Mrs. Ambika Sharma, Deputy Secretary General, FICCI. Mr Om Rajbhandary, Vice President SAARC CCI (Nepal Chapter) briefed the participants on the President’s visit to USA and shared the six point agenda before offering a vote of thanks.

The inaugural session of the conference was followed by two technical sessions; “Investments and Connecting South Asia and Energy Cooperation in South Asia”.

Mr. Zubair Ahmed Malik, EC Member, SAARC CCI, (Pakistan), and Dr. Nagesh Kumar, Head of United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), South and Southwest Asia chaired the sessions respectively.

SCWEC TRAINING OF TRAINERS ON “MARKETING AND PACKAGING OF PRODUCTS- PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY IN TRADE”

October 5-7, 2016, Lahore, Pakistan



Group photo of SCWEC ToT participants with Mrs. Shaista Pervaiz Malik, Chairperson, SCWEC at the conclusion of the workshop.

SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) organized a three day training programme for trainers on “Marketing and Packaging of Products- Promoting Gender Equality in Trade” in partnership with GIZ, initiated by SAARC Trade Promotion Network (TPN) on October 5-7, 2016 at Pearl Continental, Lahore.

The Training of Trainers was designed for the member organizations of SCWEC and affiliated partners. It was intended to develop a pool of exceedingly accomplished trainers

for SCWEC who would further replicate the training in their respective countries with the support of the local business chambers.

The training focused on processes and ways of pricing, trends of marketing, design a brand identity in 10 easy steps, basics of branding, marketing and packaging of products, pricing strategies of women-owned businesses, difference between marketing and branding, the first step to a great personal brand, the marketer’s guide to developing a strong corporate and brand identity.

7TH SOUTH ASIA- SICHUAN BUSINESS PROMOTION ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE

November 4, 2016, Chengdu, China



Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI addressing during 7th South Asia- Sichuan Business Promotion Round-Table Conference

SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SAARC CCI) in collaboration with China Council for Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT-Sichuan) co-organized “7th South Asia- Sichuan Business Promotion Round Table Conference”.

The 7th CSABF was aimed at promoting economic and trade cooperation between Chengdu-China and South Asian countries, while integrating opportunities associated with China’s new Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. The conference comprised of discussions and deliberations on Chinese initiatives on infrastructure development, industrial transfer and standardization of cooperation with South Asian Countries.

Mr. Tang Jian, Vice Chairman of Sichuan Committee of Chinese Political Consultative Conference, in his address acknowledged SAARC CCI’s support for successfully organizing the 7th South Asia-Sichuan Business Forum in Chengdu. “The South Asia-Sichuan Business Forum initiative is a great help in bridging the gap between China and South Asian Countries” said Mr. Tang Jian.



Glimpses of the 7th South Asia-Sichuan Business Promotion Round Table Conference

UNLEASHING SAARC- WHAT IT TAKES!

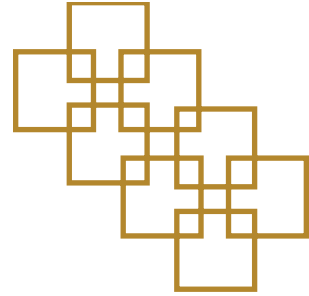
November 13, 2016, Chandragiri Hills, Nepal

SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized a two day conference on “Unleashing SAARC- What it takes” in collaboration with Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), in partnership with FUR DIE FREIHEIT (FNF) in Kathmandu, Nepal on November 13, 2016.

The objective of the workshop was to discuss SAARC today and the future it holds and how SAARC perceives to achieve integration, and what actions can be done in order to transform these perceptions into a reality.

The key perceptions were identified on day one of the seminar which were involving the private sector, tackling connectivity issues, youth of the region and role of media towards regional integration.

The second day of the conference stressed upon Linking Grids and Energy Road Map for SAARC. Recognizing the true reason behind the downfall of innovative energy plans was looked upon for coming up with a realistic resolution.



Pictorial view of Conference on Unleashing SAARC- What it takes!

The two-day event generally focused on how the regional trade can be improved and how can we reach out to our potential as a region. It was also brought under the limelight that regional integration is very important to foresee a bright future for the region. Thus it is time for everyone involved to keep aside political differences and work together for generating and sustaining economic growth, alleviate poverty and create a bigger participation in the global value chain.

ENERGIZING SAARC: CREATING SYNERGIES

November 14, 2016, Kathmandu, Nepal



Conference on “Energizing SAARC: Creating Synergies in progress”

November 14, 2015 at Soaltee Crowne Plaza, in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The objective of the conference was to discuss SAARC today and the future it holds moving forward. The experts were invited to seek their insights that how energy cooperation can help in promoting and integrating SAARC region.

His Excellency Mr. Janardan Sharma, Hon'ble Minister for Energy, Government of Nepal, was the Chief Guest of the Conference and His Excellency Mr. Arjun Bahadur Thapa, Secretary General, SAARC was the guest of honor of the conference.

SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized one day conference on “Energizing SAARC: Creating Synergies”, in collaboration with Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FNCCI), in partnership with Friedrich Naumann Foundation on

His Excellency, the Secretary General SAARC, Mr. Arjun Bahadur Thapa, thanked and congratulated SAARC CCI for organizing this workshop on this important topic under prevailing condition and keeping the momentum of regional integration moving forward.

SECOND ROUND OF TRAINING OF TRAINERS ON “NON-TARIFF MEASURES AND NON-TARIFF BARRIERS IN THE SAARC

November 17 - 19, 2016, Islamabad, Pakistan

SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry planned the follow up session of training in partnership with SAARC Trade Promotion Network (TPN), and with the support of GIZ

on November 17-19, 2016 in Crown Plaza, Islamabad.

The 3 day training programme was facilitated



Ms. Lubna Bhayat conducting a session on Non-tariff Measures and Non-tariff Barriers in SAARC Region.

by the trainers Ms. Lubna Bhayat and Mr. Ahmad Zaman who were shortlisted after a viable assessment process by Master Trainer Mr. Asif Jamil during the first round of Training.

Chambers of Commerce and Industry from

Pakistan were requested to nominate their members and business entrepreneurs to participate in the training programme as per the criterion. Fifteen participants in the second round of training of trainers were shortlisted.

The objective of the training was to effectively apprehend and fortify the understanding of the participants on Non-tariff measures and Non-tariff barriers, trade policy, and ways of working and integrated approaches to meet the challenges within Pakistan.

Mr. Imran Ali, Research Associate, SAARC CCI was invited as a co-trainer to give a brief presentation on SAARC and SAARC CCI. The prime objectives and its achievements were highlighted, along with the organizational structure presented.

Certificates of participation were awarded to each of the participants on the concluding session by Mr. Iftikhar Ali Malik, Vice President SAARC CCI.



Group photo of participants with Mr. Iftikhar Malik, Vice President SAARC CCI (Pakistan), Mr. Zubair Ahmed Malik, EC member SAARC CCI, and Ms. Hina Saeed, Executive Director, SAARC CCI

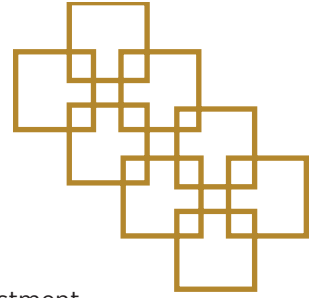
CHINA SOUTH ASIAN BUSINESS FORUM PREPARATORY MEETING

November 24, 2016- Kolkata, India

A preparatory meeting of the 12th China-South Asia Business Forum was held on November 24, 2016 in Oberoi Grand Hotel, Kolkata, India. SAARC CCI is a collaborative partner of China Council for Promotion of International Trade-Kunming in the China South Asia Business Forum (CSABF) initiative.

The objective of the meeting was to seek

valuable inputs from key stakeholders and encourage economic and trade cooperation between China and South Asian countries. The meeting was attended by SAARC CCI Vice Presidents, office bearers and VIPs from SAARC CCI member Federations/Chambers to deliberate on the theme and topics for the upcoming CSABF. The forum discussed the next rotation chair and the duration of the



Chair term. The Chair of CSABF was conferred to Pakistan for the next two years.

Mr. Liu Guangxi, Chairman, China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, Yunnan welcomed and thanked all the participants for travelling miles to participate in the meeting. He said SAARC CCI and its members support is essential for the success of CSABF.

Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI summarized the findings and shared the

theme for the event 'Innovative Investment Summit on job creation and entrepreneurship; challenging opportunities'. The house applauded the theme and agreed to it.

In the light of the above considerations, it was decided that the CSABF will be next held in June, as it has been the practice over the past 26 years. The Kunming fair starts on June 12, 2017 and will go on for 5 days. The meeting concluded with vote of thanks.



Glimpses of Preparatory Meeting

CHARTER DAY CELEBRATIONS

December 8, 2016



SAARC Charter Day Celebration in Sri Lanka with FCCISL graced by Foreign Secretary of Government, Secretary General FCCISL, Vice Chair SCWEC Maldives and Head of Verite Research amongst others on December 14, 2016.

SAARC Charter Day on December 8, 2016 marked the 32nd Anniversary of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

The SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, celebrated the SAARC Charter Day in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka with vigor and enthusiasm across the region.

The sub-office of SAARC CCI in Sri Lanka celebrated the 32nd Charter Day of SAARC by organizing a plenary discussion on SAARC Charter Day on December 14, 2016 in Colombo in partnership with Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry Sri Lanka (FCCISL).

SAARC Charter Day was also celebrated at Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry at Dhaka, Bangladesh on December 12, 2016.

The SAARC CCI Sub office in India at Mumbai celebrated the Charter day in partnership with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry at FICCI office at Mumbai-India



Ms. Shaista Pervaiz Malik, Chairperson of SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneurs Council (SCWEC) and Member National Assembly addressing Charter Day (Pakistan Chapter) on December 16, 2016 in Islamabad

on December 15, 2016.

SAARC CCI Vice Presidents celebrated Charter Day themed “Celebrating 32 years of Unleashing South Asia” with the cooperation of National Member Federations/chambers, Government officials, Media representatives and diplomatic Missions of SAARC countries across the region.

On this auspicious occasion, the Presidium and Members of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry extended warm felicitations to the people and Governments of the Member States and SAARC Secretariat, Nepal, endorsing SAARC CCI’s commitment to facilitate and address the challenging opportunities SAARC region faces.

SECOND ROUND OF TRAINING OF TRAINERS ON “MARKETING AND PACKAGING OF PRODUCTS- PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY IN TRADE”

December 21, 2016, Avari Towers, Karachi



Mr. Zubair Ahmed Malik, EC Member SAARC CCI addressing the training inaugural session

level of trade and nurtures the development of economic integration process. He said that the objective of the programme was to unite the women entrepreneurs on one platform to empower them and make them learn from each other’s experiences

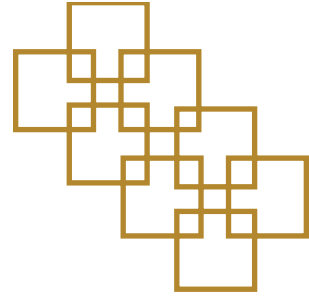
On conclusion of the training programme, certificates of participation were awarded to each of the participants by Mr. Zubair Tufail, President FPCCI and Mr. Zubair Ahmed Malik, EC Member, SAARC CCI.

The follow up training was envisioned to upsurge the expertise of the future trainers and produce exceptionally accomplished individuals as trainers who would further deliver the trainings. SAARC CCI organized second round of training of trainers on “Marketing and Packaging of Products- Promoting Gender Equality in Trade” on December 21, 2016 at Avari Towers, Karachi.

Mr. Zubair Ahmed Malik, EC Member, SAARC CCI in his welcome address highlighted the significance of women’s vigorous participation in trade, and how the innovative marketing and packaging of products upsurges the



A group picture of participants with Mr. Zubair Tufail, President FPCCI and Mr. Zubair Ahmed Malik, EC member, SAARC CCI



THE SECOND ROUND OF TRAINING OF TRAINERS ON ‘EXPORT AND IMPORT PROCEDURES, PROMOTING GENDER EQUALITY IN TRADE’

December 26, 2016, Rawalpindi, Pakistan



Ms. Hina Saeed, Executive Director, SAARC CCI and Ms. Hina Mansab Khan, Vice Chairperson, SCWEC along with the participants and the trainers

SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry organized second round of training of trainers on ‘Export and Import Procedures, Promoting Gender Equality in Trade’. Formally commencing the training day, trainer, Ms. Dur-e-Shahwar presented the agenda and

welcomed all the participants followed by a short introduction round. The training aimed to be attended by women entrepreneurs so they could further disseminate the knowledge correlated to exports and imports.

The training content was based on the first round of ToT which was formally held in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The major topics presented by Ms. Dur-e-Shahwar in the first half included:

1. Trade in SAARC region
2. Global Trade
3. Global procedures of trade (Import and exports)
4. Letter of credit

The trainer Ms. Dur-e-Shahwar commenced the session with the subject of sustainability and sustainable development goals. Furthermore, she highlighted gender sensitivity in context of trade and the significance of women’s participation.

WOMEN ECONOMIC FORUM: “WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT”

January 13, 2017, New Delhi, India

ASSOCHAM undertook an excellent initiative with SAARC Development Fund (SDF), Ministry of External Affairs (GOI) and SAARC Chamber of Women Entrepreneurs Council (SCWEC) for holding BIMSTEC-SAARC Women Economic Forum on January 13, 2017, at Hotel, The Leela Palace, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi. The theme of the dialogue was “Women in Development” which emphasized on the imperative role of women within the development sector.

The annual meeting was addressed by Ms. Mridula Sinha, Hon’ble Governor of Goa, Ms. Anupriya Patel, Hon’ble Minister of State, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India, Ms. Preeti Saran, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, H. E. Dr. Shaida Mohammad Abdali, Ambassador, Embassy of Afghanistan, Ms. Shaista Pervaiz Malik, Chairperson SCWEC, Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI and Ms. Rita Singh, Chairperson, BIMSTEC- SAARC Women Economic Forum amongst others.



Women Economic Forum: “Women in Development”

UNLEASHING SOUTH ASIA OPENING DOORS TO CHALLENGING OPPORTUNITIES

January 26, 2017, Amritsar, India



SAARC CCI President, Mr. Suraj Vaidya while addressing a press conference at Wagah, Lahore said CPEC would benefit the whole SAARC region, adding that the only viable way to uplift the downtrodden strata of the SAARC region is to make joint efforts.

A seminar on “Unleashing South Asia Opening Doors to Challenging Opportunities” was organized by SAARC CCI in collaboration with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry and Amritsar Import & Exporter Chambers, in partnership with Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF).

The conference was inaugurated with the

welcome address of Mr. Vinod Juneja, Vice President, SAARC CCI (India). The conference was also graced by Mr. Iftikhar Ali Malik, Vice President, SAARC CCI (Pakistan), Mr. Ronald Meinardus, Regional Director, FNF, Mr. Pradeep Sehgal, President, Importer Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry and the Chief Guest, Hon’ble Manish Sisodia, Deputy Chief Minister, Delhi, Republic of India.

The second session ‘The SAARC Talk’ was chaired by Mr. Mackay Hashim, Former President, SAARC CCI. The session was attended by Dr. Mohammad Tamim, Professor Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Former Minister for Power, Government of Bangladesh, Mr. Navaraj Chalise, Media Expert, Nepal, Ms. Ritu Marya, CEO Entrepreneur- India, Mr. Hrishikesh Dutt Majunder, Media Expert, India, Mr. Mubarik Zaib, Media Expert from Pakistan and Ms. Arosha Jeniffer, Media Expert from Sri Lanka.

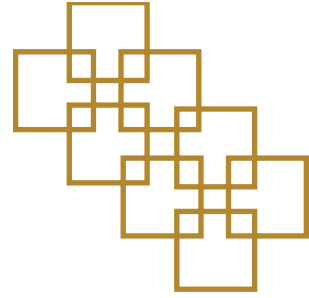
During the session, Executive Committee Members of SAARC CCI, accredited media personnel from the SAARC countries shared their views on taking SAARC forward and steering a future for South Asia.

SAARC CCI TRAINING OF TRAINERS ON “WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS IN DIGITAL SOUTH ASIA: ENHANCING BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS BY SOCIAL MEDIA”

March 20 -22, 2017, Kathmandu, Nepal



SAARC CCI Training on “Women Entrepreneurs in Digital South Asia: Enhancing Business Communications by Social Media” March 20-22, 2017 Khatmandu, Nepal.



Group picture of participants of the training with Mr. Suraj Vaidya President SAARC CCI, Ms. Rita Bhandary Vice Chairperson SCWEC (Nepal), and Mr. Zubair A. Malik, Executive Committee Member, SAARC CCI (Pakistan).

A three day training programme for trainers on “Women Entrepreneurs in Digital South Asia: Enhancing Business Communications by Social Media” was organized by SAARC CCI in partnership with GIZ, initiated by SAARC Trade Promotion Network (TPN) at Soaltee Crowne Plaza Kathmandu, Nepal.

The objective of the training programme was to train and impart skills to women entrepreneurs from the SAARC region to market their products and brands online and train them in developing innovative marketing strategies. Day one of the training programme commenced with the opening remarks of Mr. Zubair A. Malik, Executive Committee Member, SAARC CCI (Pakistan) who emphasized on the role of social media in the contemporary era.

The three day training programme concentrated on social media websites specifically Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Google Plus and Linked Inn. Furthermore, the sessions comprised of Facebook advertising processes, Facebook remarketing, insights groups and apps, LinkedIn Marketing and advertising, Twitter and YouTube marketing and advertising and media planning.

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION DIALOGUE

March 24, 2017, Kathmandu, Nepal



A view of “Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Dialogues”

The SAARC CCI organized a two day “Multi-Stakeholder Consultation Dialogues” on March 24-25, 2017. The dialogue aimed to hold discussions on achieving SAFTA goals and enhancing intra SAARC trade by reducing Non-tariff Barriers (NTBs) in the region.

The dialogues engaged primary stakeholders to examine and discourse on the incidence and intensity of non-tariff measures and the hindrances in achieving the goals of SAFTA. The key stakeholders were engaged to embody the regional policy advocacy group. Furthermore, it highlighted the issues and impediments in boosting intra-regional trade. The session referred the respective national governments on the significance of reducing/removal of non-tariff barriers, to not only enhances intra-regional trade in the South Asian region, but also to achieve the objectives of SAARC.

SAARC CCI HONORED MR. ANNISUL HUQ, MAYOR OF DHAKA (NORTH CITY CORPORATION) AND FORMER PRESIDENT SAARC CCI.

April 15, 2017 in Dhaka, Bangladesh



The President SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya, pinned the SAARC CCI Golden Lapel Pin to Mr. Annisul Huq as a token of appreciation for his services and contribution towards SAARC CCI, as President of SAARC CCI during the term 2010-2012.

President SAARC CCI pinning a Golden Lapel Pin to Former President, SAARC CCI H.E Mayor of DCC (North) Mr. Annisul Huq for his relentless contribution

SAARC CCI ROUNDTABLE ON UNLEASHING SOUTH ASIA: IMPERATIVE FOR ACTION - REVITALIZING SAFTA: BEYOND BARRIERS

April 16, 2017, Dhaka, Bangladesh



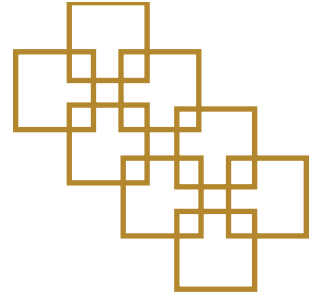
Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI addressing the inaugural session

SAARC CCI organized a roundtable seminar on “Unleashing South Asia: Imperative for Action - Revitalizing SAFTA: Beyond Barriers” on April 16, 2017 in collaboration with Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI), in partnership with Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF).

The seminar commenced with the welcome note of Ms. Hina Saeed, Executive Director SAARC CCI who thanked the hon’ble guests and participants from the SAARC member states for their valuable presence.

The seminar was graced by key panelists including Mr. Md. Shafiqul Islam, Additional Secretary (FTA), Ministry of Commerce, Government of Bangladesh, Mr. Taimur Tajammal, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, Government of Pakistan, Mr. Ahmed Karim, Third Secretary, Embassy of Afghanistan, Dhaka, Bangladesh, Mr. Damong, Counsellor (Trade), Royal Bhutanese Embassy in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Mr. Suleman Khan, Commercial Counselor, High Commission of Pakistan in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Dr. Khondaker Golam Moazzem, Research Director, CPD, Bangladesh, Mr. Sanjeev Nandwani, Former Additional Director General, Foreign Trade & Development Commissioner, Falta Export Promotion Zone, India, Mr. Kithmina Hewage, Research Officer, Institute of Policy Studies, Sri Lanka, Mr. Kshitiz Dahal, Research Officer, South Asia Watch on Trade Economics and Environment (SAWTEE), Nepal.

Mr. Vaidya in his address reassured that despite all the obstacles and hurdles, the private sector of SAARC firmly stands with all the member states in taking the objectives forward.



SAARC CCI HONORED MR. SALMAN F. RAHMAN, FORMER PRESIDENT SAARC CCI

April 16, 2017, Dhaka, Bangladesh



President SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya pinning a Golden Lapel Pin to Former President to Former President, Mr. Salman F. Rahman during the event

During the Seminar, Mr. Salman F. Rahman, Former President, SAARC CCI, was presented with a token of appreciation for his relentless efforts to SAARC and taking SAARC CCI forward by Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI.

LAUNCH OF SAARC INVESTMENT OUTLOOK

April 16, 2017 in Dhaka, Bangladesh



The SAARC Investment Outlook launched on the occasion of Roundtable Discussion on Revitalizing SAFTA: Beyond Barriers

Mr. Suraj Vaidya and Mr. Salman F. Rahman jointly launched a publication of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, "SAARC Investment Outlook" in Dhaka, Bangladesh. The study comprises of 110 investment projects, encapsulating different sectors of the economy from each of the SAARC member country. SAARC Investment Outlook showcases and brands the economic potential of the South Asian region to attract investments and investors from the region and beyond. It provides the investors with the pertinent information to initiate business.

MEDIA BRIEFING ON SAARC TRADE FAIR AND SAARC INVESTMENT FORUM

May 18, 2017, Colombo, Sri Lanka

The SAARC CCI and FCCISL jointly organized a media briefing on the forthcoming SAARC Trade Fair and SAARC Investment Forum on May 18, 2017 at Hilton Colombo, Sri Lanka under the patronage of Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI and Hon'ble Minister of Industry

and Commerce, Mr. Rishad Bathiudeen.

Hon'ble Minister of Industry and Commerce, Mr. Rishad Bathiudeen during his address at the press briefing announced SAARC Investment Forum and SAARC Trade Fair from

September 6-9, 2017. "I believe more FDIs can be sourced for SAARC if we collaborate, rather than compete. Even trade within the SAARC countries is less than 6%" said Hon'ble Minister of Industry and Commerce Mr. Rishad Bathiudeen.



Press Briefing on SAARC Trade Fair and SAARC Investment Forum

MR. SURAJ VAIDYA, PRESIDENT, SAARC CCI MEETING WITH SAARC CCI EC & GA MEMBERS OF SRI LANKA CHAPTER

May 18, 2017 in Colombo, Sri Lanka

President, SAARC CCI Mr. Suraj Vaidya, held a meeting with SAARC CCI Executive Committee and General Assembly Members of Sri Lanka Chapter during his visit to Colombo, Sri Lanka. Mr. Macky Hashim, Former President, SAARC CCI and Mr. Ruwan Edirisinghe, Senior Vice President of SAARC CCI were also present on the occasion. Mr. Vaidya urged upon the members to take part actively in SAARC CCI meetings and events.

He also proposed Mr. Ruwan Edirisinghe to bring more businessmen from Sri Lanka to SAARC CCI platform, who may contribute to taking SAARC CCI to new heights. While complimenting Mr. Macky Hashim, Former President, SAARC CCI, Mr. Vaidya said that his tenure in SAARC CCI's history was a golden era wherein a number of initiatives were taken to strengthen the platform in its true spirit.

THE 12TH CHINA-SOUTH ASIA BUSINESS FORUM (CSABF)

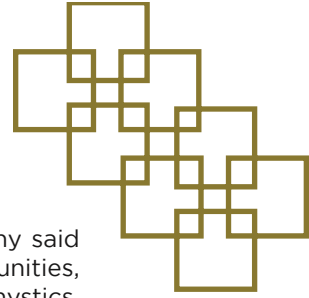
June 11-13, 2017, Kunming, China



Group picture at the 12th China-South Asia Business Forum (CSABF)

The SAARC CCI delegation led by Mr. Suraj Vadiya President, SAARC CCI during the visit to Kunming attended and co-hosted 12th edition of China South Asia Business Forum (CSABF) in Kunming Yunnan Province on June 11-13, 2017. The forum was organized under the theme of "Challenging Opportunities: Employment Creation and Innovative Investment".

H.E Mr. Zong Guoying, Vice Governor of Yunnan Province and Mr. Liu Guangxi, Chairman, CCPIT Yunnan welcomed President SAARC



CCI and the distinguished guests from SAARC region. The management urged for deeper economic cooperation with the People's Republic of China, stating that China-South Asia economic cooperation would change the global economic order to add prosperity to global prosperity.

Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI,

while addressing the opening ceremony said that SAARC is a region of opportunities, commonalities, civilizations and mystics. SAARC has become one of the most thriving and emerging markets of the world. Mr. Vaidya presented a video on the potential of South Asia in Chinese language which was highly appreciated by the audience.

MAGIC THAT IS SOUTH ASIA: ROUNDTABLE ON TOURISM AND CONNECTIVITY

July 25, 2017, Thimphu, Bhutan



“The Magic that is South Asia”, Roundtable on Tourism and Connectivity

SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry in collaboration with the Federation of Bhutan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI) and in partnership with Friedrich Naumann Foundation and World Bank organized a one day roundtable on Magic that is South Asia, to promote Tourism and Connectivity, at Hotel Termalinca, Thimphu, Bhutan on July 25, 2017.

Over 120 participants were present on the occasion including SAARC CCI members, Hon'be Minister, Board of Tourism from SAARC countries, businessmen entrepreneurs, diplomats, think tanks, NGOs, young entrepreneurs and media representatives.

Mr. Karma Lotey, Former Vice President, SAARC CCI (Bhutan) welcomed the delegates in his welcome speech during the round table. A presentation was made by Mr. Kamran Akbar, Senior Economist, World Bank South

Asia on tourism and connectivity across South Asia. The chief guest Hon'ble Mr. Lyonpo Lekey Dorji, Minister, Ministry of Economic Affairs addressed the participants followed by an address by Ms. Sayeda Mojgan Mostafavi, Deputy Minister, Minister of Information and Culture, Government of Afghanistan. A vote of thanks was presented by Mr. Karma Dorjee, Vice President, SAARC CCI (Bhutan).

The objective of the roundtable was to identify core issues, mechanism for diminishing the challenges, through a common platform and identify the opportunities to be untapped mutually. The event aimed to draw a set of policy guidelines, suggestions and recommendations to the member states and the private sector in the promotion of regional tourism across the region.



Welcome address by Mr. Karma Lotay, Past Vice President, SAARC CCI, Bhutan at the Roundtable On Tourism And Connectivity

SAARC INVESTMENT FORUM

September 6, 2017, Colombo, Sri Lanka



President SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya presenting SAARC Investment Outlook to Hon'ble delegates at the SAARC Investment Forum 2017 Sri Lanka

SAARC CCI organized "SAARC Investment Forum" aimed at nurturing greater economic cooperation between its members, in collaboration with Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry Sri Lanka (FCCISL), and in partnership with Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF) on September 6, 2017. Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Hon'ble Mr. Ranil Wickremasinghe, inaugurated the event. The forum was followed by a three day "SAARC Trade Fair" to enhance trade and investment cooperation among SAARC member states.

The inaugural session was followed by technical sessions which were addressed by Mr. Shantanu Chakraborty, Director Infrastructure Finance Division, Private Sector Operations Department, Asian Development Bank, Mr. Ralph Van Doorn, Senior Country Economist, World Bank, Mr. V.K. Kharbanda, Project Director, South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy Integration-IRADE (Integrated

Research and Action Development), Mr. Thilan Wijesinghe Chairman, National Agency for Public Private Partnership, Mr. Shahroz Jalil, Country representative (Market Development Watch), Mr. Kushan Kodituwakku, Managing Director, Orel Corporation (Pvt) Limited, Ms. Subhashini Abeysinghe, Director Verite Research, Sri Lanka and representatives of BOI from SAARC Member states. Presentations on investment opportunities in respective SAARC countries were shared by respective BOI representative.

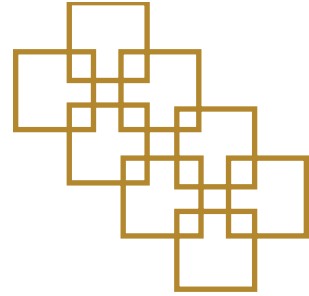
The forum drew over 250 investors and influential figures, such as local and foreign investors and entrepreneurs, fund managers, Chairmen and CEO's, owners of enterprises, representatives of global trade associations, international development agencies and high level Government officials from SAARC countries.

SAARC TRADE FAIR

September 7-9, 2017, Colombo, Sri Lanka

SAARC Trade Fair 2017 was held parallel to the SAARC Investment Forum on September 7-9, 2017 at the Sri Lanka Exhibition and Convention Centre (SLECC), Colombo. The fair was organized to pave way for greater trade and investment cooperation between its SAARC states.

Hon'able Minister of Special Assignments, Government of Sri Lanka, Mr. Sarath Amunugama was invited as the Chief Guest and inaugurated the fair. The fair showcased and demonstrated business opportunities regarding renewable energy, tourism, real estate and manufacturing amongst others.



SAARC Trade Fair, September 7-9, 2017 at Sri Lanka Exhibition and Convention Center, Colombo

THE 8TH SOUTH ASIA- SICHUAN BUSINESS PROMOTION ROUNDTABLE CONFERENCE

September 13, 2017, Chengdu, China



Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI addressing the 8th South Asia Sichuan Business Promotion Round Table Conference, Chengdu, China

President SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya led a delegation to the 8th South Asia - Sichuan Business Roundtable, in Chengdu, China on September 12-15, 2017. The roundtable aimed to promote cooperation between South Asia and Sichuan Province in the construction, agriculture & food processing and innovation exchange among the youth.

President SAARC CCI was accompanied by Mr. Mohammad Yonass Hossain, VP SAARC CCI (Afghanistan), Mr. Mahbulul Alam, Vice President SAARC CCI (Bangladesh), Mr. Om Bahadur Rajbhandary, Vice President SAARC CCI (Nepal), Mr. Zubair Tufail, President FPCCI, Ms. Zam Phub, President BCCI, Mr. Sarath Prematunge Kahapalarachchi, President FCCISL, Singye Dorji, Chair SYEF, Ms. Hina Saeed, Executive Director SAARC CCI amongst other delegates from SAARC region.

Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI in his address at the inaugural session of Roundtable stressed upon the need of regional cooperation, regional development and regional integration between China and South Asia.

“China is a story of unparalleled growth. A story, South Asia respects and treasures” said Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI in his speech.

B2B meetings were organized for SAARC business community to interact with the business community of Chengdu.

SAARC CCI BUSINESS DELEGATION VISITED DEYANG, INDUSTRIAL STATE OF SICHUAN PROVINCE, CHINA

September 14, 2017



SAARC delegates at Dongfang Turbine Co. Ltd

On September 14, 2017, President SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya led the delegates to Deyang, the industrial state of Sichuan province. President SAARC CCI along with the delegates

from SAARC member states were welcomed in Deyang province by the leaders of Deyang Municipality at Jinghu Hotel.

The South Asia Business Cooperation and Investment Promotion conference was moderated by Lan Yimin, Member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Municipal Committee and Deputy Mayor of Deyang followed by the address note of Mr Zhao Hui, Deputy Secretary of the CPC Deyang Municipal Committee and Mayor of Deyang, Mr. Li Xiangzhi, Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of Sichuan Provincial People's Congress, Mr. Li Gang, Chairman of CCPIT Sichuan sub-council and Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI.

The South Asia Business Delegation also visited Dongfang Turbine Co. Ltd (DTC followed by a visit to Sanxingdui Museum.

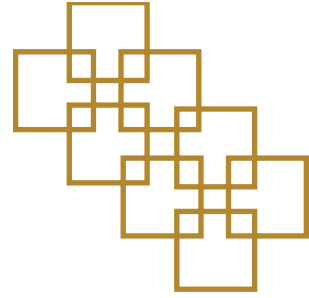
SAARC CCI SUB-OFFICE IN CHENGDU

September 15, 2017



SAARC CCI to have an office in Chengdu

One of the major milestones achieved was the inauguration of SAARC CCI Sub-Office in Chengdu OBOR building on September 15, 2017. As an outcome of SAARC CCI Presidential delegation to Chengdu, Sichuan Province, and the meetings held with CCPIT Sichuan and Chengdu Leaders, SAARC CCI soft launched an office in the Chengdu OBOR building. The office has yet to be operationalized and aims to enhance economic activities and initiatives amongst the two regions.



SAARC CCI SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISES REGIONAL ROUND TABLE ON INTEGRATING SMES INTO REGIONAL VALUE CHAINS

October 23, 2017 in Chennai, India



Hon'ble dignitaries during the seminar

A seminar on SAARC CCI Small & Medium Enterprises Regional Round table on "Integrating SMEs into Regional Value Chains" was organized by SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and in Partnership with FNF on

October 23, 2017 in Chennai, India.

The objective of the seminar was to launch the SME Council of SAARC CCI to address the challenges faced by SME sector in South Asia to make them more productive and familiarize the participants with emerging trends in SME sector.

The Honorable Chief Guest Mr. Thiru Banwarilal Purohit, Hon'ble Governor of Tamil Nadu, India honored the occasion with his valuable presence and gave an inaugural address. Prior to that, Mr. Vinod Juneja, Vice President SAARC CCI (India) extended a warm welcome to delegates of SAARC. Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI, Mr. Rajeev Chadha, the newly appointed Chair of SAARC CCI SME council, Mr. Ruwan Edirisinghe, Sr. Vice President SAARC CCI also addressed the inaugural session of the seminar.

"UNLOCKING CLIMATE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN SAARC": WATER MANAGEMENT AND SCALABLE BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

October 24, 2017 in Chennai, India



Hon'ble dignitaries during the Conference

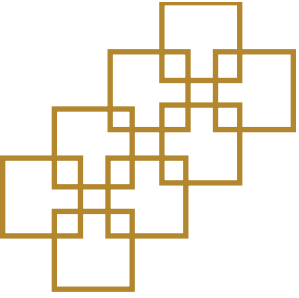
SAARC CCI organized a one day seminar on "Unlocking Climate Investment Opportunities in SAARC: Water Management And Scalable Business Solutions" in collaboration with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and in Partnership with

Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF) on October 24, 2017 in Chennai, India.

The objective of the seminar was to identify and evaluate the business opportunities in water sustainability across SAARC region in context of climate change mitigation and adaptation and to create awareness on the role of private sector in sustainability of water resources and usage.

Hon'ble Shri. CH. Vidyasagar Rao, Governor of Tamil Nadu, India was the Chief Guest of the seminar and delivered an inaugural address.

The inaugural session was also addressed by Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI, Mr. Ar Rm Arun, Chairman FICCI TNSC & Chairman Valingro Group, India, Mr. P. Murari IAS



(Retd) Advisor to FICCI President & Former Secretary to President of India, and Mr. Vinod Juneja, Vice President SAARC CCI (India), and Mr. Mengistu Alemayehu, Regional Director International Finance Cooperation, South Asia. The inaugural session of the seminar was

followed by panel discussion on “Unlocking Climate Investment Opportunities in SAARC” chaired by Ms. Naina Shakya, ICIMOD, Nepal and a session on “Climate Change, Water and Private Sector: Scalable Business Solutions” chaired by Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI.

SOUTH ASIA YOUTH SUMMIT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

November 2, 2017, Kathmandu Nepal

To support climate change mitigation and adaptive entrepreneurs in South Asia, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SAARCCCI) held a “South Asia Youth Summit” in Kathmandu Nepal on November 2, 2017. The event was organized in collaboration with Federation of Nepal Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FNCCI) and in partnership with Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF).

The prime objective of the summit was to advocate & promote entrepreneurship and development of youth businesses, and to foster the concept of Youth-led green business enterprises as the catalysts for community action.

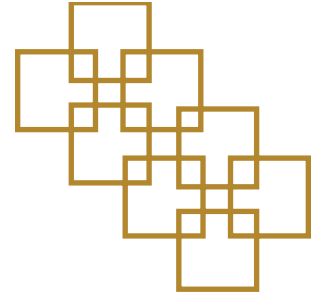
H.E Mr. Rajendra Kumar KC, Minister for Youth and Sports, Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal was the Chief Guest of the summit and gave keynote address. Prior to his keynote address Mr. Singye Namgyal Dorji, Chairman, SAARC Young Entrepreneur Forum extended welcome remarks to the participants of the summit. The inaugural session was also addressed by Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI and Ms. Bhawani Rana, President, FNCCI.

The session was followed by two technical sessions, emphasizing on climate change related opportunities like Green Entrepreneurship and Blue Economy to unleash the potential of youth entrepreneurship and creative solutions to climate change. The sessions were addressed



Welcome address by Mr. Singye Namgyal Dorji, Chair, SAARC Young Entrepreneur Forum.

by prominent speakers of region including government officials, young business entrepreneurs, experts on climate change and entrepreneurs, representatives of donors, INGOs, CBOs, policy makers and researchers who shared their valuable insights on how to tackle climate change with youth eco-entrepreneurship.



COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP: STRATEGIES AND MECHANISMS TO OPTIMIZE THE EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS OF THE SAARC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SAARC CCI)

October 30-31, 2017, Lahore Pakistan



Group Picture of Mr. Iftikhar Ali Malik, VP SAARC CCI (Pakistan) with participants and moderators, Dr. Ronald Meinardus and Ms. Hina Saeed, Secretary General SAARC CCI

SAARC CCI held a two-day communications workshop on October 30-31, 2017 in Lahore, organized by SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry in partnership with Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF South Asia), under the theme “Communications Workshop: Strategies and mechanisms to optimize the external communications of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry”.

The objective of the workshop was to capacitate the participants on successful communication practices, understand the elements of content strategy and formulate a strategy for SAARC CCI. The workshop focused on the elements of successful communications and content strategy, an audit of communications at SAARC CCI, identifying target audiences and channels to reach them, analyzing workflow and governance, editorial planning and monitoring tools with an aim to enhance communication and information flow between SAARC CCI and National Member Bodies.

Dr. Ronald Meinardus, Regional Director, FNF South Asia and Ms. Hina Saeed, Secretary General, SAARC CCI facilitated the event sharing valuable insights on how to develop and implement a successful communication strategy.

The workshop was attended by twenty participants which included communication representatives from the national federations of SAARC CCI member nations and a media representative from each country.

The two day communications workshop concluded with a dialogue forum of the South Asian media experts with Pakistan local media representatives. The regional and local media discussed the role of the media in enhancing regional cooperation among South Asian countries.



Mr. Iftikhar Ali Malik, Vice President, SAARC CCI (Pakistan) addressing the Dialogue with South Asian Journalists on October 31, 2017 in Lahore, Pakistan

PREPARATORY MEETING OF 13TH CHINA-SOUTH ASIA BUSINESS FORUM

November 29, 2017, in Paradise Island, Maldives

SAARC CCI as a collaborative partner in China South Asia Business Forum (CSABF), with China Council for Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT), Kunming organized a preparatory meeting for 13th China-South Asia Business Forum (CSABF), in Maldives.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI. Hon'ble Mr. Adam Thaufeeg, Deputy Minister MED was the Chief Guest on the occasion. Mr. Taufeeq applauded the Chinese Foreign policy with its neighboring countries and welcomed the participants to Maldives.

The objective of the meeting was to seek valuable input from members for the 13th CSABF in 2018. The forum aimed to encourage economic and trade cooperation between China and South Asian countries. Leaders from various Chambers and Business organizations participated in 13th CSABF. The meeting focused on the Rotating Chair Country for CSABF 2018, the theme of forum, invites and cooperation mechanism for CSABF 2018.



President SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya addressing the preparatory meeting of 13th China-South Asia Business Council Meeting, Maldives

SAARC CCI Vice Presidents and National Chambers representatives were present at the meeting. The 13th edition of CSABF will be held on June 10-14, 2018 and Chair of the forum was given to Afghanistan for the year 2018.

33RD SAARC CHARTER DAY 2017

Islamabad, Pakistan, December 8, 2017

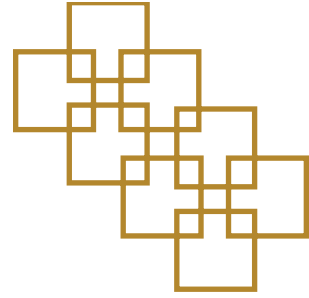


Ms. Tehmina Janjua, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, addressing at the 33rd SAARC Charter Day at Ministry of Foreign Affairs on December 8, 2017 in Islamabad, Pakistan

SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pakistan, and in partnership with SAARC Energy Centre and SAARC Arbitration Council celebrated 33rd South Asian Association for Regional Corporation (SAARC) Charter Day at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad, Pakistan on December 8, 2017.

Ms. Tehmina Janjua, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, in her welcome address said that Pakistan is one of the founding members of SAARC has been committed towards its goals of regional stability. South Asia today needs serious efforts for strengthening regional cooperation, she emphasized.

Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI reinforced the need for free movement of



Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI addressing the delegates at the 33rd SAARC Charter Day at Ministry of Foreign Affairs

people and goods while addressing the delegates.

SAARC Charter day was also attended by Mr. Iftikhar Ali Malik, Vice President, SAARC CCI (Pakistan), ambassadors, diplomats from the SAARC member countries and observer states and government officials.

OPTIMIZING THE TRANSITION AT THE HELM OF THE SAARC CCI”

March 15, 2018, Kathmandu, Nepal

SAARC CCI organized a one day workshop in partnership with Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom on Optimizing the Transition at the Helm of the SAARC CCI on March 15, 2018 in Katmandu, Nepal. Dr. Ronald Meinardus, Regional Director, FNF and Ms. Hina Saeed, Secretary General, SAARC CCI moderated the workshop.

The objectives of the workshop were to discuss steps to safeguard a smooth transition at the helm of the SAARC CCI and a continuation

of successful strategies and policies on the various levels of the organization, to have an overview of the policy highlights of the outgoing president and to bring continuity in the existing policies. This was also an attempt to make incoming President familiar SAARC CCI secretariat staff member with incoming leadership along their roles and responsibility at the headquarters.

President SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya, initially shared his experience being President



Mr. Ruwan Edirisinghe, incoming SAARC CCI President sharing his vision for SAARC and SAARC CCI



President SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya addressing during the workshop “Optimizing the Transition at the Helm of the SAARC CCI”

of SAARC CCI and laid down few solid recommendations to incoming President to take forward SAARC CCI flag to new heights. Mr. Ruwan Edirisinghe, incoming President, SAARC CCI shared his background and vision for SAARC CCI. Mr. Edirisinghe in his address acknowledged the contributions of SAARC CCI and stressed upon exploring the new horizons. In his address, he assured all the possible cooperation towards promotion in the South Asia region.

At this occasion, Mr. Dasho Ugen Tsechup Dorji, Former President, SAARC CCI (Bhutan), Mr. Macky Hashim, Former President, SAARC CCI and Mr. Zubair Ahmed Malik, Chairman Finance & Accounts Committee SAARC CCI also shared view to carry forward the agenda of promotion of regional integration at SAARC CCI.



Group Picture of SAARC CCI Secretariat staff during the workshop “Optimizing the Transition at the Helm of the SAARC CCI”

6TH SAARC BUSINESS LEADERS CONCLAVE

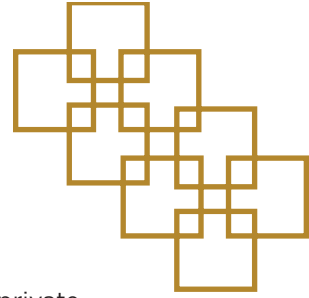
March 16-18, 2018, Kathmandu, Nepal



Inaugural of 6th SAARC Business Leaders Conclave

With an objective to promote investment, innovation and entrepreneurship in the region by unleashing shared prosperity through economic integration, SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry organized 6th edition

of SAARC Business Leaders Conclave (SBLC) in Kathmandu Nepal from 16th -18th March, 2018. The 6th SBLC was organized under the theme “Unleashing Shared Prosperity through Economic Integration”. The event has drawn



business leaders of the SAARC member nations, business and political leaders and government officials, among other stakeholders, to identify the major challenges and way forward in the regional economic cooperation.

Hon'ble Prime Minister of Nepal, Mr. K.P Sharma Oli was the Chief Guest of the Conclave and gave an inaugural speech. The inaugural session was also addressed by Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI, Mr. Amjad B. Sial, Secretary General, SAARC, Ms. Bhawani Rana, President, Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce & Industry,



Ministerial Round: Shared Prosperity- Unleashing Investment In South Asia

Dr. Ronald Meinardus, Regional Director, Friedrich Naumann Foundation (India) and Mr. Om Bahadur Rajbhandari, Vice President, SAARC CCI (Nepal). Hon. Mr. Matrika Prasad Yadav, Minister for Industry, Commerce and Supply also witnessed the inaugural session.

Inaugurating the three-day event, the honourable Prime Minister K.P Sharma Oli said that for long the South Asian countries have been facing common challenges in terms of development, now it is a high time for all the governments of the region to work together and mitigate developmental, business and economic challenges. "South Asia is blessed with resources, however, many of resources in the region have remained untapped," Mr. Oli said. He further added that Nepal is keen to work together with all the governments of South Asia to make optimum use of available resources and make the region the most prosperous one. The prime minister also said that the outcome of the discussions and deliberations at the SAARC Business Leaders' Conclave will be useful for the governments in the region for policy reforms to ensure business growth in South Asia.

Mr. Amjad B. Sial, Secretary General, SAARC in his address said that promoting regional economic integration is a priority

of SAARC. He said that public-private partnership remains a crucial cornerstone for promoting regional economic integration and connectivity in the region. Frequent exchanges of trade delegations, organization of trade fairs and holding of seminars under the auspices of SAARC CCI for sharing knowledge and best practices are important measures for promoting regional economic integration. He acknowledged SAARC CCI's role in strengthening economic relations in the region.

Earlier, Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI in his welcome address said that the business conclave primarily intends to unleash the untapped potential that South Asia has. He urged on the need for collaborative efforts between the governments and private sector in the region to work for economic integration and prosperity. President SAARC CCI said that almost 21 per cent of the world's population inhabits in South Asia and more than half of the population in the region is active working population. He added that South Asia is full of youth, talent, resources, diversifications and many more. He said that the event will be a platform to figure out the possible measures to make South Asia a prosperous region in the world.

On the occasion, Ms. Bhawani Rana, President of Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) emphasized the need to enhance and strengthen connectivity among South Asian nations to promote regional trade and economy. She added that despite intense proximity, the South Asian economies tend to focus more of their trade on distant economic regions, such as the European Union, rather than on their neighbors. While highlighting the importance of the economic integration in South Asia, she said that new policies to stimulate economic growth have become indispensable because the region as a whole remains plagued by extreme poverty.

The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. Om Bahadur Rajbhandari, Vice President, SAARC CCI (Nepal).

The inaugural session was followed by technical sessions focused upon contemporary challenges of the region. The session includes "Unleashing South Asia: A Mantra For Shared Economic Prosperity", Political & Economic Convergence For Growth: The Way Forward, South Asia: Building Partnership In The Global Economy, Regional Integration



Welcome address by Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI at the inaugural program of “6th SAARC Business Leaders Conclave”

And Energy Cooperation: Success Through Synergy, Tourism Promoting And Branding Our Common Cultural Heritage And Fostering Mutual Understanding, Agribusiness: Target - Doubling Agribusiness By 2030, Digital Economy: A Future For South Asia, Turning Setbacks Into Comebacks: Role Of Private Sectors, Investing In Infrastructure: Ensuring Better South Asian Connectivity, Strengthening Connectivity And Trade In South Asia: The Case For Gender-Responsive Logistics, Women Empowering South Asia.

The conclave concluded with the Ministerial Round: Shared Prosperity- Unleashing Investment In South Asia, addressed by Hon’ble Mr. Matrika Prasad Yadav, Minister for Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Nepal, Hon’ble Mr. Lyonpo Lekey Dorji, Minister for Economic Affairs, Royal Kingdom of Bhutan, Hon’ble Mr. Humyoon Rasaw, Minister for Commerce and Industries, Islamic Republic of Aghanistan and Mr. Padma Jyoti, Former President of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry and moderated by Mr. Kunda Dixit.

Hon’ble Minister for Economic Affairs Mr. Lyonpo Lekey Dorji, Royal Kingdom of Bhutan in his address said South Asian governments should translate commitments into action, develop regional infrastructure and remove “unspoken barriers” including sensitive lists

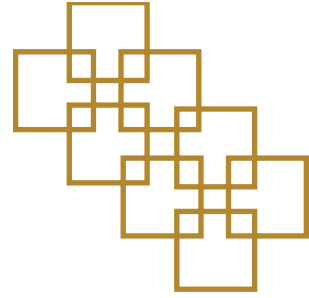
and a range of domestic taxes. He added that during the last SAARC Summit held in Kathmandu in 2014, the Eight-Nation bloc signed a framework agreement on energy cooperation, but it is not known when South Asian countries will be able to reap benefit from this pact.

Hon’ble Mr. Humyoon Rasaw, Minister for Commerce and Industries, Afghanistan said that cross-border energy trade could help all the countries in the region. For this, strategic partnership, which is the cornerstone for sustained economic development of the region, must be formed.

Hon’ble Minister For Industry, Commerce And Supplies, Nepal, Mr. Matrika Yadav, said that the political leaders of SAARC member countries should introduce policies to promote intra-regional investment and ensure hassle-free cross-border movement of goods and people as envisaged by the SAARC Charter. He also urged for early finalization of the SAARC Integrated Programme of Action (SIPA) so that it could be implemented. SIPA has envisioned formation of seven technical committees to cover seven economic areas from agricultural and rural development; communications and transport; and social development to environment, meteorology and forestry; science and technology; human resource development and energy.

Mr. Padma Jyoti, Former President of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said that South Asian governments should develop the region as a single market to attract foreign direct investment. Stressing on the need to simplify paperwork for cross-border movement of goods and people, Jyoti said, “Transport and transit are the main bottlenecks, which can only be removed if governments of member countries show commitment.”

Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI in his concluding remarks said that the three-day conclave concluded deliberated on the means of common prosperity between SAARC nations, promotion of trade and investment within SAARC nations, economic and political setbacks, and the SAARC’s role in global economy along with the development and distribution of energy in the region, according to the organizers. Around 400 delegates from across South Asia are participating in the conclave.



SAARC FASHION SHOW “THREADS OF HOPE”

March 17, 2018, Kathmandu, Nepal

During 6th SAARC Business Leaders Conclave, SAARC CCI organized a vibrant fashion show titled ‘Threads of Hope’ on March 17th, 2018 in Kathmandu, Nepal. The designers from South Asian countries featured the designs of their country wearing trends.

Bangladesh Bibiana’s fashion designer, Ms. Lipi Khandaker incorporated rickshaw art motifs on khadi as part of their displayed collection.

Designer from Pakistan, Ms. Faiza Samee gave a tribute to the rich textile heritage of Pakistan and the Sub-continent. In keeping with Pakistani artisanal roots, the collection produced was entirely by hand using artisanal techniques such as block printing, and specialist embroideries, perfected over the last 37 years.

From Afghanistan, Ms. Rohina Siddique and Ms. Rahiba Rahimi exhibited Afghan modern dresses featuring a fusion of traditional elements and more modern cuts, to revive the idea of Afghan culture and heritage.

Demi Couture designer brand INDI showcased

a collection with traditional art Liyawel from the kingdom of Kandy to delicate laces of Beralu from the Portuguese influenced Ceylon era. The collection was a representation of traditional ethnicity in modern silhouettes done by creative director Ms. Indi Yapa Abeywardena.”

Bhutan’s top notch designers Ms. Chandrika Tamang and Chimmi Choden presented her eclectic collections on which the imprint of traditional crafts and the nation’s bond with nature was palpable. Her collection was inspired by the traditional textiles, enhanced by timeless silhouettes, straight lines and bold colors.

The Nepali fashion designer Ms. Anu Shrestha impressed the audience and set the stage on fire by presenting Nepali hand-woven dresses and hand painted silk. Similarly the veteran Indian designer, Ms. Schulen Fernandes showcased her beautiful collection of eco-friendly dresses.

The audiences highly applauded the innovative & creative work of the designers.



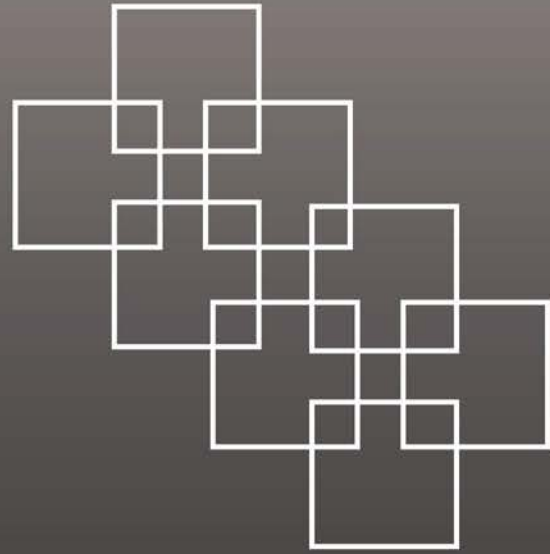
6th SBLC Fashion Show Event “Threads of Hope”

SAARC BAZAR

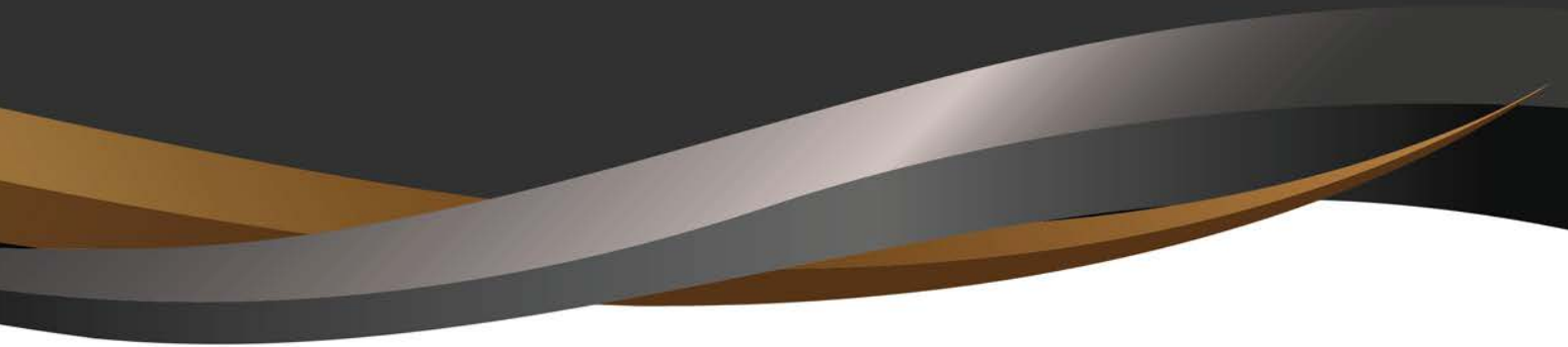
March 17, 2018, Kathmandu, Nepal

The 6th SAARC Business Leaders Conclave observed a three day trade fair named “SAARC Bazar” in Hayyat Regency Hotel, in Kathmandu, Nepal. The fair comprised of the exhibitors from SAARC region displaying leather products, textile products and textile handcraft.





Term Call Ons



CALL ON TO ENGINEER KHURRAM DASTAGIR KHAN, MINISTER OF COMMERCE, GOVERNMENT OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

April 14, 2016, Islamabad, Pakistan

SAARC CCI President, Mr. Suraj Vaidya, led a delegation to call on to Hon'ble Commerce Minister, Engineer Khurram Dastagir Khan, Government of Pakistan, at his office on April 14, 2016 in Islamabad, Pakistan.

During the meeting, Mr. Vaidya shared that SAARC CCI is in process of formation of SAARC CEO Forum under SAARC CCI and SAARC Industrial Park in all member nations. He recommended inclusion of SAARC CCI



SAARC CCI Delegation led by Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI and Hon'ble Engr. Khurram Dastagir Khan, Minister for Commerce, Government of Pakistan

team in the organizing committee of the SAARC Summit. 'We want to be partner of upcoming summit and can make it best summit ever' commented President SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya.

Responding to dignitaries, the Hon'ble Minister said the slogan of the Government of Pakistan is "Shared Prosperity through Economic Integration". He said that Economic integration requires merely courage for integration. He added that the Prime Minister of Pakistan's vision is clear and demands regional peace and prosperity. He was of the opinion that the relations between Pakistan and Sri Lanka should set a precedent for rest of SAARC countries. He shared that the Motor Vehicle Agreement shall be signed very soon. He commented that if borders can divide us only trade can unite us.

The Hon'ble Minister said that trade never stops during extreme tense situations for which he expressed his gratitude to the business community of South Asia. He urged SAARC member nations to be more vocal and vibrant for trade liberalization. This is only way, we can take out millions of cities from poverty, he added.

MEETING WITH MR. HAROON SHARIF, ADVISOR TO WORLD BANK ON SOUTH ASIA AT THE WORLD BANK, COUNTRY OFFICE, PAKISTAN

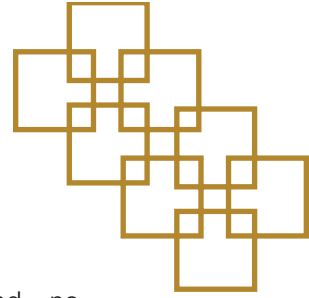
April 14, 2016, Islamabad, Pakistan



SAARC CCI Delegation meeting with Mr. Haroon Shareef, Advisor, Regional Economic Cooperation.

SAARC CCI delegation led by the President SAARC CCI met Mr. Haroon Shareef, Advisor, Regional Economic Cooperation (South Asia) at the World Bank, Country Office, Islamabad.

The session commenced with introductory and welcome remarks of President SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya who reinforced the importance of SAFTA. He added that SAARC CCI appreciates World Bank's support in signing the Motor Vehicle Agreement. He further shared that Afghanistan is full of potentials and we need to prioritize this potential.



While responding to the proposals of SAARC CCI, Mr. Haroon welcomed Mr. Vaidya and his team to his office. He appreciated the vision and approach of President SAARC CCI and urged for work on one particular pillar of strength which is common amongst all member states. He regarded electricity as a common trading commodity in all SAARC member nations. He said that Government

statements need reinforcement and no Ministry can get the job done until and unless Prime Minister and President announce to do so.

He appreciated the vision of creation of SAARC Industrial Parks in all SAARC member nations and that border investment is integral for their success.

SAARC CCI DELEGATION CALL ON THE SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIES, GOVERNMENT OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

April 15, 2016 - Islamabad Pakistan



Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI during meeting with Mr. Khizar Hayat Gondal, Federal Secretary, Ministry of Industries and Production, Govt of Pakistan.

President SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya led a delegation to call on Mr. Khizer Hyat Gondal, Secretary, Ministry of Industries, Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on April 15, 2016 at Islamabad, Pakistan.

Mr. Vaidya briefed the honorable Secretary on SAARC CCI strategic planning including the six point agenda for his term of Presidency. He said that while Governments were talking about SAFTA and other bilateral and multi-lateral agreements, South Asian region still remains the least integrated region across the world. He said that none of the South Asian member countries had developed policies to attract intra-regional investments.

The Secretary of Industries welcomed the vision of the President of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and assured his cooperation to achieving goals set by the SAARC CCI, particularly in development of Industrial park in Pakistan. During the meeting it was transpired that SAARC CCI shall furnish a detailed proposal, which Ministry of Industry will consider to move ahead.

SAARC CCI DELEGATION MEETING WITH SECRETARY COMMERCE, GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC OF INDIA

April 18, 2016, New Delhi, India

A delegation led by President SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya called on Ms. Rita Teotia, Commerce Secretary, Government of Republic of India on April 18, 2016. President expressed gratitude to the Secretary Commerce for sparing time and providing an opportunity to SAARC CCI delegation to exchange views on

South Asian economic Affairs.

President SAARC CCI briefed the Secretary Commerce on the strategic planning of the organization for the next two years and unfolded his six point agenda. He sought assistance of the Ministry for endorsement of



Group photo of SAARC CCI delegation with Mr. Shri Bhupinder Singh Bhalla, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, Govt. of India.

CEO Forum, as a joint initiative of SAARC CCI and SAARC Secretariat in the forthcoming SAFTA Ministerial Round. President SAARC CCI also informed that in order to promote cross-border trade and investment particularly to enhance cooperation in industrial sector, SAARC CCI is planning to set up SAARC industrial Parks in member countries.

SAARC CCI DELEGATION CALL ON H.E. MOHAMED SAEED, MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MALE, REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

June 2, 2016, Male, Maldives



Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI presenting a crest to H.E. Mohamed Saeed, Minister for Economic Development, Male, Republic of Maldives.

SAARC CCI delegation led by Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI called-on H.E Mohamed Saeed, who was accompanied by Mr. Adam Thaufeeg, Deputy Minister and Mr. Yusuf Riza, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Economic Development, Maldives, in Male on June 2, 2016. Maldives,

Mr. Vaidya, President SAARC CCI extended gratitude to Hon'ble Minister for providing an opportunity for the meeting and shared the objective of his visit to Maldives which included meeting the Honorable Minister for Economic Development, and President, Maldives National Chamber of Commerce.

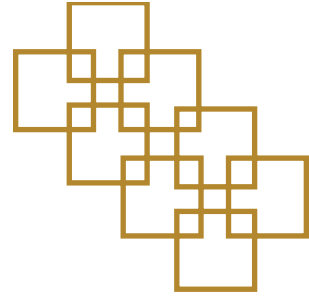
The SAARC CCI delegation comprised of Mr. Om Rajbhandari, Vice President (Nepal), Mr. Ahmed Mujuthaba, Former Senior Vice President (Maldives) and Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Butt Deputy Secretary General, SAARC CCI.

SAARC CCI DELEGATION CALL ON H.E MR. AHMED NAZEER, SECRETARY GENERAL, MALDIVES ASSOCIATION OF TOURISM INDUSTRY

June 2, 2016, Male, Maldives

SAARC CCI delegation led by Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI called on H.E. Mr. Ahmed Nazeer, Secretary General, Maldives

Association of Tourism Industry at his good office in Male, Maldives on June 2, 2016.



Meeting of President SAARC CCI with H.E Mr. Ahmed Nazeer, Secretary General, Maldives Association of Tourism Industry.

Mr. Vaidya while thanking the Excellency apprised him that we have recently amended SAARC CCI constitution to broaden the scope of the institution to make it true representative of the private sector of South Asia. He elaborated that associate members could join SAARC CCI platform in addition to primary members.

Mr. Vaidya shared that his visit was to specifically seek the guidance to unleash the potential of South Asian Tourism. He further added that it is great to see the way tourism has picked pace in Maldives and SAARC CCI would like to carry the best practices forward.

While responding to Mr. Vaidya's remarks, Mr. Ahmed Nazeer said that Maldives recently succeeded in attracting four hundred thousand Chinese tourists and very limited from India only because of connectivity issues. However, a lot of Indian business people visit Male for business purpose. He said that we should adopt a combined tourism strategy if we really want to unleash tourism in South Asian countries.

PRESIDENT SAARC CCI LED A HIGH LEVEL DELEGATION TO USA

July 26, 2016, Washington, USA



President SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry, led a delegation comprising of business leaders from SAARC states to the USA. The objective of the visit was to take SAARC CCI beyond the boundaries of South Asia, to brand the institution across the borders to present a soft image of SAARC globally and apprise the world on the working and activities of SAARC CCI. The meetings held in USA aimed to identify areas of mutual interest for coordinated efforts to unleash the potential of South Asia.

During SAARC CCI delegation's visit to Washington DC, the delegation had formal meetings with Government officials and private sector departments including meetings with Mr. Joe Yong, Attorney Advisor on Commercial Law Development Program, US Department of Commerce, Ms. Lisa Buzenas, Economic Unit Chief of The State Department, a Roundtable meeting with Ms. Esperanza Gomez Jelalian, Senior Director US Chamber of Commerce, meetings with USAID Team, Ms. Anna Shpitsberg, Global Power Sector Program Manager, Office of Energy

Programs, Bureau of Energy Resources, US Department of State's, Joint Meeting with Mr. Sanjay Kathuria, Lead Economist for Regional Integration South Asia Region, The World Bank, and Mr. Shamsher Singh, Head of South Asia Division, International Finance Corporation (IFC).

The SAARC CCI President led a delegation comprised of hon'ble members of SAARC CCI including Mr. Ajith Wattuhewa, Snr. Vice President, Mr. Mahbubul Alam, Vice President

(Bangladesh), Sheikh Fazle Fahim, EC Member (Bangladesh), Mr. Rajendra Men Sherchan, EC Member (Nepal), Mr. Zia ul haq Wazirzai, EC Member, (Afghanistan), Sheikh Fazle Fahim, EC Member (Bangladesh), Dr. Amila Kankanamge, EC Member (Sri Lanka), Mr. Ruwan Edirisinghe, EC Member, (Sri Lanka), Mr. Tariq Mehmood, GA Member (Pakistan), Mr. Salish Gupta, SAARC CCI Coordinator for Washington DC and Mr. Armil Sammoon, Director, FCCISL.



SAARC CCI DELEGATION VISITS UNESCAP OFFICE FOR SOUTH & SOUTH WEST

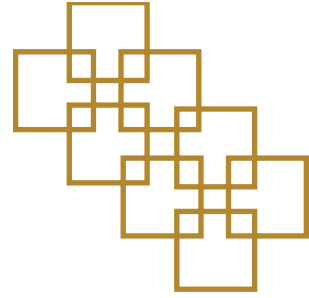
September 7, 2016, New Delhi, India

President Mr. Suraj Vaidya led a SAARC CCI delegation to meet Mr. Nagesh Kumar, Head of South & South West office of UNESCAP in New Delhi, India. SAARC CCI delegation comprised of Mr. Zubair A. Malik, EC member, SAARC CCI (Pakistan), Mr. Rajeev Kumar Chadha, GA Member SAARC CCI (India) and Mr. Iqbal Tabish, Secretary General, SAARC CCI.

The objective of this interaction was to exchange views on business community with academic institutions on South Asian socio-economic scenario. Dr. Nagesh Kumar extended warm welcome to the delegation and thanked the president of SAARC CCI for visiting UNESCAP.

President SAARC CCI briefed the UNESCAP Team about new initiatives of SAARC CCI for next two years and shared his vision in the form of six point agenda, which mainly focused on connectivity, energy, trade and investment, young entrepreneurship and enhancing role of private sector in policy making process.

Mr. Kumar appreciated the vision of SAARC CCI and made a detailed presentation on South Asian Economic potential, while describing dividends of connectivity. While endorsing the suggestion of SAARC CCI delegates, he referred to, enormous unexplored opportunities, which could be capitalized via an integration process.



PRESIDENT SAARC CCI, CALL ON MR. AZMAT RANJHA, FEDERAL SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, GOVERNMENT OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN.

September 7, 2016



Group picture of Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI along with other delegates with Mr. Azmat Ranjha

President of SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya called on Mr. Azmat Ranjha, Federal Secretary of Commerce, Government of Islamic Republic of Pakistan, to discuss the 6th Edition of the SAARC Business Leaders Conclave, to be held on 4-6 November, 2016 in Lahore Pakistan.

The Hon'ble President SAARC CCI applauded the support extended to SAARC CCI, by the Ministry of Commerce, to organize SBLC in a meaningful manner. He said that being an indispensable organ of government, the role of Ministry of Commerce is pivotal to promoting cooperation and so far it has been commendable.

The Secretary of Commerce, Islamic Republic of Pakistan assured full support and cooperation to SAARC CCI to convene SBLC successfully.

PRESIDENT, SAARC CCI CALL ON H.E SARTAJ AZIZ, ADVISOR TO THE PRIME MINISTER ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PAKISTAN

September 8, 2016, Islamabad, Pakistan



SAARC CCI delegation led by Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI, during meeting with H.E Sartaj Aziz.

SAARC Business Leaders Conclave (SBLC) as a precursor to the 19th Summit. He shared that the Conclave will be addressed by prominent socio-political figures, eminent scholars, economists and business and industry leaders. The 6th SBLC shall be attended by more than 500 business representatives from South Asia, in Lahore to discuss ways and means to deepen business relations within the region.

Mr. Sartaj Aziz appreciated the plan of SAARC CCI to organize the 6th SBLC in Lahore. He said that a successful SBLC will pave a path towards successful deliberations in the 19th SAARC Summit. He mentioned that the Prime Minister of Pakistan has already approved the SBLC and allied programs and has instructed to extend support to the SAARC CCI in organizing a remarkable SBLC.

The SAARC CCI delegation comprised of Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI, Mr. Zubair Ahmed Malik, EC Member, SAARC CCI (Pakistan), Mrs. Shaista Pervaiz Malik, Chairperson SCWEC, Member National Assembly, PML (N) and Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Butt, Deputy Secretary General SAARC CCI.

President SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Suraj Vaidya paid a courtesy call on his Excellency Sartaj Aziz, advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs on September 8, 2016. Mr. Vaidya briefed the Honorable Advisor on the 6th Edition of the

PRESIDENT, SAARC CCI CALL ON MIAN MUHAMMAD SHEHBAZ SHARIF, CHIEF MINISTER PUNJAB, GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB

September 11, 2016, Lahore, Pakistan



President SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya during his meeting with Hon'ble Chief Minister, Punjab, Pakistan, on the 6th SBLC

The President SAARC CCI on September 11, 2016 called on the Honorable Chief Minister of Punjab, Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, to discuss the upcoming SAARC Business Leaders Conclave, planned from November 4-6, 2016 in Lahore, Pakistan. Mr. Vaidya briefed the Chief Minister Punjab on the 6th Edition of the SAARC Business Leaders

Conclave and its intent to be organized as a precursor to the 19th SAARC Summit, which has been approved by the Prime Minister of Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

“The 6th SBLC shall be attended by more than 500 business representatives from South Asia, in Lahore, to discuss ways and means to deepen business relations within the region and to unleash the socio economic potential of the South Asian region”, Mr. Vaidya said.

The Honorable Chief Minister of Punjab, Mian Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif, welcomed the President of SAARC CCI and his delegation and appreciated the idea of convening the SAARC Business Leaders Conclave in Lahore. The Chief Minister in his response assured to extend full support to organize the SBLC, and said that being the hosts of the SAARC Business Leaders Conclave; they would warmly welcome the honorable delegates in the historical city of Lahore.

The SAARC CCI delegation comprised of Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI, Mr. Zubair Ahmed Malik, EC Member, SAARC CCI (Pakistan) and Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Butt, Deputy Secretary General, SAARC CCI.

MEETING WITH DIRECTOR SOUTH ASIA, MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT OF REPUBLIC OF INDIA

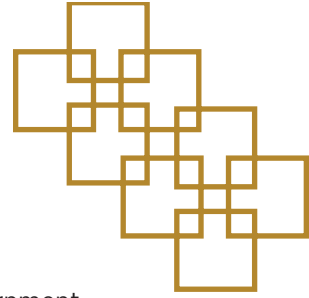
November 14, Kathmandu, Nepal

SAARC CCI delegation led by President Mr. Suraj Vaidya in a meeting with Director SAARC/South Asia and briefed him about the activities of SAARC CCI in next two years, which aimed at enhancing trade, investment, industrial cooperation and youth entrepreneurship. He, empathized on promotion of people-to-people connectivity particularly free movement of Businessmen to augment intra-regional trade and economic cooperation and requested the Ministry of External Affairs to pursue pro-business visa policy under the vision of Prime Minister Modi, who presented the idea of SAARC Travelers Pass on the occasion of the 18th

SAARC Summit, held in November 2014 at Kathmandu.

Mr. Vikramjeet Singh Sahney, former President SAARC CCI and Chair of SAARC CCI Advisory Council demanded at least 1000 SAARC visa stickers for each member states with validity of two years so that the private sector could play its due role, which was hampered due to stringent SAARC Visa Exemption Scheme.

Director South Asia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of India, while welcoming the delegation conveyed best wishes of Ms. Sushma Swaraj, Hon'ble Minister for



External Affairs who was on a visit abroad. He appreciated the vision of SAARC CCI leadership and termed role of Private Sector as Engine of Growth. He was of the opinion that movement of people particularly businessmen is crucial to enhance economic

cooperation and informed that Government of India is working on modalities of SAARC Travelers Pass under the vision of Prime Minister Modi. He also assured to look into SAARC Visa Exemption related issues as a matter of priority.

COURTESY CALL ON HON'BLE FINANCE MINISTER, MR. MOHAMMAD ISHAQ DAR, GOVERNMENT OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

January 29, 2016, Islamabad, Pakistan



Group photo of SAARC CCI delegation with Hon'ble Finance Minister, Govt of Pakistan.

Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI led a delegation to call on Hon'ble Finance Minister, Government of Pakistan, Mr. Mohammad Ishaq Dar. The Hon'ble Minister while welcoming SAARC delegates to Pakistan, encouraged SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry to assume the main role in the development and promotion of trade and commerce among member countries. On the occasion, Mr. Suraj Vaidya briefed the Minister about SAARC CCI activities and appreciated the help of the Government of Pakistan with the construction of SAARC CCI Headquarters Building Project in Islamabad, Pakistan. The Honorable Minister reinforced the role of the Private Sector in regional dialogue and applauded role of SAARC CCI.

PRESIDENT SAARC CCI LED DELEGATION MET ADVISER TO PRIME MINISTER ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR. SARTAJ AZIZ, GOVERNMENT OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

January 30, 2017



Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI, Mr. Om Raj Bhandary Vice President SAARC CCI (Nepal), Mr. Shafquat Haider, EC member (Bangladesh), Mr. Macky Hashim, Former President SAARC CCI and Mr. Iftikhar Ali Malik, Vice President SAARC CCI (Pakistan) met Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Adviser Foreign Affairs in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI led a delegation to call on adviser to Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Mr. Sartaj Aziz. The Adviser recognized the efforts of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry in promoting economic, trade and investment linkages across the region. During the meeting he reinforced Pakistan's support for enhancement of trade and business amongst the countries of the SAARC region. He also briefed the SAARC CCI delegation about government's policies to strengthen the economy and resolve energy crisis and reinforced to the government's foreign policy goals of achieving a peaceful neighborhood.

Mr. Vaidya appreciated the policies and role of Pakistan Government to strengthen regional cooperation under the SAARC process. He reinforced the role and commitment of SAARC Chamber of Commerce in further strengthening SAARC.

SAARC CCI DELEGATION LED BY PRESIDENT SAARC CCI CALLED ON H.E MR. IQBAL ZAFAR JHAGRA, THE GOVERNOR OF KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA

January 31, 2017, KPK, Pakistan



Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI, Vice President SAARC CCI (Nepal), Mr. Om Raj Bhandary, EC member (Bangladesh) Mr. Shafquat Haider along with delegates paid a visit to the Honorable Governor KPK, Mr. Iqbal Zafar Jhagra.

SAARC CCI delegation led by President Mr. Suraj Vaidya met Honorable Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Mr. Iqbal Zafar Jhagra. During course of discussion, the Governor assured the delegation for his full cooperation and support. The Governor said that the SAARC region is one of the most densely populated and ecologically vulnerable regions in the world covering 23 percent of the world's population, Honorable Governor KPK added, that SAARC CCI could play an instrumental role in identifying new markets, recognizing and managing risks by increasing trade between South Asian countries

Mr. Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI, reinforced that the private sector of the region is committed to socio economic integration of South Asia. He said that the business community of the region believes in harmony and advocates regional economic integration to address the major challenges the region faces including job creation and poverty. Mr. Vaidya added that deeper commitment at the political level is inevitable to make SAARC effective, realize its fundamental goals and unleash the true socio economic potential of the region.

MR. SURAJ VAIDYA, PRESIDENT SAARC CCI VISIT TO PESHAWAR

Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI during his visit to Peshawar, along with the SAARC CCI delegates also paid tribute to the martyrs of Army Public School (APS), Peshawar, Pakistan on January 31, 2017.

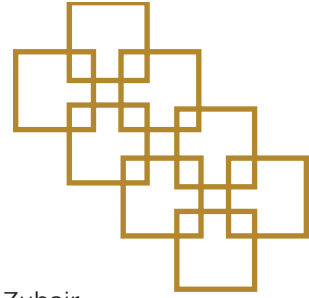
SAARC CCI DELEGATION MET HIS EXCELLENCY MR. AMJAD B. SIAL, SECRETARY GENERAL SAARC

January 30, 2017, Islamabad, Pakistan



Group picture of the SAARC CCI delegates with His Excellency Mr. Amjad B Sial at Islamabad.

SAARC CCI delegation met His Excellency Mr. Amjad B. Sial, Secretary General SAARC, over a lunch hosted in his honor. The delegation extended felicitations to His Excellency on behalf of business community of South Asia on his assignment as Secretary General, SAARC. During the meeting views on improving the working relations between SAARC secretariat and SAARC CCI were discussed. Excellency while complimenting expectations of South Asian business community assured his full cooperation in all possible ways.



Later on the Excellency also visited SAARC CCI secretariat and held a meeting with Mr. Zubair Ahmed Malik, Executive Member, SAARC CCI (Pakistan) and Ms. Hina Saeed, Executive Director, SAARC CCI along with the SAARC CCI secretariat team.



Group picture of Mr. Zubair Malik, Executive Committee Member, SAARC CCI, Ms. Hina Saeed, Executive Director SAARC CCI, Mr. Zulfiqar Butt, Deputy Secretary General, SAARC CCI, Mr. Bader Munir, Deputy Secretary and Mr. Imran Ali, Research Associate SAARC CCI with His Excellency Mr. Amjad B Sial at SAARC CCI HQ office, Islamabad.

PRESIDENT SAARC CCI, MR. SURAJ VAIDYA CALL ON H.E MR. GAUTAM BAMBAWALE, HIGH COMMISSIONER OF REBUPLIC OF INDIA TO PAKISTAN

January 30, 2017, Islamabad, Pakistan



Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI and Om Raj Bhandary Vice President SAARC CCI (Nepal), with H.E. Gautam Bambawale, High Commissioner of India to Pakistan

President SAARC CCI and Vice President SAARC CCI, Nepal called on H.E Mr. Gautam Bambawale, High Commissioner of India to Pakistan and discussed South Asian regional economic cooperation. Mr. Vaidya shared the endeavors of SAARC CCI with the High Commissioner.

On behalf of the government of India, Mr. Gautam Bambawale guaranteed his full collaboration and support for the business community of South Asia to unleash the genuine potential of the region.

PRESIDENT SAARC CCI, MR. SURAJ VAIDYA CALL ON MR. MIAN MUHAMMAD MANSHA, CEO, NISHAT GROUP

February 1, 2017, Islamabad, Pakistan



Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI, Mr. Om Bahadur Rajbhandari, Vice President SAARC CCI (Nepal), Mr. Zulfiqar Butt, Deputy Secretary General, SAARC CCI with Mr. Mian Muhammad Mansha, CEO, Nishat Group.

SAARC CCI delegation led by Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI, including Mr. Om Bahadur Rajbhandari, Vice President (Nepal) and Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Butt, Deputy Secretary General of SAARC CCI, called on Mr. Mian Muhammad Mansha, CEO, Nishat Group a renowned industrialist from Pakistan.

Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI while complimenting his endeavors said that business pioneers, like him can assume an imperative role for SAARC. The President welcomed Mr. Mansha to join the SAARC CCI delegation to Kunming, China and address the business community of South Asia.

PRESIDENT SAARC CCI MR. SURAJ VAIDYA, FELICITATED H.E MR. AMJAD HUSSAIN B. SIAL ON HIS APPOINTMENT AS THE SECRETARY GENERAL SAARC

SAARC CCI delegation led by Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI, including Mr. Om Bahadur Rajbhandari, Ms. Rita Bhandari, EC Member (Nepal), visited H.E Amjad Hussain B. Sial, Secretary General, SAARC to congratulate him on assuming the office of Secretary General, SAARC, in Excellency's

esteemed office.

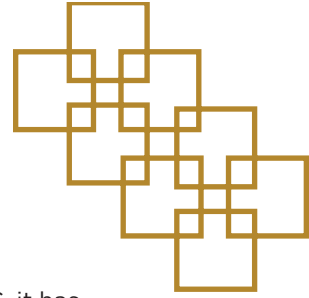
Excellency while reinforcing his full cooperation to the business community of South Asia, reinforced his support to SAARC CCI initiatives.

SAARC CCI DELEGATION CALL ON HON. MR. ANNISUL HUQ, MAYOR OF DHAKA, NORTH CITY CORPORATION AND FORMER PRESIDENT SAARC CCI.

April 16, 2017, Dhaka, Bangladesh

SAARC CCI delegation led by Mr. Suraj Vaidya President SAARC CCI called on Mayor of Dhaka North City Corporation, Mr. Annisul Haq, Former President SAARC CCI at his office in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

While welcoming the respected members of delegation to his office, Mr. Annisul Huq said that SAARC is going through a challenging and demanding era. He commented that despite of several issues and hurdles in the



history of SAARC, it has been able to survive. He added that though we are executing bilateral agreements for trade and economic cooperation, it has weakened the mechanism of SAARC, by not letting the SAARC agreements to grow.

Mr. Annisul Huq, Mayor of Dhaka North City Corporation and Former President SAARC CCI with Mr. Suraj Vaidya President SAARC CCI and delegates from SAARC region.

SAARC CCI DELEGATION, LED BY MR. SURAJ VAIDYA, PRESIDENT SAARC CCI CALL ON EXCELLENCY MR. MALIK SAMARAWICKREMA, HONORABLE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AND INTERNATIONAL TRADE, GOVERNMENT OF SRI LANKA.

May 18, 2017 in Colombo, Sri Lanka

Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI called on Excellency Mr. Malik Samarawickrema, Hon'ble Minister of Development Strategies and International Trade, Government of Sri Lanka, at his good office in Colombo on May 18, 2017. Mr. Vaidya was accompanied by Mr. Ruwan Edirisinghe, Snr. Vice President, Mr. Tissa Jayaweera, Executive Committee Member (Sri Lanka), Ms. Hina Saeed, Executive Director and Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Butt, Deputy Secretary General, SAARC CCI.



President SAARC CCI presenting the SAARC Investment Outlook to Excellency Mr. Malik Samarawikrama, Honorable Minister of Strategic Development and International Trade, Sri Lanka

Mr. Suraj Vaidya President, SAARC CCI while thanking Hon'ble Minister for providing an opportunity to call on his esteemed office shared that, SAARC CCI has recently opened its first sub office in Colombo, and next year the Chair of SAARC CCI is also coming to Sri Lanka. He further shared that during his tenure, he remained focused on investments, and in perusing our objective, we have planned an Investment Forum in September along with a SAARC Trade Fair in Sri Lanka.

Excellency Mr. Malik Samarawickrema, while responding to Mr. Vaidya reinforced the need for the nations to come together. Despite SAFTA and other trade agreements, we are not able to gain substantial results Excellency commented. He added that lack of trust between SAARC member states is high, although in Sri Lanka we have broadened the investment policies for everyone and have introduced good investment schemes.

Mr. Ruwan Edirisinghe, Senior Vice President, SAARC CCI said that the initiative to have a series of Investment Forums to unleash investment opportunities.

MR. SURAJ VAIDYA, PRESIDENT SAARC CCI CALL ON H.E MS. YU HONG AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA TO NEPAL

June 11-13, 2017, Kunming, China



Group photo of Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI along with SAARC CCI team taken during call on H.E Ms. Yu Hong Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Nepal.

Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI, led a delegation to call on H.E Ms. Yu Hong Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to Nepal. The delegation comprised of Mr. Om Rajbhandary, Vice President SAARC CCI (Nepal). Mr. Vaidya briefed Excellency about his upcoming visit to Yunnan and Sichuan province of China.

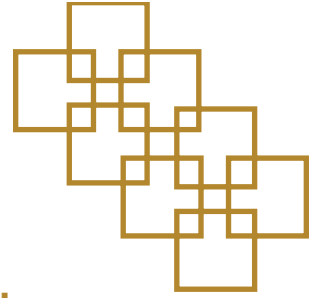
SAARC CCI DELEGATION EXCLUSIVE MEETING WITH H.E MR. ZONG GUOYING, VICE GOVERNOR OF YUNNAN PROVINCE

June 13, 2017, Kunming, China



Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI and SAARC CCI delegates met Vice Governor and leadership of Yunnan Province, Mr. Zong Guoying.

The SAARC CCI delegation held an exclusive meeting with the leadership of Yunnan Province H.E Mr. Zong Guoying, Vice Governor of Yunnan, prior to opening ceremony of the 12th China South Asia Business Forum. The meeting also attended by SAARC CCI Vice Presidents and representatives of business community of SAARC region.



SAARC CCI PRESIDENTIAL DELEGATION TO CHENGDU

June 13, 2017, China

The Presidential delegation led by President Mr. Suraj Vaidya visited Chengdu city of Sichuan Province, China on June 13, 2017. The President delegation aimed to create opportunities for trade and investments between SAARC region and China. During the visit, Mr. Vaidya was accompanied by Mr. Ruwan Edirisinghe, Snr. Vice President, SAARC CCI, Mr. Om Bahadur Rajbhandari, Vice President (Nepal)

and Mr. Vinod Juneja, Vice President (India), along with prominent businessmen from the SAARC region.

The delegation held a meeting with the leadership of CCPIT Sichuan to successfully convene the forthcoming 8th South Asia, Sichuan Business Promotion Roundtable, scheduled from September 12-15, 2017.

MEETING WITH HON'BLE PRIME MINISTER OF KINGDOM OF BHUTAN, H.E. LYONCHEN TSHERING TOBGAY

July 24, 2017, Thimphu, Bhutan



Meeting with Hon'ble Prime Minister of Kingdom of Bhutan, H.E. Lyonchen Tshering Tobgay

Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI and SAARC delegates met Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bhutan, H.E. Lyonchen Tshering Tobgay on July 24, 2017 in Bhutan. President SAARC CCI extended his gratitude to Hon'ble Prime Minister for providing an opportunity for the meeting and discussed the imperative role of Bhutan in SAARC region.

Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bhutan, H.E. Lyonchen Tshering Tobgay, thanked Mr. Vaidya, President SAARC CCI and delegates

for holding the 70th Executive Committee Meeting in Bhutan. He further appreciated the role of SAARC CCI towards Regional economic integration.

Mr. Karma Dorji, Vice President SAARC CCI (Bhutan) commented that the members of SAARC CCI are the champions of not just industries but for regional friendship also.

SAARC CCI DELEGATION CALL ON CEO, SAARC DEVELOPMENT FUND, DR. SUNIL MOTIWAL

July 25, 2017, Thimphu, Bhutan



President SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya led a delegation to meet Dr. Sunil Motiwal, CEO (SDF) at SAARC Development Fund (SDF) secretariat in Thimphu, Bhutan.

The meeting was followed by a dinner which was hosted by Dr. Sunil Motiwal, CEO, SAARC Development Fund (SDF) in honor of President SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya and SAARC delegates who arrived in Bhutan to attend the SAARC CCI board meetings on July 25, 2017.

SAARC CCI MEETING WITH SAIEVAC

September 25, 2017



Dr. Rinchen Chophel, Director General, SAIEVAC and Mr. Syed Ishtiaq ul Hassan Gilani, CEO UGOOD and Chair NACG with Ms. Hina Saeed, Executive Director, SAARC CCI and Mr. Zubair Ahmad Malik, Executive Committee Member, SAARC CCI

Dr. Rinchen Chophel, Director General, South Asia Initiative to End Violence against Children (SAIEVAC) and Mr. Syed Ishtiaq ul Hassan Gilani, CEO, UGOOD and Chair NACG visited SAARC CCI secretariat to discuss dynamics of closer cooperation between SAARC CCI and SAIEVAC. During the meeting, a number of initiatives were discussed including collaboration between SAIEVAC and SAARC CCI on sharing codes/standards and the best practices with members of SAARC CCI regarding women and children in labour force.



SAARC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY BUILDING COMMITTEE MEETING

December 07, 2017, Islamabad, Pakistan



SAARC CCI Building Committee meeting at the SAARC CCI HQ Building Site

SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry Headquarter Building Committee meeting was held on December 07, 2017 with Contractors and Consultant under the Co-Chair of Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI and Mr. Iftikhar Ahmed Malik, Vice-President, SAARC CCI and Chairman SAARC CCI Building Committee. The Meeting was also attended by, Mr. Zubair Ahmed Malik, Vice Chairman, SAARC CCI Building Committee, Ms. Hina Saeed, Secretary General, SAARC CCI, Mr. Saifuddin Zoomkawala, Executive Committee Member, SAARC CCI, and Mr. Sohail Hussain Malilk, GA Member, SAARC CCI.

The objective of the meeting was to discuss the progress and schedule of the building to wards completion of the building.

MR. SURAJ VAIDYA, PRESIDENT SAARC CCI PAID A COURTESY CALL ON HONORABLE MINISTER FOR COMMERCE, MR. M PERVAIZ MALIK, GOVERNMENT OF ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN.

December 7, 2017, Islamabad, Pakistan



President SAARC CCI Mr. Suraj Vaidya with SAAEC CCI delegation and Honorable Minister for Commerce, Excellency Mr. M Pervaiz Malik

Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI called on Excellency Mr. Muhammad Pervaiz Malik, Hon'ble Federal Minister for Commerce, Government Islamic Republic of Pakistan to invite his Excellency to the 6th SAARC Business Leaders Conclave.

He was accompanied by Mr. Iftikhar Ali Malik, Vice President, SAARC CCI (Pakistan), Mr. Zubair Ahmed Malik, Executive Committee Member, Mr. Saifuddin Zoomkawala, Executive Committee Member, Mr. Sohail Hussain Malik, General Assembly Member, Ms. Hina Saeed, Secretary General, and Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Butt, Deputy Secretary General, SAARC CCI.

During the meeting Mr. Vaidya apprised the Hon'ble Minister that SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry will be organizing the 6th edition of SAARC Business Leaders conclave in March, 2018 in Kathmandu, Nepal. He invited Hon'ble Minister as a key note speaker to Ministerial Round, which would also be addressed by other Commerce Ministers

from SAARC member states.

Hon'ble Minister assured cooperation of Ministry of Commerce, Government of Pakistan to make 6th SBLC a successful endeavor and agreed to participate. He also endorsed the speedy release of additional funds for the timely completion of SAARC CCI headquarter building project in Islamabad.

SAARC CCI DELEGATION LED BY MR. SURAJ VAIDYA, PRESIDENT, SAARC CCI CALL ON MR. SARTAJ AZIZ, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN PLANNING COMMISSION, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF PAKISTAN

December 8, 2017, Islamabad, Pakistan

SAARC CCI delegation led by Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI called on Hon'ble Mr. Sartaj Aziz, Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Government of Pakistan.

During the meeting, President, SAARC CCI Mr. Suraj Vaidya invited the Excellency to the 6th edition of SAARC Business Leaders Conclave (SBLC), scheduled in March, 2018 in Kathmandu, Nepal. He applauded Pakistan's support for enhancement of trade, investment and business amongst the member countries of the SAARC region. President SAARC CCI further appreciated the positive approach that Pakistan has been following to strengthen regional cooperation under the SAARC process.

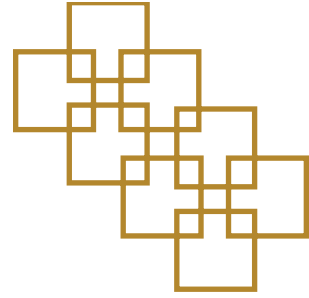
Mr. Iftikhar Ali Malik, Vice President, SAARC CCI (Pakistan), said that SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry will take full benefits

of the experiences of Planning Commission to launch new industrial joint ventures and development-oriented projects.

Excellency assured his support and commitment towards the 6th edition of SAARC Business Leaders Conclave in Kathmandu, Nepal. He appreciated the efforts of President and SAARC CCI for bringing back the SAARC nations closer and strengthening the agenda of its Creation. He said that we invite all member states of SAARC to support China Pakistan Economic Corridor which will connect South Asia with Central Asian states and rest of the world. He emphasized that CPEC will added a significant impact on the China, Pakistan and regional economies as its role in bringing prosperity to the region cannot be ignored.



President SAARC CCI paid a courtesy call on Honorable Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Mr. Sartaj Aziz



PRESIDENT SAARC CCI, MR. SURAJ VAIDYA, VISITED DHAKA TO PAY CONDOLENCE WITH THE FAMILY OF LATE MR. ANNISUL HUQ, FORMER PRESIDENT SAARC CCI

December 17, 2017, in Dhaka, Bangladesh



Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI visited Dhaka to pay condolence to the family of late Mr. Annisul Huq, former President SAARC CCI. He first visited his grave in Benani grave yard and later on went to his home and met his family members. He conveyed the sympathies of leadership of SAARC CCI to the family of Mr. Huq.

Mr. Annisul Huq, led SAARC CCI as President from year 2010-11. He served Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industry as President as well. During his tenure, he strongly advocated the concept of regionalism in South Asia to carry forward the agenda of SAARC CCI. In addition he introduced numerous Life Memberships from Bangladesh to the SAARC CCI platform.

PRESIDENT SAARC CCI, MR. SURAJ VAIDYA PAYS A COURTESY CALL-ON HON'BLE MINISTER OF COMMERCE, GOVERNMENT OF BANGLADESH, MR. TOFAEL AHMED

December 17, 2017, in Dhaka, Bangladesh



Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI with Minister of Commerce of Bangladesh, Mr. Tofael Ahmed

During the meeting, Mr. Suraj Vaidya underscored Bangladesh support for enhancement of trade, investment and business amongst the member countries of the SAARC region. He invited Hon'ble Commerce Minister to 6th edition of SAARC Business Leaders Conclave scheduled in Kathmandu , Nepal from 16-18th March, 2018.

The Hon'ble Minister assured his full cooperation to SAARC CCI and also gave his consent to participate in 6th SAARC Business Leaders Conclave. He urged President, SAARC CCI to explore the potential avenue of trade among the South Asian countries.

PRESIDENT SAARC CCI CALLED ON PRESIDENT FBCCI, MR. MD. SHAFIUL ISLAM PRESIDENT, FBCCI.

December 17, 2017, in Dhaka, Bangladesh



Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI called on Mr. Md. Shafiul Islam (Mohiuddin) President, FBCCI in his office in Dhaka to discuss ways and means to boost bilateral and multilateral trade among the SAARC countries. Mr. Mohiuddin shared that regional

integration through trade and investment is a key to growth and prosperity. He stressed that regional integration through trade and investment is a key to growth and prosperity and in this context, SAARC CCI can play an important role in augmenting trade and investment.

Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI requested the office bearers of SAARC CCI (Bangladesh) to work closely and sincerely to make the forum effective. He invited the FBCCI President to the 'SAARC Business Leaders Conclave' to be held in Nepal from March 16-18, 2018.

FBCCI First Vice-President Mr. Sheikh Fazle Fahim, Mr. Mahbubul Alam, SAARC CCI Vice-President (Bangladesh), Mr. Shafquat Haider, Executive Committee Member SAARC CCI were also present during the meeting.

EXCELLENCY ANNE MARCHAL, MINISTER COUNSELLOR, DEPUTY HEAD OF MISSION, DELEGATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION TO PAKISTAN CALLED ON SECRETARY GENERAL SAARC CCI.

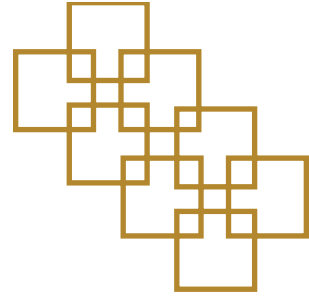
December 21, 2017, Islamabad, Pakistan



Ms. Hina Saeed, Secretary General, SAARC CCI presenting memento to Excellency Ms. Anne Marchal.

Excellency Ms. Anne Marchal, Minister Counsellor, Deputy Head of Mission, Delegation of the European Union to Pakistan called on Ms. Hina Saeed, Secretary General, SAARC CCI and explore the areas of mutual interest between SAARC CCI and European Union.

During the meeting, Ms. Hina Saeed discussed in detail the dynamics of SAARC as region and role of SAARC CCI as an institution to strengthen regional economic integration.



PRESIDENT SAARC CCI PAYS CALL-ON HON'BLE MR. SURESH PRABHAKAR PRABHU, MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

January 3, 2018, Mumbai, India



Pictorial view of meeting

Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI called on Hon'ble Mr. Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, Minister of Commerce & Industry, Government of India. He was accompanied by Mr. Vinod Juneja, Vice President SAARC CCI (India), Mr. B K Bajoria, EC Member & Mr. Rajeev Chadha, GA member & Chair SME to invite Excellency for 6th edition of SAARC Business Leaders Conclave scheduled in Kathmandu, Nepal from March 16-18, 2018.

MR. SURAJ VAIDYA, PRESIDENT, SAARC CCI VISITED MR. PIYUSH SRIVASTAVA, JOINT SECRETARY SAARC

January 3, 2018, Mumbai, India



Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI with Mr. Piyush Srivastava, Joint Secretary SAARC

Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI met Mr. Piyush Srivastava, Joint Secretary SAARC along with Mr. Vinod Juneja, Vice President SAARC CCI India, Mr. Vinod Ahuja, EC member SAARC CCI (India), Mr. Rajeev Chadha, GA member (India) & Chair SME & Mr. B K Bajoria, EC Member (India).

The honourable President of SAARC CCI apprised Mr. Srivastava about the 6th SAARC Business Leaders Conclave scheduled in Kathmandu Nepal.

BRIEF TEAM VISIT TO SAARC CCI SECRETARIAT

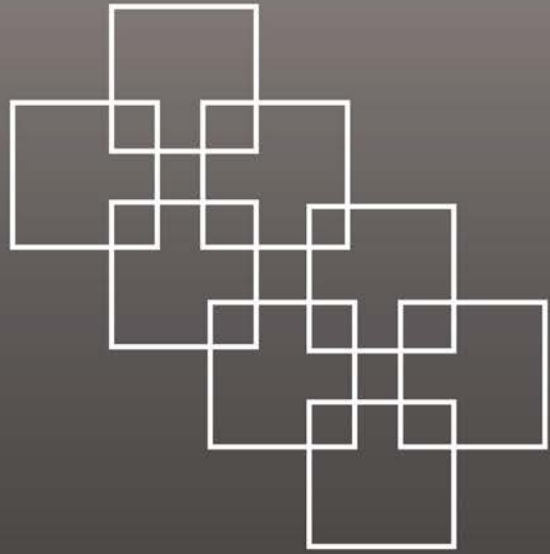
January 3, 2018, Mumbai, India



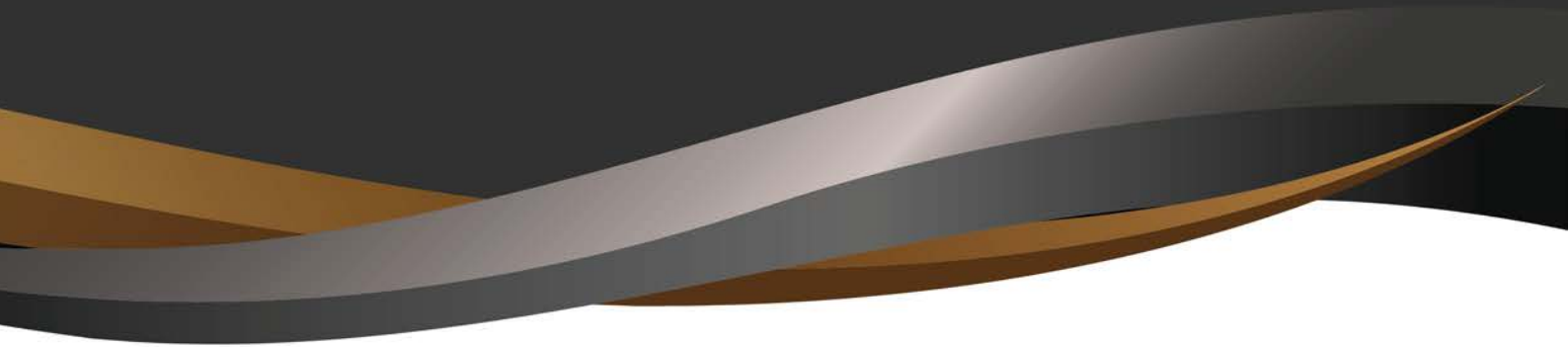
BRIEF (Bureau of Research on Industry and Economic Fundamentals) a New Delhi based think tank called on Ms. Hina Saeed, Secretary General, SAARC CCI, in SAARC CCI Secretariat to discuss the untapped trade potential between Pakistan and India to strengthen regional economic integration.

A BRIEF team comprising of 5 members led by their Director, Mr. Afaq Hussain, discussed the areas of mutual cooperation to enhance trade in the region. They shared their motive to visit Sialkot CCI LCCI & Islamabad to identify the grass root level problems in doing business with India in three major sectors namely, Surgical, Textiles and Sports goods.





SAARC CCI Councils Activities



MRS. SHAIRA SALEEM, VICE CHAIRPERSON, SCWEC, MALDIVES CHAPTER ALONG WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS FROM MALDIVES, DURING A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT, SAARC CCI

June 2, 2016, Male, Maldives



Group Photo of Maldivian Women Entrepreneurs with Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, Mr. Om Rajbhandari, Vice President, Mr. Ahmed Mujthaba, Former Snr. Vice President, (Maldives), Ms. Neeza Imad, Assistant Governor - Financial Stability, Maldives Monetary Authority, Maldives and Mrs. Shaira Saleem, Vice Chairperson, SCWEC, Maldives Chapter.

SCWEC Maldives chapter, Chair by Mrs. Shaira Saleem, hosted a welcome reception in the honor of SAARC CCI delegation led by Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI in Male, Maldives. The delegation comprised of Om Rajbhandari, Vice President SAARC CCI (Nepal), Mr. Ahmed Mujthaba, Former Snr. Vice President (Maldives) and Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Butt, Deputy Secretary General, SAARC CCI.

The reception was graced by Ms. Neeza Imad, Assistant Governor - Financial Stability, Maldives Monetary Authority and Mr. A Amarnath, First Secretary (Commercial), High Commission of India in Maldives. Mrs. Saleem while extending warm welcome to President SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Viadya and delegates, urged to create more opportunities to strengthen business women in South Asia. She requested President to devise a mechanism to involve more young women entrepreneurs in SAARC CCI mechanism. He also requested President to allocate funds for SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneurs Council which is only council working efficiently and effectively at the moment.

SCWEC HANDOVER TAKEOVER CEREMONY AND SAARC WOMEN LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2017

May 17, 2017, Colombo, Sri Lanka

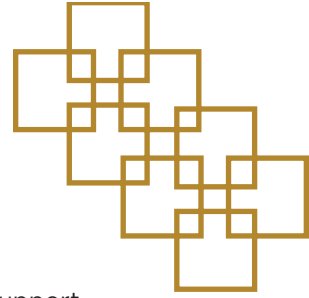


Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI with outgoing Chairperson, SCWEC, Ms. Shaista Pervaiz Malik and Ms. Rifa Mustapha, incoming Chairperson SCWEC.

SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneurs Council under the umbrella of SAARC CCI held SCWEC Handover Takeover Ceremony and SAARC Women Leadership Summit 2017 on May 17, 2017 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Prominent female leaders of SAARC member states from banking, handicrafts, textiles, media and agro sectors participated in the event.

SAARC Chamber of Women Entrepreneurship Council (SCWEC) immediate Chairperson, Ms. Shaista Pervaiz Malik during her address shared her experience as a Chairperson for the year 2014-2016. She said SCWEC being a compelling platform for women entrepreneurs



provides opportunities for intra-regional development of women entrepreneurship, exchange of skills and knowledge among women entrepreneurs and building trade links amongst the women of SAARC region; adding to the efforts of regional integration by promoting intra-regional trade and enhancing people to people connectivity.

SAARC CCI welcomed Ms. Rifa Mustapha as the Chairperson of SCWEC for year 2017-2018. During her address, Ms. Rifa said that women of South Asia contribute 48.4 percent in the

total world population, but lack the support system to grow.

Hon'ble Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe, in his address, stressed upon the importance of participation of women in the economic activities, income generation and trade integration and how to further ensure their involvement in entrepreneurship. He also highlighted the administrative barriers which hamper the economic activities of the region.

SCWEC MEDIA CONFERENCE

May 16, 2017, Colombo, Sri Lanka

The media conference highlighted the active participation of women in political discourse by playing an active role in politics, business and other sectors. Ms. Rifa Mustapha during

her address said that SAARC is the forum to which we look up to grow people, strengthen women's entrepreneurial capacity and enhance their capabilities.

MR. SURAJ VAIDYA, PRESIDENT, SAARC CCI MEETING WITH SCWEC MEMBERS

May 18, 2017 in Colombo, Sri Lanka



Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI meeting with SCWEC Members in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

President, SAARC CCI Mr. Suraj Vaidya, had a brief meeting with the SCWEC members across SAARC region including the newly nominated members on SCWEC platform. The objective of the meeting was to finalize the rules of business for SCWEC council to address the queries of women associations and chambers of South Asian countries. Ms. Rifa Mustapha, Chairperson, SCWEC and Ms. Shaista Pervaiz Malik, Former Chairperson, SCWEC were also present during the meeting.

Mr. Vaidya discussed in detail the new rules of business of SCWEC with members and proposed to form a SCWEC Chapter in each country, comprising of women entrepreneurs.

SAARC YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS FORUM

July 24, 2017, Thimphu, Bhutan

SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry in collaboration with Bhutan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI) and in partnership with Friedrich Naumann Foundation organized a one day strategy seminar on “SAARC Young Entrepreneurs Forum”, at Hotel Termalinca, Thimphu, Bhutan on July 24, 2017.



Address by Mr. Saurabh Jyoti, outgoing Chair of SAARC Young Entrepreneurs Forum (SYEF) during the handover/takeover ceremony of SYEF from Nepal to Bhutan.

SAARC CCI (Nepal) and Mr. Karma Dorjee, Vice President, SAARC CCI (Bhutan) addressed the delegates and shared their views on the role of SYEF in taking SAARC forward.

During SAARC Young Entrepreneurs Forum Chair handover/ takeover ceremony, Mr. Saurabh Jyoti from Nepal handed over Chair to Mr. Singye Namgyal Dorji from Bhutan. Mr. Saurabh Jyoti (outgoing Chair SYEF) shared his thoughts on his tenure with SYEF. Mr. Singye Namgyal Dorji (incoming Chair SYEF) was invited to share his thoughts and views going forward.



Address by Mr. Singye Namgyal Dorji, incoming Chair of SAARC Young Entrepreneurs Forum (SYEF) during the handover/takeover ceremony of SYEF from Nepal to Bhutan.

Ms. Aum Phub Zam, President, BCCI formally welcomed the Hon'ble SAARC delegates in her welcome address at the seminar. The session was addressed by Hon'ble Mr. Lyonpo Norbu Wangchuk, Minister of Education, Government of Bhutan, as Honorable Chief Guest Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI, Mr. Om Bahadur Rajbhandary, Vice President,

EXECUTIVE MEETING OF SCWEC

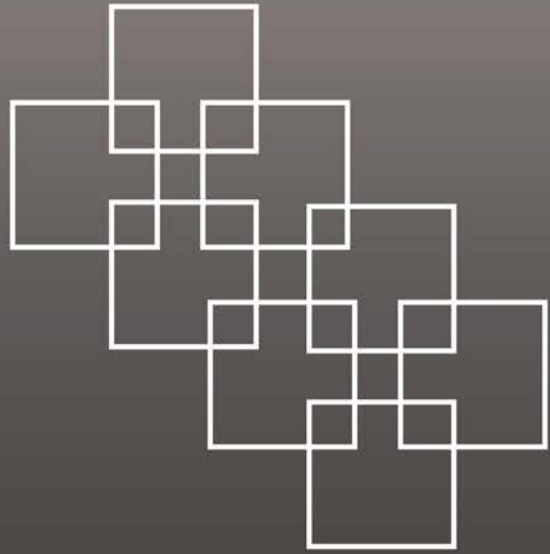
July 24, 2017, Hotel Termalinca, Thimphu, Bhutan

SAARC Chamber of Women Entrepreneurs Council on July 24, 2017 under the Chair of SCWEC, Ms. Rifa Mustapha met to discuss the way forward for SCWEC, upcoming activities, SCWEC rules and regulations, approval of SCWEC logo and the way forward.

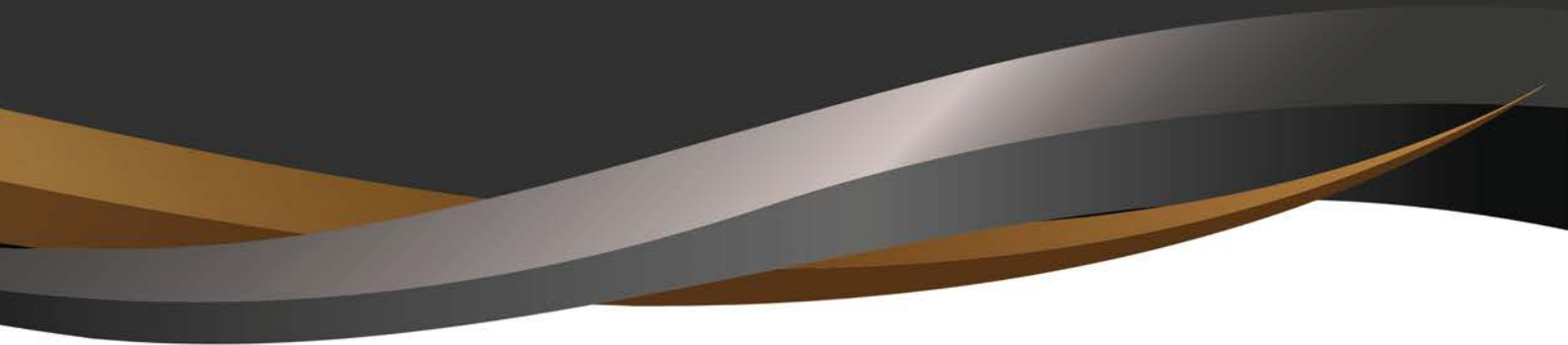
Chairperson, Ms. Rifa Mustapha expressed her appreciation to all Council Members for their presence and requested their corporation to take initiatives for the prosperity of women entrepreneurs.



Group picture of SCWEC members with Chairperson SCWEC, Ms. Rifa Mustapha



**SAARC CCI Executive
Committee Meetings and
General Assembly Meetings**



SAARC CCI 65TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

March 15, 2016, Kathmandu, Nepal

The 65th Executive Committee meeting of SAARC CCI was held under the chair of Mr. Suraj Vaidya, newly elected President of SAARC CCI, in Kathmandu, Nepal on March 15, 2016.

The meeting was hosted by Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FNCCI). Executive Committee members and General Assembly members of SAARC CCI attended the meeting.

In addition to the approval of minutes of 64th EC meeting, the major agenda items of the meeting included mechanism for Restructuring/Activation of Councils, approval of SAARC TPN Integration with SAARC CCI, to review and endorse Regional Advocacy Strategy, dealing with NTMs in South Asia by SAARC TPN Working Group on Trade Facilitation, review and approval of audit report of accounts, approval of Life/Patron Memberships for SAARC CCI and the date and venue for next EC Meeting.



65th Executive Committee meeting of SAARC CCI in Kathmandu, Nepal

SAARC CCI 66TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING AND EXTRA ORDINARY GENERAL BODY MEETING

June 4, 2016 - Colombo, Sri Lanka

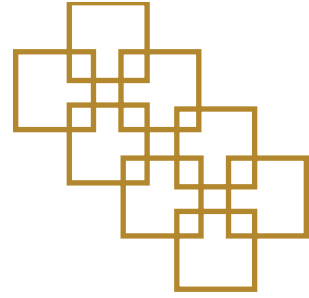
The 66th EC meeting & 20th GA meeting of SAARC CCI was held under the Chair of Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The major agenda items of the meeting were approval of minutes of 65th EC Meeting, opening of SAARC CCI sub-offices in Colombo, Dhaka and Mumbai, and approval of SAARC CCI accounts for 1st & 2nd quarter, presentation on SAARC CCI Life Membership strategy, presentation on SAARC Industrial Park, presentation on Smart Green

Villages, presentation on “SAARC Trade Fair”, presentation on 19th SAARC Summit and presentation on SAARC Business Leaders awards.

The house unanimously approved opening of Sub offices in Dhaka, Colombo, Mumbai and SAARC Industrial Parks in member states. Special initiatives were taken and approved to boost the SAARC CCI life membership from smaller economies of SAARC region.



A pictorial view of SAARC CCI 66th EC & Extra Ordinary GA meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka



SAARC CCI 67TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

September 23, 2016, Mumbai, India

The 67th SAARC CCI Executive Committee Meeting was held at ITC Maratha, Mumbai India on September 23, 2016 Chaired by Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI, and convened by Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Butt, Deputy Secretary General, SAARC CCI.

The major agenda items included approval of minutes of the 66th EC meeting, 6th SAARC Business Leaders Conclave, Business Leaders Awards, participation in the 19th SAARC Summit, SAARC Industrial Park, SAARC

Investment Guide book and the date & venue of the next EC Meeting. It was decided that the 68th EC meeting of SAARC CCI will be held in Dhaka, Bangladesh in the first week of January, 2017.

The house applauded the honorable President of SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya's initiative in taking the lead and visiting Pakistan on a regular basis to discuss the plan and allied activities of 6th SBLC.



Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI with the Participants of 67th Executive Committee Meeting SAARC CCI

SAARC CCI 68TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

January 26-28, 2017, Amritsar and Lahore

The 68th Executive Committee Meeting of SAARC CCI was held in Amritsar and Lahore on January 26 - 28, 2017 Chaired by Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI. This initiative aimed to strengthen the objectives of SAARC and conveyed a message of peace and harmony across the South Asian region. Mr. Suraj Vaidya while addressing the media representatives at Wagha/Attari border

spotlighted the positive role of private sector towards socio-economic integration of South Asia. Vice President SAARC CCI (India), Mr. Vinod Juneja stressed upon the need of efforts to be made for the promotion of bilateral relations. In continuation of the EC meeting in Lahore, PC Hotel on January 28, 2017, Mr. Vaidya told the members "this initiative will go miles in projecting a positive image of SAARC countries within and outside the region".



Group Picture of SAARC CCI delegates during 68th Executive Committee Meeting.

SAARC CCI 69TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING & SAARC CCI 21ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

April 15, 2017 Dhaka, Bangladesh



69th Executive Committee and 21st General Assembly Meeting commenced on April 15, 2017 in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The 69th Executive Committee Meeting of SAARC CCI was held on April 15, 2017 under the Chair of Honorable President SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya, at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

The meeting commenced formally with a welcome address by Ms. Hina Saeed, Executive Director SAARC CCI. The President SAARC CCI, Mr. Vaidya welcomed the Former President of SAARC CCI, (Late) Mr. Annisul Huq and thanked him for honoring the SAARC CCI Executive Committee meeting with his presence.

(Late) Mr. Annisul Huq, the Former President

of SAARC CCI, addressed the EC Meeting and said that despite of several issues and hurdles in the history of SAARC CCI, it has been able to survive.

(Late) Mr. Huq, Former President of SAARC CCI applauded SAARC CCI for involving youth; and stressed upon formulating an action oriented plan for the young entrepreneurs of the region. He said that under the organized and dynamic leadership of Mr. Suraj Vaidya, SAARC CCI politicking has increased over time. He also welcomed the Executive Director SAARC CCI, Ms. Hina Saeed to the SAARC CCI secretariat.

SAARC CCI 70TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

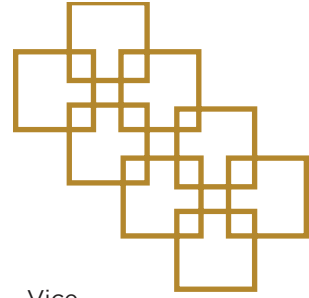
July 23, 2017, Thimphu, Bhutan

The 70th Executive Committee Meeting of SAARC CCI was convened on July 23, 2017 under the Chair of Honorable President of SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya at Hotel Ariya in Thimphu, Bhutan.

The 70th Executive Committee Meeting of SAARC CCI comprised of an inaugural session and presentations by Unbound Asia Pacific and SAARC Development Fund and a closed door session of SAARC CCI 70th EC Meeting.

The hon'ble SAARC delegates were formally welcomed by Ms. Phub Zam, President BCCI who congratulated President SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya on the initiatives of SAARC CCI. She warmly welcomed the delegates to Bhutan.

The Honorable Chief Guest Mr. Damcho Dorji, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan, honored the occasion with his valuable presence and reinforced Government of Bhutan's commitment to SAARC.



A special address was made by H. E Mr. Amjad B. Sial, Secretary General, SAARC Secretariat. H.E. Mr. Sial applauded SAARC CCI's regional integration initiatives.

Before the commencement of the 70th Executive Committee Meeting, President

SAARC CCI had a meeting with Vice Presidents, SAARC CCI on July 22, 2017. Mr. Karma Dorjee, Vice President SAARC CCI (Bhutan) hosted a dinner in the honor of President SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya and SAARC delegates at Hotel Termalinca.



Welcome address by Ms. PhubZam, President BCCI at the inaugural session of SAARC CCI 70th Executive Committee Meeting

SAARC CCI 71ST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

October 23, 2017, Chennai, India



Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI chairing the 71st Executive Committee Meeting

The 71st Executive Committee Meeting of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry convened on October 23, 2017 under the Chair of Honorable President of SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya at Hilton Hotel in Chennai, India. The meeting was hosted by Federation

of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).

Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI while welcoming hon'ble members, expressed gratitude to Mr. Vinod Juneja, Vice President, SAARC CCI (India), Ms. Kavita Dutt, Vice Chair, SCWEC (India) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry, for their valuable facilitation and cordial hospitality. Ms. V. L. Indira Dutt, Former Chair, SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneurs Council (SCWEC) also graced the meeting with her presence.

The major agenda items of the meeting included a brief of SAARC CCI activities undertaken, 6th SAARC Business Leaders Conclave, appointment of Ms. Hina Saeed as Secretary General of SAARC CCI, and presentation of SAARC CCI Accounts.

SAARC CCI 72ND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING:

February 6, 2018, Islamabad, Pakistan

The 72nd Executive Committee Meeting of SAARC CCI was held in Islamabad, Pakistan on February 6, 2018 hosted by Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry under the Chair of Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI.

The agenda of Executive Committee meeting included the review and approval

of the minutes of 70th, 71st and 72nd Executive Committee Meetings, a brief of activities undertaken in last quarter of 2018, SAARC CCI initiatives for year 2018, update on SAARC CCI HQ Building Project, SAARC CCI Headquarters Building Trust, Pakistan Turn in SAARC CCI Presidency Rotation and review of SAARC CCI un-audited Annual Accounts for Year 2017.

Prior the commencement of the Executive Committee Meeting, Mr. Ghazanfer Bilour, President, Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry extended warm welcome to delegates from South Asian

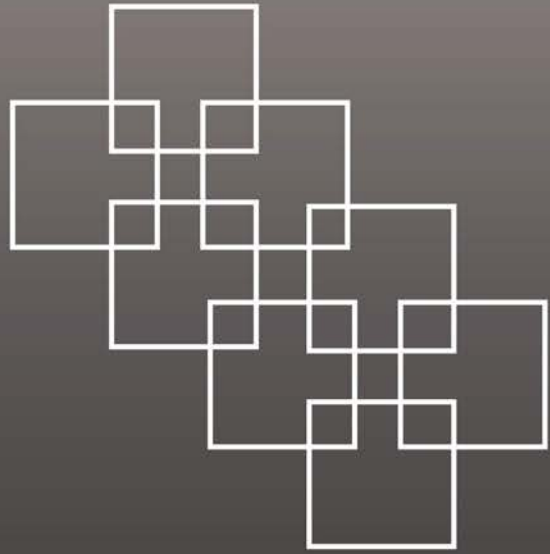
countries. Later in the evening Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry hosted a lavish dinner in the honor of SAARC CCI Delegates at famous restaurant of Islamabad "Monal" on top of Margalla Hills.



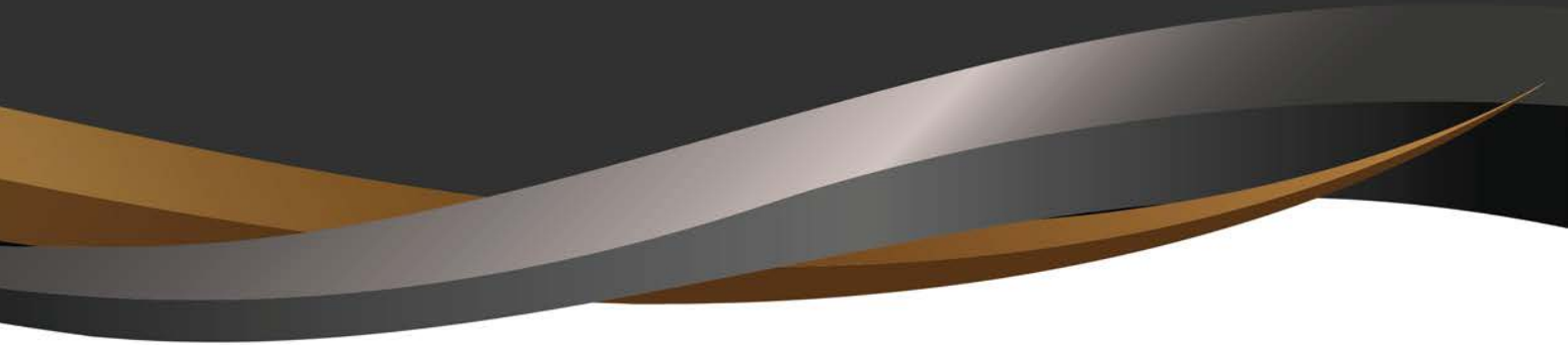
President SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya addressing the delegates at 72nd Executive Committee Meeting



Welcome address by Mr. Iftikhar Ali Malik, Vice President SAARC CCI (Pakistan) at the 72nd Executive Committee Meeting



MoUs



SAARC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY SIGNED MOU WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT POLICY INSTITUTE

April 15, 2016, Islamabad, Pakistan

The SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) signed a memorandum



Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI and Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri signing the MoU

of understanding (MoU) on joint research activities as well as outreach and capacity building programmes at SDPI, on April 15, 2016. Mr. Suraj Vaidya from SAARC CCI and Dr. Abid Qaiyum Suleri, Executive Director, SDPI signed the MoU in the presence of senior members from both organizations.

As per the MoU, seminars, workshops, and conferences would be jointly held as part of the outreach activities. Sustainable quality assurance monitoring and evaluation framework will be designed. Outreach and networking programme, projects and activities, as may be jointly agreed by both the parties will also be initiated under the MoU.

SAARC CCI SIGNED AN MOU WITH INSTITUTE OF POLICY STUDIES (IPS)

June 4, 2016, Colombo, Sri Lanka

On the eve of 66th EC & Extra Ordinary General Meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka, SAARC CCI signed an MoU with Institute of

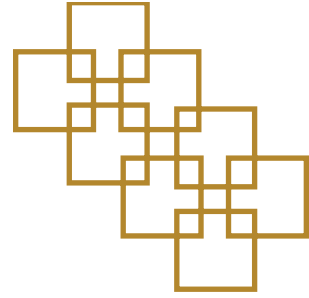


Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI exchanging MoU copy after signing it with Dr. Janaka Wijayasiri, Research fellow, IPS, Sri Lanka

Policy Studies, Sri Lanka. The MoU was signed with an objective to help SAARC CCI to bridge industry-academia gap and provide a common agenda to voice the concerns of the private sector through research based input on important socio-economic policy issues in South Asia.

The MoU is a reflection of commitment of the organizations to work in close collaboration towards deepening regional integration in South Asia, while identifying issues and suggesting evidence based and rational policy inputs to move the SAARC mechanism forward.

Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI signed the MoU on behalf of SAARC CCI whereas Dr. Janaka Wijayasiri, Research fellow, IPS, signed MoU on behalf of IPS, Sri Lanka.



SIGNING OF MOU WITH CUTS INTERNATIONAL

September 24, 2016, Mumbai, India

To establish a strategic partnership, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SAARC CCI) and CUTS International entered into a MoU on September 24, 2016 in Mumbai, India.

Executive Director SAARC CCI, Ms. Hina Saeed and Secretary General CUTS International, Mr. Pradeep S Mehta signed the memorandum of understanding to explore the possibility

and probability of joint initiatives. The parties agreed to collaborate and cooperate within the areas of research including development of joint research proposals, capacity building, outreach and advocacy activities and publications, seminars conferences and workshops, assurance of sustainable quality, monitoring and evaluation frameworks and indices for the justice sector.

SIGNING OF MOU WITH SAARC DEVELOPMENT FUND (SDF)

November 14, 2016, Kathmandu, Nepal

During the roundtable conference on “Energizing SAARC: Creating Synergies” in collaboration with the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Dr. Sunil Motiwal, CEO, SAARC Development Fund (SDF).

The purpose of the agreement is to contribute towards the socio-economic development within the SAARC region through various collaborative linkages. The objective of the MoU is to promote the welfare of the people of SAARC region, and to accelerate economic growth, social progress and alleviate poverty in the region.



Group Picture with Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI, November 14, 2016

SIGNING OF MOU BETWEEN SAARC CCI AND ANTARPRERANA (PVT) LTD. NEPAL

January 30, 2017, Islamabad, Pakistan

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) between SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry and ANTARPRERANA (PVT) Ltd.



Ms. Hina Saeed, Executive Director SAARC CCI and Mr. Niraj Khanal, C.E.O, ANTARPRERANA (Pvt.) Ltd. Nepal signing the MoU in the presence of Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI

Nepal was signed on January 30, 2017 at SAARC CCI Secretariat, Islamabad, Pakistan. The objective of the MoU is to support young entrepreneurs by providing learning opportunities and start-ups across the region on thematic, management and techno based substances. The MoU also facilitates cross border learning opportunities for aspiring students throughout the region.

Ms. Hina Saeed, Executive Director SAARC CCI signed the MoU on behalf of SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry whereas Mr. Niraj Khanal, C.E.O, ANTARPRERANA (Pvt.) Ltd. Nepal signed the MoU on behalf of ANTARPRERANA (Pvt.) Ltd. Nepal.

It was agreed between both the parties to undertake periodic consultations to identify and elaborate joint activities in mutually agreed areas, conduct and disseminate studies based on youth entrepreneurship, training and capacity enhancement of youth entrepreneurs, micro small and medium enterprises development, trade investment, private sector development and female entrepreneurship.

SAARC CCI SIGNED MOU'S DURING 12TH CSABF

June 11-13, 2017, Kunming, China

SAARC CCI signed two MoU's with Beingmate and One Belt One Road Initiative (OBOR) platform during the opening ceremony of 12th China South Asia Business Forum. Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI signed an MoU on behalf of SAARC CCI and Mr. Wang Zhi, Director, signed on behalf of Beingmate company.



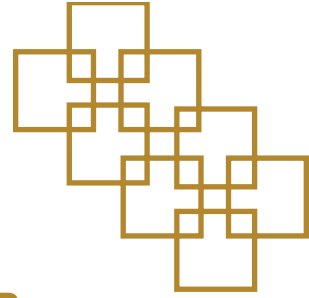
MOU signing ceremony between SAARC CCI and One Belt One Road Project.

The MoU with Beingmate is a first joint effort towards corporate social responsibility to benefit the malnourished under privileged children in South Asian countries.

SAARC CCI signed the second MoU with OBOR Platform to strengthen the economic cooperation between SAARC Countries and China. Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President, SAARC CCI signed the MoU on behalf of SAARC CCI and Miss. Shu Ya, signed on behalf of OBOR Platform.



MOU signing ceremony between SAARC CCI and Beingmate



MOU SIGNING BETWEEN CHENGDU ASSOCIATION FOR FOREIGN AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND SAARC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

September 13, 2017, Chengdu, China

SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Chengdu Association for Foreign and Economic Cooperation (CAFTEC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding on September 13, 2017 in China to enhance the economic and exchange activities in various fields of economy, culture, science, business

and investments.

Executive Director, SAARC CCI Ms. Hina Saeed on behalf of SAARC CCI, and Secretary General, Mr. Chen Xiao on behalf of CAFTEC signed an MoU aimed to explore opportunities for investments.



MOU SIGNING BETWEEN SICHUAN INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROMOTION ASSOCIATION (SIEPA) AND SAARC YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS FORUM (SYEF)

September 14, 2017, Sichuan, China

To build and develop a dynamic new generation of business leaders through education, experience sharing, idea generation and information exchange and to fabricate a new league of young business leaders from the region, SAARC Young Entrepreneurs Forum (SYEF) and Sichuan Innovation and Entrepreneurship Promotion Association

(SIEPA) signed an MoU on September 14, 2017 at Sichuan, China.

Chairman SYEF, Mr. Singye Dorji and Executive President SIEPA, Mr. Liu Ming signed the Memorandum of Understanding aimed at fostering cross regional partnerships and cooperation.



SYEF signs an MOU with Innovation and Entrepreneurship Promotion Association (SIEPA) to take the objectives of SYEF forward.

MOU SIGNING CEREMONY BETWEEN SAARC CHAMBER WOMEN ENTREPRENEUR COUNCIL (SCWEC, PAKISTAN) AND LALA INDUSTRIES

February 6, 2018

The 71st Executive Committee Meeting of SAARC CCI, observed the MoU signing ceremony between SAARC Chamber Women



MoU signing ceremony between SAARC Chamber Women Entrepreneur Council (SCWEC, Pakistan) and Lala Industries

Entrepreneurs Council (SCWEC, Pakistan) and Lala Textiles (Pakistan). The MoU will encourage business contacts especially amongst female entrepreneurs and to foster and facilitate international trade, and to adopt common positions on global business and trade issues when appropriate and to share expertise and good chamber practices for the benefit of women entrepreneurs locally and within the SAARC region.

As per the MoU, Lala Textiles shall extend financial support to SCWEC activities in the region. On behalf of SCWEC, Ms. Zubia Zubair, Vice Chairperson SCWEC (Pakistan) signed MoU with Mr. Muhammad Pervez, CEO Lala Textiles and General Assembly Member of SAARC CCI.

SAARC CCI SIGNED 4-MOU DURING 6TH SAARC BUSINESS LEADERS CONCLAVE

March 18, 2018, Kathmandu, Nepal

The conclave witnessed the signing of 6-MoU with leading international organization during Ministerial round of 6th SAARC Business Leaders Conclave on 18th March, 2018 in Kathmandu, Nepal. Hon'ble Mr. Matrika Prasad Yadav, Minister for Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Nepal, Hon'ble Mr. Lyonpo Lekey Dorji, Minister for Economic Affairs, Bhutan and Hon'ble Mr. Humyoon Rasaw, Afghanistan Minister for Commerce and Industries were present at MoU signing ceremony.

1. MoU with Frost & Sullivan: An MoU was signed between SAARC CCI and Frost & Sullivan signed an objective to work together to offer joint marketing of GIL 2018 South Asia and SAARC Business Leaders Conclave.

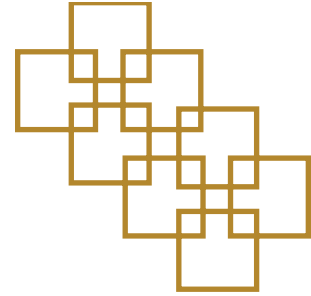
On behalf of SAARC CCI Mr. Ruwan Edirisinghe, Incoming President SAARC CCI & Senior Vice President, SAARC CCI signed MoU with Mr. Aroop Zutshi, Global President & Managing Partner, Frost & Sullivan.



SAARC CCI and Frost & Sullivan signed a Memorandum of Understanding

2. MoU with Glocal Pvt. Ltd: The 2nd MoU was signed between SAARC CCI and Glocal Pvt. Ltd aimed to support and promote the participation of the youth organizations in Glocal Teen Hero program in respective countries. The MoU will also facilitate the dissemination of international conference to international presence/networks through social media, emails and websites.

On behalf of SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya,



MoU signing ceremony between SAARC CCI and Glocal Pvt.Ltd

President SAARC CCI and on behalf of Glocal Pvt. Mr. Ashish Thakur, Executive Director, Glocal Pvt. Ltd signed MoU.

3. MoU with SAARC Arbitration Council (SARCO):

The 3rd MoU was signed between SAARC CCI and SAARC Arbitration Council with an objective to utilize the services of SARCO Model Arbitration Clause, as provided in the SAARC Arbitration rules, for SAARC CCI projects/agreements and other agreements as and when required by SAARC CCI. Moreover, the MoU focuses on to conduct joint seminars/workshops/conferences and /or extend support to such events, which lead to the achievement of objectives of the creation of the parties.

On behalf of SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI and on behalf of SARCO, Mr. Zahidullah Jalali, Director General signed the MoU.



Mr. Zahidullah Jalali, Director General SARCO and Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI during MoU signing

4. MoU with Winrock International:

The 4th MoU was signed between SAARC CCI and Winrock International with an objective to share a common goal of identifying screening and supporting the dissemination of agribusiness innovations and to establish the frame work of cooperation between both organizations.



SAARC CCI signs a MoU with Winrock International

5. MoU with PUM Netherland Senior Experts:

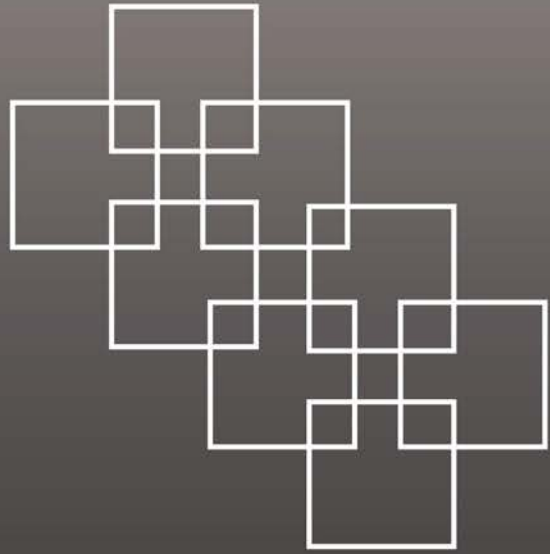
The 5th MoU was signed between SAARC CCI and PUM Netherland Senior Experts aimed to encourage trade, service, and industry, small & medium enterprise, agriculture, intra-regional through creating strong business linkages amongst the entrepreneurs of the South Asia.

On behalf of SAARC CCI Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI signed MoU with Mr. Niraj Khanal, Country Representative of PUM in Nepal.

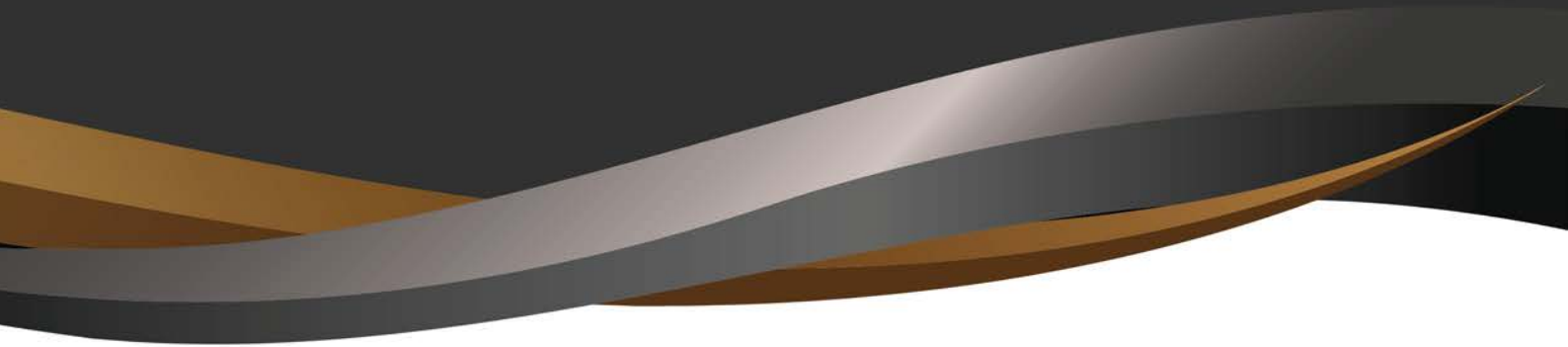


SAARC CCI signs a MoU with PUM Netherland Senior Experts





Glimpses





Group picture taken on the occasion of changeover ceremony with Hon'ble President SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya



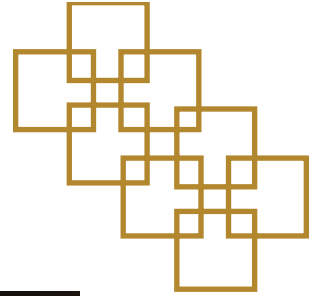
SAARC CCI Delegation Call-on to Hon'ble Commerce Minister, Engineer Khurram Dastagir, Govt of Pakistan



Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI introduced SAARC Investment Outlook to Minister of Industry and Commerce, Mr. Rishad Bathiudeen during press conference on May 18, 2017 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.



Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe addressing the delegates at SAARC Women Leadership Summit 2017, Colombo, Sri Lanka.



President Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry Sri Lanka, Mr. Sarath Kahapalaarchchi addressing the delegates during press briefing on May 18, 2017 in Colombo, Sri Lanka.



Mr. Jalaluddin Saeed, Executive Committee Member, SAARC CCI (Afghanistan) visited the SAARC CCI Head Quarter building site in Islamabad on May 6, 2017.



Group picture of Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI and SAARC CCI delegates with Vice Governor and leadership of Yunan Province, Mr. Zong Guoying, June 13, 2017, Kunming, China



Secretary Commerce, Mr. Mohammad Younas Dagha, Secretary TDAP, Mr Inam Ullah Khan Dharejo and Secretary EDF Mr. Malik Muhammad Ashraf along with Mr. Zubair Ahmad Malik, Chairman, SAARC CCI, Accounts and Finance Committee & Executive Member, SAARC CCI (Pakistan) and Ms. Hina Saeed, Executive Director, SAARC CCI at SAARC CCI Head Quarter building project site, June 20, 2017, Islamabad, Pakistan



President SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya meets SAARC Secretary General Mr. Amjad Hussain B Sial and SAARC Secretariat Director from Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Pakistan and Nepal along with Senior Vice President FNCCI, Mrs. Bhawani Rana, Vice President (Nepal) Mr. Om Rajbhandary, and SAARC CCI Executive Committee Members on June 22, 2017.



Address by H.E. Mr. Masashi Ogawa, Ambassador of Japan to Nepal at the 70th Executive Committee Meeting of SAARC CCI July 23, 2017, Thimphu, Bhutan.



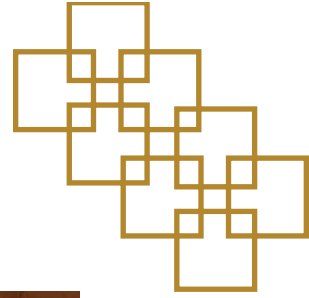
Address by Mr. Karma Dorjee, Vice President SAARC CCI during the 70th Executive Committee Meeting.



President SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya presenting a memento to H. E Mr. Amjad B. Sial, Secretary General, SAARC during the 70th Executive Committee Meeting inaugural session.



Mr. Shehryar Ali Malik, Vice Chairperson, SYEF (Pakistan) meets Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bhutan, H.E. Lyonchen Tshering Tobgay.



President SAARC CCI meeting with Vice Presidents SAARC CCI on July 22, 2017.



SCWEC Meeting, July 24, 2017, Hotel Termalinca, Thimphu, Bhutan.



SAARC CCI staff visits SAARC CCI Headquarter Building on October 24, 2017, Islamabad, Pakistan



Mr. Ruwan Edirisinghe, Senior Vice President, SAARC CCI addressing the 71st Executive Committee Meeting on October 23, 2017 in Chennai, India



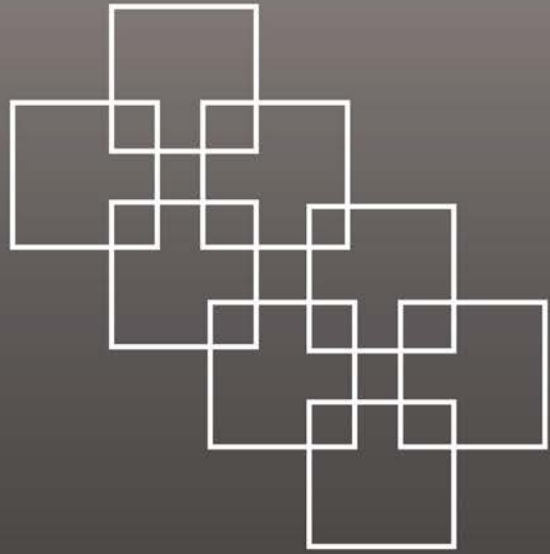
Hon'ble Minister for Industries, Steel Control and Special Initiatives, H Thiru. M.C. Sampath, Government of Tamil Nadu with President SAARC CCI, Mr. Suraj Vaidya and Mr. Vinod Juneja, Vice President SAARC CCI (India)



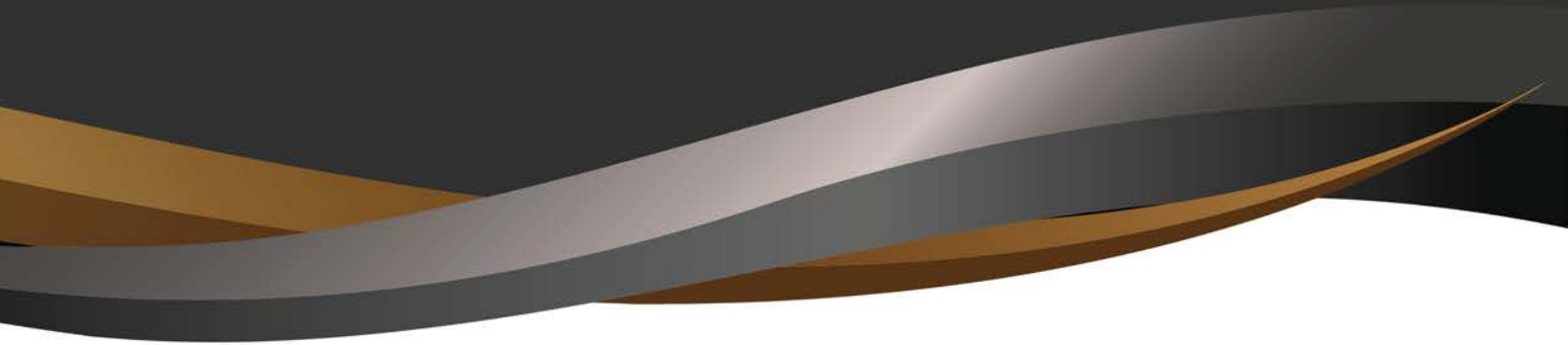
Hon'ble dignitaries during the conference on "Unlocking Climate Investment Opportunities in SAARC": Water Management and Scalable Business Solutions"



Mr. Suraj Vaidya, President SAARC CCI addressing the delegates at the inaugural session of SAARC CCI Small & Medium Enterprises Regional Round table on Integrating SMEs into Regional Value Chains



**SAARC CCI
Financial Statements**



Amir Alam Khan & Co.
Chartered Accountants

Plot. 1, I & T Centre
Street 40, G-10/4 Islamabad
Tele: 051 - 2353978, Fax: 051 - 2353977
E-mail: aakco@hotmail.com

AUDITORS' REPORT TO MEMBERS

Introduction

We have audited the annexed balance sheet of the **SAARC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY** as at December 31, 2017, the related income and expenditure account and cash flow statement together with the notes forming part thereof (here-in-after referred to as the financial statements for the year then ended).

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements in accordance with the applicable accounting standards, and for such internal controls as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

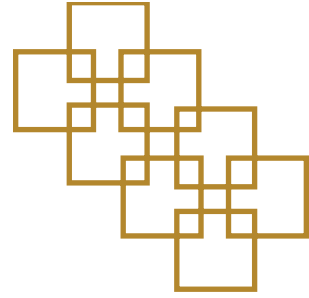
The objectives of our audit is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial

Opinion

In our opinion these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position, of the **SAARC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY** as at December 31, 2017 and of its surplus and cash flow for the year then ended.

Islamabad,

Amir Alam Khan & Co.
Chartered Accountants
Abdul Basit
aakco.



SAARC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2017

	Note	2017		2016	
		Pak Rupees	Equivalent Dollars	Pak Rupees	Equivalent Dollars
FUNDS AND GRANTS					
General fund	4	58,770,165	533,159	57,980,643	553,252
Grant for capital expenditure	5	85,362	775	95,695	913
Government grant	6	240,500,000	2,181,802	200,000,000	1,908,397
		<u>299,355,527</u>	<u>2,715,736</u>	258,076,338	2,462,562
TRUST CORPUS	7	246,896,783	2,239,833	226,019,316	2,156,673
CURRENT LIABILITIES					
Trade and other payables	8	37,471,890	339,943	57,000,976	543,903
		<u>583,724,200</u>	<u>5,295,512</u>	<u>541,096,630</u>	<u>5,163,138</u>
NON CURRENT ASSETS					
Property, plant and equipment	9	16,306,909	147,937	16,722,822	159,570
Capital work in progress	10	451,058,287	4,091,973	253,145,695	2,415,512
Long term security deposits	11	95,000	861	95,000	907
Long term advances - staff	12	574,000	5,208	414,000	3,951
		<u>468,034,196</u>	<u>4,245,979</u>	270,377,517	2,579,940
CURRENT ASSETS					
Short term investment	13	7,000,000	63,504	155,000,000	1,479,008
Advances	14	20,234,486	183,565	33,626,068	320,859
Prepayments		144,946	1,315	131,769	1,257
Receivables	15	1,671,898	15,168	7,359,567	70,225
Cash and bank balances	16	86,638,674	785,981	74,601,709	711,849
		<u>115,690,004</u>	<u>1,049,533</u>	270,719,113	2,583,198
		<u>583,724,200</u>	<u>5,295,512</u>	<u>541,096,630</u>	<u>5,163,138</u>

The annexed notes from 1 to 21 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Islamabad,

Hina Saeed
SECRETARY GENERAL

Abdullah
DIRECTOR ACCOUNTS

SAARC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

	Note	2017		2016	
		Pak Rupees	Equivalent Dollars	Pak Rupees	Equivalent Dollars
MEMBERS' SUBSCRIPTION					
FBCCI		658,125	6,250	648,563	6,250
BCCI		263,250	2,500	259,425	2,500
FICCI		1,382,063	13,125	1,361,981	13,125
MNCCI		275,500	2,500	259,425	2,500
FNCCI		658,125	6,250	648,563	6,250
FPCCI		1,391,250	13,125	1,361,981	13,125
FCCISL		658,750	6,250	648,563	6,250
ACCI		263,125	2,500	259,425	2,500
Institutional membership		1,403,531	13,500	680,991	6,563
		6,953,719	66,000	6,128,917	59,063
OTHER INCOME	17	17,358,912	163,408	16,156,737	155,697
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	18	(23,267,531)	(219,027)	(17,848,841)	(172,003)
FINANCIAL CHARGES		(255,578)	(2,406)	(128,544)	(1,239)
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		<u>789,522</u>	<u>7,975</u>	<u>4,308,269</u>	<u>41,518</u>

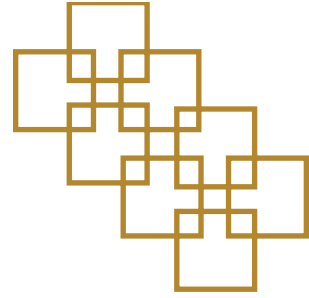
The annexed notes from 1 to 21 form an integral part of these financial statements.

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Islamabad,

Hina Saeed
SECRETARY GENERAL

Anwar
DIRECTOR ACCOUNTS



SAARC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

	Note	2017		2016	
		Pak Rupees	Equivalent Dollars	Pak Rupees	Equivalent Dollars
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES					
	19	(243,500)	(9,059)	34,643,006	337,760
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES					
Property, plant and equipment		(4,300)	(41)	(424,600)	(4,052)
Capital work in progress		(197,912,592)	(1,795,451)	(168,035,307)	(1,603,390)
Research and development fund		-	-	(513,447)	(4,900)
Government grant		40,500,000	273,405	100,000,000	954,062
Short term investments		148,000,000	1,415,504	(35,000,000)	(333,806)
Long term advances - staff		(160,000)	(1,257)	466,000	4,447
Net cash used in investing activities		(9,576,892)	(107,840)	(103,507,354)	(987,639)
CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES					
Proceeds from Trust Corpus		20,877,467	83,160	20,965,975	199,774
Net cash generated from financing activities		20,877,467	83,160	20,965,975	199,774
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents		11,057,075	(33,739)	(47,898,373)	(450,105)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		74,601,709	711,849	123,048,370	1,174,294
Effect of changes in exchange rates		979,890	107,871	(548,288)	(12,340)
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year		86,638,674	785,981	74,601,709	711,849

The annexed notes from 1 to 21 form an integral part of these financial statements.

Islamabad,


 SECRETARY GENERAL


 DIRECTOR ACCOUNTS

SAARC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

1. THE CHAMBER AND ITS OPERATION

SAARC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (the Chamber) was formed on December 20, 1988 and was given final recognition at SAARC Standing Committees' Seventeenth session held in Dhaka during 7-9 December, 1992. It is a non-trading organization providing services to its members in the field of Commerce and Industry and promoting intra-regional trade between the member countries.

2. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of approved accounting standards as applicable in Pakistan in all material respects.

3. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principle accounting policies which have been adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are summarized below:

3.1 Basis of preparation

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention except as otherwise stated in the respective policies and notes given hereunder.

3.2 Grant for capital expenditure

Grants utilized for capital expenditure are depreciated on reducing balance method, using rates applied to assets for which they are utilized, to offset the depreciation charged on assets constructed or purchased from such grants.

3.3 Trade and other payables

Liabilities of trade and other amounts payable are carried at cost which is the fair value of the consideration to be paid in future for goods and services received.

3.4 Staff retirement benefits

The Chamber has a gratuity scheme covering all confirmed employees provided they have completed the minimum qualifying period of five year. The liability is calculated on the basis of last gross salary drawn multiplied by number of years after confirmation of services.

3.5 Property, plant and equipment

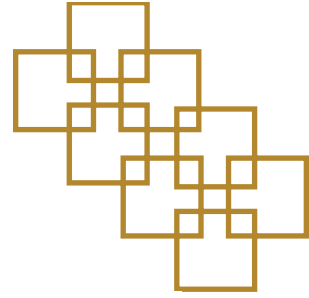
These are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation except for land. Depreciation is charged to income by applying the reducing balance method at the rates varying from 10 per cent to 30 per cent. Full year depreciation is charged on additions while no depreciation is charged on deletions during the year.

Maintenance and repairs are charged to income and expenditure account. Major renewals and improvements are capitalized. Gains and losses on disposal, if any, are included in income and expenditure account.

3.6 Capital work in progress

Capital work in progress is stated on cost. Cost comprises acquisition and other directly attributable costs.

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3.7 Investments

Investments are classified as held to maturity, which are securities with a fixed maturity that the fund has the intent and ability to hold until maturity.

3.8 Trade and other receivables

Trade and other receivables are stated at estimated realizable value after each debt has been considered individually. Where the payment of a debt becomes doubtful a provision is made and charged to the income and expenditure account.

3.9 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash in hand and at banks are carried at fair value. For the purpose of cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents consist of cash in hand, balances in bank and highly liquid short term investments.

3.10 Foreign currency translation

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into rupees at the rates of exchange prevailing on the date of transaction. All assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated at the rates of exchange prevailing at the balance sheet date. Exchange differences, if any, are reflected in the profit and loss account for the year.

3.11 Revenue recognition

Revenue is recognized when it is probable that the economic benefits associated with the transaction will flow to the Chamber and the amount of revenue and the associated cost incurred or to be incurred can be measured reliably, members' subscription and other incomes are accounted for on accrual basis.

3.12 Offsetting

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount is reported in the balance sheet, if the Chamber has a legally enforceable right to setoff the recognized amounts and the Chamber intends to settle either on a net basis or realize the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

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Note	2017		2016	
	Pak Rupees	Equivalent Dollars	Pak Rupees	Equivalent Dollars
4. GENERAL FUND				
Opening balance	57,980,643	553,252	53,672,374	512,214
Surplus for the year	789,522	7,975	4,308,269	41,518
	<u>58,770,165</u>	<u>561,227</u>	<u>57,980,643</u>	<u>553,732</u>
Exchange adjustments	-	(28,068)	-	(480)
	<u>58,770,165</u>	<u>533,159</u>	<u>57,980,643</u>	<u>553,252</u>

5. GRANT FOR CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

Friedrich Naumann Stiftung fur die Freiheit	606,500	5,502	606,500	5,787
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(566,231)	(5,137)	(561,473)	(5,358)
	<u>40,269</u>	<u>365</u>	<u>45,027</u>	<u>429</u>
Australian Aid	455,761	4,135	455,761	4,349
Less: Accumulated depreciation	(410,668)	(3,725)	(405,093)	(3,865)
	<u>45,093</u>	<u>410</u>	<u>50,668</u>	<u>484</u>
	<u>85,362</u>	<u>775</u>	<u>95,695</u>	<u>913</u>

6. GOVERNMENT GRANT

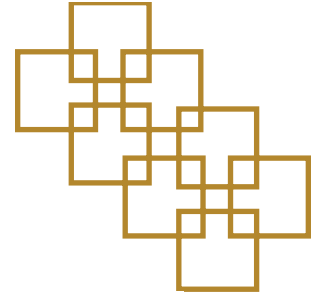
This represents amount received from Government of Pakistan for construction of SAARC CCI permanent headquarters in Pakistan (Sector G-10/4, Islamabad).

7. TRUST CORPUS

This represents amount received from patron, corporate and life members. It is utilized to finance activities of the SAARC Chamber as may be decided by the Executive Committee.

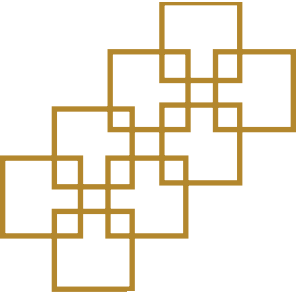
Note	2017		2016	
	Pak Rupees	Equivalent Dollars	Pak Rupees	Equivalent Dollars
8. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES				
Accrued expenses	137,997	1,252	723,072	6,900
Gratuity	4,671,537	42,380	3,438,391	32,809
Retention money	26,083,121	236,625	20,831,544	198,774
Payable to contractor	3,644,318	33,061	32,007,969	305,420
Others	2,934,917	26,625	-	-
	<u>37,471,890</u>	<u>339,943</u>	<u>57,000,976</u>	<u>543,903</u>

Call



PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Particulars	Land	Office equipment	Computers and communication equipments	Furniture and fixtures	Library books	FNF project assets	Ausaid project assets	Vehicles	Total
----- Rupees -----									
As at December 31, 2015									
Cost	14,443,530	1,236,802	910,590	556,909	21,672	606,500	455,761	2,966,207	21,197,971
Accumulated depreciation	-	(781,416)	(783,667)	(362,884)	(20,894)	(556,064)	(398,657)	(1,462,265)	(4,365,847)
Net book value	14,443,530	455,386	126,923	194,025	778	50,436	57,104	1,503,942	16,832,124
Year ended December 31, 2016									
Opening net book value	14,443,530	455,386	126,923	194,025	778	50,436	57,104	1,503,942	16,832,124
Additions	-	33,428	378,172	13,000	-	-	-	-	424,600
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation charge	-	(48,881)	(151,529)	(20,703)	(156)	(5,409)	(6,436)	(300,788)	(533,902)
Net: book value	14,443,530	439,933	353,566	186,322	622	45,027	50,668	1,203,154	16,722,822
As at December 31, 2016									
Cost	14,443,530	1,270,230	1,288,762	569,909	21,672	606,500	455,761	2,966,207	21,622,571
Accumulated depreciation	-	(830,297)	(935,196)	(383,587)	(21,050)	(561,473)	(405,093)	(1,763,053)	(4,899,749)
Net: book value	14,443,530	439,933	353,566	186,322	622	45,027	50,668	1,203,154	16,722,822
Year ended December 31, 2017									
Opening net book value	14,443,530	439,933	353,566	186,322	622	45,027	50,668	1,203,154	16,722,822
Additions	-	4,300	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,300
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation charge	-	(44,423)	(106,070)	(18,632)	(124)	(4,758)	(5,575)	(240,631)	(420,213)
Net: book value	14,443,530	399,810	247,496	167,690	498	40,269	45,093	962,523	16,306,909
As at December 31, 2017									
Cost	14,443,530	1,274,530	1,288,762	569,909	21,672	606,500	455,761	2,966,207	21,626,871
Accumulated depreciation	-	(874,720)	(1,041,266)	(402,219)	(21,174)	(566,231)	(410,668)	(2,003,684)	(5,319,962)
Net book value	14,443,530	399,810	247,496	167,690	498	40,269	45,093	962,523	16,306,909
Annual rate of depreciation (%)	0%	10%	30%	10%	20%	10 - 30	10 - 30	20%	20%



Particulars	Land	Office equipment	Computers and communication equipments	Furniture and fixtures	Library books	FNF project assets	Ausaid project assets	Vehicles	Total
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----- Dollars -----

As at December 31, 2015

Cost	137,840	12,258	9,051	5,538	221	6,185	4,618	29,383	205,094
Accumulated depreciation	-	(7,913)	(7,839)	(3,685)	(213)	(5,704)	(4,075)	(15,030)	(44,459)
Net book value	<u>137,840</u>	<u>4,345</u>	<u>1,212</u>	<u>1,853</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>481</u>	<u>543</u>	<u>14,353</u>	<u>160,635</u>

Year ended December 31, 2016

Opening net book value	137,840	4,345	1,212	1,853	8	481	543	14,353	160,635
Additions	-	319	3,609	124	-	-	-	-	4,052
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Exchange adjustments	(20)	5	14	-	-	1	2	26	28
Depreciation charge	-	(470)	(1,460)	(200)	(2)	(52)	(62)	(2,899)	(5,145)
Closing net book value	<u>137,820</u>	<u>4,199</u>	<u>3,375</u>	<u>1,777</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>430</u>	<u>483</u>	<u>11,480</u>	<u>159,570</u>

As at December 31, 2016

Cost	137,820	12,582	12,674	5,662	221	6,186	4,620	29,409	209,174
Accumulated depreciation	-	(8,383)	(9,299)	(3,885)	(215)	(5,756)	(4,137)	(17,929)	(49,604)
Net book value	<u>137,820</u>	<u>4,199</u>	<u>3,375</u>	<u>1,777</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>430</u>	<u>483</u>	<u>11,480</u>	<u>159,570</u>

Year ended December 31, 2017

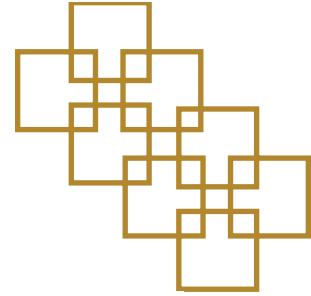
Opening net book value	137,820	4,199	3,375	1,777	6	430	483	11,480	159,570
Additions	-	41	-	-	-	-	-	-	41
Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Exchange adjustment	(6,789)	(194)	(131)	(81)	(1)	(20)	(21)	(483)	(7,720)
Depreciation charge	-	(418)	(998)	(175)	(1)	(45)	(52)	(2,265)	(3,954)
Closing net book value	<u>131,031</u>	<u>3,628</u>	<u>2,246</u>	<u>1,521</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>365</u>	<u>410</u>	<u>8,732</u>	<u>147,937</u>

As at December 31, 2017

Cost	131,031	12,429	12,543	5,581	220	6,166	4,599	28,926	201,495
Accumulated depreciation	-	(8,801)	(10,297)	(4,060)	(216)	(5,801)	(4,189)	(20,194)	(53,558)
Net book value	<u>131,031</u>	<u>3,628</u>	<u>2,246</u>	<u>1,521</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>365</u>	<u>410</u>	<u>8,732</u>	<u>147,937</u>

Annual rate of depreciation (%)

-	10	30	10	20	10 - 30	10 - 30	20
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	Note	2017		2016	
		Pak Rupees	Equivalent Dollars	Pak Rupees	Equivalent Dollars
9.1 Depreciation for the year has been allocated as under:					
Grant for capital items					
FNF		4,758	45	5,409	52
AUSAID		5,575	52	6,436	62
Administrative expenses		409,880	3,857	522,057	5,031
		<u>420,213</u>	<u>3,954</u>	<u>533,902</u>	<u>5,145</u>

9.2 Asset shown under Frieddrich Naumann Stiftung Fur die Freiheit (FNF) project having cost of Rupees 386,600 (2016 : Rupees 386,600) and Rupees 219,900 (2016 : Rupees 219,900) respectively are 100 percent financed by FNF.

9.3 Asset shown under AusAid project has total cost Rupees 569,700 (2016 : Rupees 569,700) from which 80 percent Rupees 455,760 (2016 : Rupees 455,760) is borne by AusAid and 20 percent Rupees 113,940 (2016 : Rupees 113,940) born by SAARC CCI.

	Note	2017		2016	
		Pak Rupees	Equivalent Dollars	Pak Rupees	Equivalent Dollars
10. CAPITAL WORK IN PROGRESS					
Opening balance		253,145,695	2,415,512	85,110,388	805,572
Additions during the year		197,912,592	1,795,451	168,035,307	1,603,390
		<u>451,058,287</u>	<u>4,210,963</u>	<u>253,145,695</u>	<u>2,408,962</u>
Less: Asset capitalized		-	-	-	-
		<u>451,058,287</u>	<u>4,210,963</u>	<u>253,145,695</u>	<u>2,408,962</u>
Exchange adjustment		-	(118,990)	-	6,550
		<u>451,058,287</u>	<u>4,091,973</u>	<u>253,145,695</u>	<u>2,415,512</u>

11. LONG TERM SECURITY DEPOSITS

Utilities	20,000	181	20,000	191
Land lord	75,000	680	75,000	716
	<u>95,000</u>	<u>861</u>	<u>95,000</u>	<u>907</u>

12. LONG TERM ADVANCES - STAFF

Total long term advances	967,000	8,773	789,000	7,529
Current portion of long term advances	(393,000)	(3,565)	(375,000)	(3,578)
	<u>574,000</u>	<u>5,208</u>	<u>414,000</u>	<u>3,951</u>

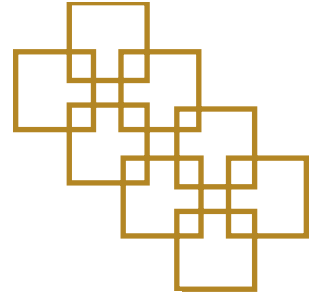
13. SHORT TERM INVESTMENT

This represents Term Deposit Receipts in MCB Bank Limited for a period of three months and carries mark up at the rate of 4.8 percent per annum.

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	Note	2017		2016	
		Pak Rupees	Equivalent Dollars	Pak Rupees	Equivalent Dollars
14. ADVANCES					
Advances to contractors		19,808,816	179,704	33,251,068	317,281
Other advances		32,670	296	-	-
Current portion of long term advances - staff		393,000	3,565	375,000	3,578
		<u>20,234,486</u>	<u>183,565</u>	<u>33,626,068</u>	<u>320,859</u>
15. RECEIVABLES					
Membership subscription	15.1	795,735	7,219	4,184,195	39,925
Bank profit		315,368	2,861	338,484	3,230
Interest receivable		25,683	233	398,159	3,799
Receivable		535,112	4,855	1,913,126	18,255
Receivable from FNF	15.2	-	-	525,603	5,016
		<u>1,671,898</u>	<u>15,168</u>	<u>7,359,567</u>	<u>70,225</u>
15.1 Membership subscription					
FBCCI		-	-	646,838	6,172
MNCCI		795,735	7,219	520,235	4,964
FNCCI		-	-	646,838	6,172
FCCISL		-	-	1,685,815	16,086
Institutional membership		-	-	684,469	6,531
		<u>795,735</u>	<u>7,219</u>	<u>4,184,195</u>	<u>39,925</u>
15.2 Receivable from FNF					
Opening balance		525,603	5,016	-	-
Seminars / conferences		13,327,232	120,904	9,688,356	92,446
Web expenses		-	-	300,418	2,867
		<u>13,852,835</u>	<u>125,920</u>	<u>9,988,774</u>	<u>95,313</u>
Claims received from FNF		(15,428,132)	(139,963)	(9,463,171)	(90,297)
		<u>(1,575,297)</u>	<u>(14,043)</u>	<u>525,603</u>	<u>5,016</u>
Exchange difference		-	(248)	-	-
Transfer to payables		1,575,297	14,291	-	-
		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>525,603</u>	<u>5,016</u>
16. CASH AND BANK BALANCES					
Cash in hand		392,883	3,564	353,462	3,373
Cash at banks:					
Local currency					
Current accounts		2,384,138	21,629	23,107,615	220,493
Saving accounts		65,011,566	589,781	44,520,730	424,816
Foreign currency		18,850,087	171,007	6,619,902	63,167
		<u>86,638,674</u>	<u>785,981</u>	<u>74,601,709</u>	<u>711,849</u>

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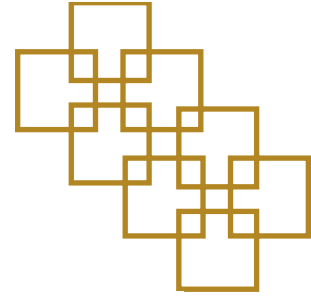


	Note	2017		2016	
		Pak Rupees	Equivalent Dollars	Pak Rupees	Equivalent Dollars
17. OTHER INCOME					
Interest income	17.1	2,385,845	22,459	6,624,679	63,840
Promotional activities	17.2	1,068,158	10,055	1,141,578	11,001
(Gain) / loss on currency translation		979,890	9,224	(548,288)	(5,284)
Visa facilitation		20,600	194	5,000	48
Bank profit		3,365,929	31,685	2,056,615	19,819
Event income		1,550,890	14,599	4,154,509	40,036
Revenue from other initiatives	17.3	5,147,560	48,457		
Donation		1,801,360	16,957	2,718,780	26,200
Council's revenue		863,597	8,130		
Other income		175,083	1,648	3,864	37
		<u>17,358,912</u>	<u>163,408</u>	<u>16,156,737</u>	<u>155,697</u>
17.1 Interest income					
Interest income - TDR		2,360,162	22,217	6,624,679	63,840
Interest income - Operational		25,683	242	-	-
		<u>2,385,845</u>	<u>22,459</u>	<u>6,624,679</u>	<u>63,840</u>
17.2 Promotional activities					
Receipts		2,805,855	26,413	1,218,578	11,743
Cost of publications		(1,737,697)	(16,358)	(77,000)	(742)
		<u>1,068,158</u>	<u>10,055</u>	<u>1,141,578</u>	<u>11,001</u>
17.3 Revenue from other initiatives:					
Receipts		8,658,222	81,504	-	-
Cost		(3,510,662)	(33,048)	-	-
		<u>5,147,560</u>	<u>48,456</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

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	Note	2017		2016	
		Pak Rupees	Equivalent Dollars	Pak Rupees	Equivalent Dollars
18. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES					
Staff salaries and benefits		15,172,801	142,830	10,398,687	100,209
Staff gratuity		1,233,147	11,608	808,919	7,795
SAARC event (travelling / accommodation)		2,634,852	24,803	2,278,675	21,959
Office rent		1,647,113	15,505	1,497,375	14,430
Communication		319,122	3,004	296,670	2,859
Website		401,366	3,778	-	-
Insurance		-	-	57,586	555
Electricity		256,016	2,410	211,891	2,042
Gas		91,130	858	55,170	532
Water		57,095	537	50,874	490
Entertainment		194,237	1,828	154,442	1,488
Giz - Advertisement		-	-	50,000	482
Vehicle running		40,716	383	90,022	868
Postage and courier		167,226	1,574	96,947	934
Souvenirs, medals and shields		144,528	1,361	664,900	6,407
Auditors' remuneration		50,000	471	50,000	482
Newspaper and periodicals		19,460	183	18,520	178
Printing and stationery		164,132	1,545	109,209	1,052
Repair and maintenance		264,710	2,492	207,230	1,997
Professionals		-	-	229,667	2,213
Depreciation		409,880	3,857	522,057	5,031
		<u>23,267,531</u>	<u>219,027</u>	<u>17,848,841</u>	<u>172,003</u>

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Note	2017		2016	
	Pak Rupees	Equivalent Dollars	Pak Rupees	Equivalent Dollars
19. CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Surplus for the year	789,522	7,975	4,308,269	41,518
Adjustment for:				
Depreciation	409,880	3,857	522,057	5,031
Financial charges	255,578	2,406	128,544	1,239
Provision for gratuity	1,233,147	11,608	808,919	7,795
(Gain) / loss on currency translation	(979,890)	(9,224)	548,288	5,284
	1,708,237	16,622	6,316,077	60,867
Working capital changes: (Increase) / decrease in current assets:				
Advances	13,391,582	137,294	9,141,395	95,060
Prepayments	(13,177)	(58)	764,347	7,295
Receivables	5,687,669	55,057	(4,624,809)	(44,126)
Increase / (decrease) in current liabilities:				
Trade and other payables	(20,762,233)	(215,568)	26,509,953	251,734
Advance from FNF	-	-	(3,335,413)	(31,831)
Cash generated from operations	12,078	(6,653)	34,771,550	338,999
Financial charges paid	(255,578)	(2,406)	(128,544)	(1,239)
Net cash (used in) / generated from operating activities	(243,500)	(9,059)	34,643,006	337,760

20. ABBREVIATION USED IN THESE FINANCIALS

FBCCI	Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
BCCI	Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
FICCI	Federation of India Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
MNCCI	Maldives National Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
FNCCI	Federation of Nepal Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
FPCCI	Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
FCCISL	Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry Srilanka.
ACCI	Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

21. FIGURES

In these financial statements figures have been rounded off to the nearest rupee and of the previous year have been re-arranged and re-grouped wherever necessary to facilitate comparison.

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Islamabad,

Humayun Saad
SECRETARY GENERAL

Amrood
DIRECTOR ACCOUNTS

SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, SAARC CCI

MR. RUWAN EDIRISINGHE

Senior Vice President SAARC CCI &
Managing Director
RN Group of Companies
Sri Lanka
No 532 /1, Kaduwela Road, Talahena,
Battaramulla, Sri Lanka
Tel: 0094- 115 399 999
Mob: 0094-777760269
Email: ruwan@rncons.lk , zeenath@rncons.lk

VICE PRESIDENTS, SAARC CCI

AFGHANISTAN

MR. MOHAMMAD YONASS MOHMAND

Vice President,
Tel: 0093-786000947
Email: m_y_786@yahoo.com

BANGLADESH

MR. MAHBUBUL ALAM

Vice President (Bangladesh) & Chairman
M. Alam Group, Crown Steel Ltd., M Alam Gas
Station Ltd
Bangladesh

173, Badsha Market, Khatungonj, Chittagong
Fax: 88-02-9576261, 9560590, 031-2867447
Tel: 0088-02-9569842
Mob: 0088-01819-311815
Email: mahboob@yahoo.com

BHUTAN

MR. KARMA DORJI

Vice President (Bhutan) & Managing Director
Karma Group of Companies
Bhutan
Mob: 00975-17110194
Email: karma@karma.bt

INDIA

MR. VINOD JUNEJA

Vice President (India) & Director
Gitanjali Gems Limited
India
B/6, 1st floor, B-Wing, Laxmi Towers, Behind
ICICI Banks, BandraKurla Complex, Bandra E,
Mumbai 400051
Tel: 022-42162371
Mob: 088-79986066
Email: vinodjuneja@gmail.com

MALDIVES

MR. MOHAMED RASHEED

Vice President (Maldives) & Managing
Director
Fudall Investment Maldives (FIM) Pvt. Ltd
Maldives

Borneo | Handhuvaree Hingun, Malé City

Fax: 960 333 2638
Tel: 00960-3305005
Mob: 00960-9922266
Email: mohamed@fudall.com

NEPAL

MR. OM BAHADUR RAJBHANDARY

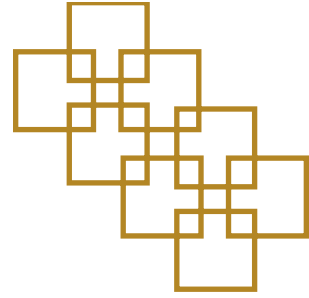
Vice President (Nepal) & Chairman
Brihat Investments Pvt. Ltd
Nepal

Kathmandu Business ParK, Block D,
Buddhabari, Teku, PO Box 25441
Fax: 977-1-4104604
Tel: 00977-4262061
Mob: 0097-9851022916
Email: ompurnima@hotmail.com

PAKISTAN

MR. IFTIKHAR ALI MALIK

Vice President (Pakistan) & CEO
Guard Group of Industries
Pakistan
80, Badami Bagh, Lahore
Fax: 92-42-37722627/7723988
Tel: 0092-42-37725616-18
Mob: 0092-300-8460034
Email: guard57@yahoo.com



AFGHANISTAN (EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS)

1. MR. MAHMOOD KARZAI

Afghanistan

2. MR. AJMAL SAFI

Director

A.J.P.I, Afghanistan

Tel: 0093-202104556

Mob: 0093-787803070

Email: Ajmal.safi@newabasin.com

3. MR. MUJAHIDULLAH SAFI

Managing Director

Best International Afghanistan

Address: Line No.1, Street 6, Haji Yaqoob Square, Kabul-Afghanistan

Tel: 0093-(0) 796 333 222

Mob: 0093-(0) 776 333 222

Email: Mujahid.safi@safigroups.com

4. MR. ZIAULHAQ WAZIRZAI

President

Paktika Wazirzai Limited, Afghanistan

Muhammad Sharif Plaza 2nd Floor Jada-e-Maiwand , Kabul

Tel: 0093-202222223

Mob: 0093-795858888

Email: ziaulhaq@wazirzaigroup.com

5. MR. ABDUL REZA KHALILI

President

Gholghola Group of Companies

SharakOmidSabz, Dasht-e-Barchi, Kabul, Afghanistan

Tel: 0093-783717758

Mob: 0093-795777888

Email: abdulrezakhan@yahoo.com

6. MR. JALALUDDIN SAEED

President

Associates in Development & Kanda Fruit

Process Company

Shorandam Industrial park Kandahar, Afghanistan

Tel: 0093-798200003

Mob: 0093-798200003

Email: Jalal@kandafruit.af

7. MR. BAZ MOHAMMAD AFSARZAI

Industrial Vice Chairman ACCI & President

Afsar kahn Ltd. Afghanistan

Tel: 0093-788000150

Email: io@acci.org.af

8. HAJI SHARAFUDDIN

Board member ACCI

Afghanistan

Tel: 0093-799373333

9. MR. ETIBAR KHAN ZADRAN

President

Zadran group of companies, Afghanistan

Tel: 0093-786266666

Email: zad_group@yahoo.com

AFGHANISTAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS:

1. MR. FEDA MOHAMMAD SHIRZAD

President

Milad Al Mahdi Tourist Co

Afghanistan

Shaheed Mazaril Road, Naqash Station-13th

District- Kabul, Afghanistan

Tel: 0093-777065556

Mob: 0093-0202570644

Email: miladalmahdi@yahoo.com

2. MR. ABDUL BASER OMARZAY

President

Owmarzai Ltd

Afghanistan

Tel: 0093-786255252

3. MR. ENAYATTULLAH HAFIZ

Vice President

Amin Ulhadid Ltd

Afghanistan

GulBahar Center-Malik Azghar Square- Kabul,

Afghanistan

Tel: 0093-799656161

Mob: 0093-776211211

Email: enayat_hafiz@yahoo.com

4. MR. INSAF AFGHANISTAN

Tel: 0093-777202020

5. HAJI SEDIQ

Afghanistan

6. HAJI AHMADULLAH

7. MR. TURYALAI WESA

Afghanistan

Tel: 0093-799666444

8. MR. PARWIZ KHWAJA

Vice President

Maisam steel Mill & payman ice cream

Afghanistan

Tel: 0093-799502000

Email: parwiz1979@gmail.com

9. MR. NOOR AHMAD AHMADI

President
Mustafa Ltd Afghanistan
Tel: 0093-788303060

10. MR. HAIDARI

BANGLADESH EC MEMBERS:

1. MR. MD. SHAFIUL ISLAM (MOHIUDDIN)

First Vice President, FBCCI
Former President, BGMEA
Managing Director, Onus Group
Office Address: Federation Bhaban (2nd Floor)
60, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.
Business Address: 95/B, D.I.T Road, Malibagh Chowdhury
Para, Dhaka-1219,
Contact Numbers:
Tel: +88-02-9551233, PABX: +88-02-9560102-3, 9332114,
9341097, 9335982
Mob: +88-01711-528988
Fax: +88-02-9576261, 9560590, 8319964
E-mail:fbccci@bol-online.com, shafiul@onusgroup.com
Web: www.fbcci-bd.org,www.onusgroup.com

2. MRS. MONOWARA HAKIM ALI

Director, FBCCI
Former First Vice-President, FBCCI & SAARC CCI
Vice-President, Founder President, Chittagong Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Vice Chairman, Intraco Group
Business Address: 24, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong
Dhaka Office: 69, Suhrawardy Avenue Baridhara, Dhaka-1212
Tel: +88-02-9881887, 8810630, 9863383
Mob: +88-01715-034444, 01199702425
Fax: +88-02-8819921, 031-710572
Email: monowarahali@yahoo.com, info@cwcci.org,
Website: www.cwccibd.org , www.intracogroup.com

3. MR. MD. HELAL UDDIN

Director, FBCCI &
Former Vice President, FBCCI
President, Maize Association of Bangladesh
Proprietor, M/s, Nilmoys Traders
M/s. Nilmoys Travel & Tours
Mailing Address: 120, Century Archade (2nd Floor)
Outer Circular Road, Moghbazar, Dhaka,
Tel: 8322901 (O), Cell: 01711-545068

Email: helal_u33@yahoo.com

4. MR. SHAFQUAT HAIDER

Director, FBCCI
Managing Director, Ciproco Computers Ltd.
House # 120 (1st Floor), Road # 13
Block-E, Banani, Dhaka 1213
Tel: 58815411 (O), 9893371 (R)
Mob: 01711-532597,
Email: ciproco@bol-online.com
Web: www.ciproco.com

5. MR. SHEIKH FAZLE FAHIM

Director, FBCCI
Managing Director
Obsidian Bangladesh Ltd.
138, Sheikh Bari, Tungipara, Gopalganj.
Dhaka Address:
House # 121, Road # 01 Unit-5/C, Banani, Dhaka.-1213
Tel: 9871100 (O), 8815400 (R)
Fax: 0088 9872666, Cell: 01819-242824
Email: info@obsidian.com.bd,
Web: www.obsidian.com.bd

6. MR. MD. REZA UL KARIM REZNU

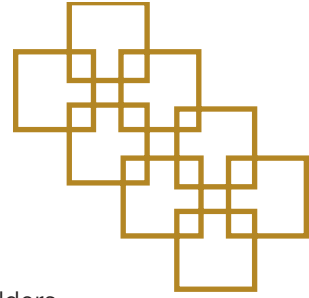
Director, FBCCI
President, Jamalpur Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Managing Director, M/s. Javed Filling Station
Business Address: New Bus Terminal, Modhupur Road, Jamalpur
Dhaka Address: Evergreen Meena Flat # B-1, Road # 8/A, House # 48, Dhanmondi, Dhaka.
Tel: +88-0981-63271, 63337
Cell: +88-01711632277, 01711-532937
Email: rejnu27@gmail.com

7. MR. MD. HABIB ULLAH DAWN

Director, FBCCI
Former President, BARVIDA
Chairman & Managing Director, A.M. Group
Managing Director, Auto Museum Ltd
Proprietor, M/s. A.M. Corporation
House# 16, Road # 111, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212.
Tel: 9896042, 9860013 (O), 9855423 (R)
Mob: 01713-007127, Fax: 0088 8852814
Email: habibudawn@gmail.com, aml_gulshan@yahoo.com
Web: www.automuseumltd.com

8. MR. NIZAMUDDIN RAJESH

Director, FBCCI
Proprietor, Ishak & Brothers
4/1, Imamgonj Bazar Lane, Dhaka.
Tel : +88-02-7310796 (O)
Mob: +88-01711-548413
Email : nizam9395@yahoo.com

**9. MRS. NAAZ FARHANA AHMED**

Director, FBCCI
 President, Dhaka Women Chamber of
 Commerce & Industry
 Managing Director, Kanak Handicrafts Ltd.
 Jatiya Scout Bhaban (9th Floor),
 70/1, PuranaPaltan Line, Kakrail, Dhaka.
 Tel: 8322722
 Mob: 01819-217618
 Fax: 0088 8313553, E-mail: naazfarhana@
 yahoo.com
 Web: www.dwcci.org

10. MRS. SELIMA AHMAD

Former Director, FBCCI
 President, Bangladesh Women Chamber of
 Commerce &
 Industry
 Vice Chairman, Nitol-Niloy Group
 Nitol Centre (14th Floor), 71, Mohakhali C/A,
 Dhaka-1212.
 Tel: +88-02-9861526, 9887071;
 Fax: +88-02-9841296, 9883121
 Mob: +88-01711522858,
 Email: selimaahmad@gmail.com , nita@
 citechco.net
 Website: www.bwcci-bd.org , www.
 nitolmotors.com

BANGLADESH GA MEMBERS**1.MR. KHANDAKER RUHUL AMIN**

Director, FBCCI
 Chairman, Khandaker Group
 Khandaker Tea Tower, 48-50, Captain Bazar,
 Dhaka-1203.
 Tel: 7114801, 7123686(O)
 Mob: 01713-007727, 01919-667788
 Fax:0088 9564523
 Email: khandakergroup@yahoo.com
 Web: www.khandakergroupbd.com

2. MR. MD. AMIN HELALY

Director, FBCCI
 President, Bangladesh Pathya Pustak
 Mudrak-O-Biponon Samity
 Managing Director, Hologram Bangladesh
 Ltd.
 Address: 102, Kakrail (2nd floor), Dhaka-1000
 Tel: 8300160 (O)
 Mob: 01711-532801
 Email: holobdltd69@yahoo.com,
 doshdishagroup@yahoo.com

3. MR. MOHAMMAD NIZAM UDDIN

Director, FBCCI
 President, Barisal Metropolitan Chamber of
 Commerce & Industry
 Chairman, Nizam Group of Company

Managing Director, Adventure Ship Builders
 Ltd.
 Address: House # 81/83, Flat No-A-7, Road #
 4,
 Block-B, Nikaton Housing Society, Gulshan-1,
 Dhaka.
 Tel: +88-02-9360752, 9853837, 9891088,
 Mob: +88-01911360454, 01716-240540,
 Fax: +88-02-9892354,
 Email: advesl@yahoo.com, bmcci@yahoo.
 com, nizamenterprise@yahoo.com,
 Web: www.nizamgroup.com.bd

4. MR. DILIP KUMAR AGARWALA

Director, FBCCI
 Managing Director, Diamond World Ltd.
 Boro Bazar, Chaudanga-7200
 Dhaka Address: 68/1, Gulshan Avenue (2nd
 floor)
 Gulshan-1, Dhaka-1212
 Tel: 9898228, 9883942, 8831817 (R)
 Mob: 01622-666666, 01711-549640
 Email: dilipkumar@diamondworldtd.com,
 dilipkumaragarwala@gmail.com
 Web: www.diamondworld.com

5. MR. SHAMEEM AHMED

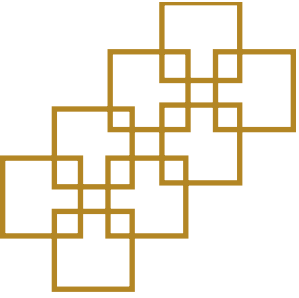
Director, FBCCI
 Proprietor, M/s. Sayeed Enterprise
 14/39, New Market,
 Laldighirpar, Sylhet
 Address: House # 8/10 (2nd floor) Road # 13,
 Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka.
 Tel: 0821-728890(O), 0821-728838 (R)
 Mob: 01711-447798, 01733-335915
 Fax: 0821-715210
 E-mail: asplbd@gmail.com, sp.associate@
 gmail.com

6. MR. TABARAKUL TOSADDEK HOSSAIN KHAN TITO

Director, FBCCI
 Chairman, AHBAB Group
 M/s. Munnu Filling Station
 Borongail, Shibaloya, Manikgonj
 Dhaka Address:
 House # 25, Flat No. E/5 Road No. 3,
 Dhanmondi, Dhaka.
 Mob: +88-01711-854090
 Email: titomfs@yahoo.com

7. MR. MD. MUNTAKIM ASHRAF

Director, FBCCI
 Managing Director
 Chandina Farmland & Cold Storage Ltd.
 Flat-AB-3, House 29, Road # 121 Gulshan-1,
 Dhaka.
 Tel: 8832602-3(O), 9899888 (R)
 Fax: 9899888, Cell: 01819-401286
 E-mail: navin401286@yahoo.com



8. MR. S.M. MANNAN (KOCHI)

Vice President, BGMEA
Managing Director, Seha Design (Bd) Ltd.
United Edible Oil Ltd.,
Plot # 4, Block-D, Kalsi Road, Avenue-1,
Section # 11,
Mirpur, Dhaka-1216
Tel: +88-02-8140310-20, 8015561, 8023939,
Mob: +88-01711807605,
Fax: +88-02-8140322-23, 8113951, 8013504,
9007858,
E-mail: smmannan@bttb.net.bd, kochi@
bgmea.com

9. MR. ALHAJ MD. NURUN NEWAZ SALIM

Senior Vice-President, Chittagong Chamber
of Commerce & Industries
Chairman, NCC Bank Ltd.
Electro Mart Ltd.
Managing Director, Newaz International Ltd.
Wazhico Tower (2nd Floor), 263, Jubilee
Road, Chittagong
Tel: +88-031-2524543 (Chamber Direct),
621131, 612961, 615999 (Res)
Mob: +88-01711720738
Fax: +88-031-623160, 713464,
Email: nnewaz@globalctg.net; rushdi@
electromartltd.com.bd

BHUTAN EC MEMBERS

1. MR. SINGYE NAMGYEL DORJI

Joint managing Director
RSA pvt Ltd
Tel: 0097577114133
Email: singyenamgyal@gmail.com

2. MR. DORJI TSHERING

President
Bhutan Exporters Association
Phuentsholing, Bhutan
Tel: +975-5-251917
Fax: +975-5-251918
Mob: +975-17110108
EM: kenpalimited@gmail.com, beap@
druknet.bt

3. MS. CHENCHO TSHERING

Managing Director
Wangchuk hotels & resorts
Tel: 0097517110503
Email: taba@wangchukhotel.com

4. MR. KARMA DORJI

Managing Director
M/s e Druk
Tel: 0097517110488

Email: edruk@edruk.com.bt

5. MR. THINLAY GYAMTSO

Executive Committee Member
Contractor/ Chairman/Chief Executive
Officer
Construction association of bhutan (CAB)
Telephone No: 05-254508
Fax: 05-253139
Mob: 0097517601580
Email: tnk_construction46@yahoo.com

6. MR. DASHO SONAM TOBGAY

Vice Chairman and Managing Director
Lhaki Group of Companies
P.O Box 179, Gomtu, Bhutan
Tel: +975-5-371042
Fax: +975-5-371020
Mob: +975-17117072
Email: lhakicement@yahoo.com,
lhakicement@druknet.bt

7. MS. CHIMI ZANGMO

M/s Dorji Elements, Thimphu
Tel: 0097517112454
Email: chimizangmo@gmail.com

8. MR. CHHIMI DORJEE

M/s Bhutan Bhutan Travel
TEL: 0097517113936
Email: info@bhutan-bhutan.com
chhimibcci@gmail.com

9. MR. KARMA DHENDUP

CEO
M/s Athang Training Academy
Tel: 0097317110989
Email: karma@athang.com

BHUTAN GA MEMBERS

1. MR. CHENCHO NIDUP

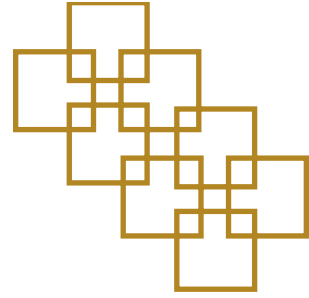
Managing Director
Druk Event
Mob: +975-77110974
Email: druk_events77@yahoo.com

2. MR. NIM DORJI

Managing Director
Zimdra Building Materials
Tel: 0097517111351
Email: dorji_nim@yahoo.co.in

3. MR. TENZIN JAMTSO

Proprietor
Yeshe Dorji Central mall
Tel: 0097517634042
Email: teejaydruk@gmail.com

**4. MR. LOBSANG TSHERING**

CEO
LT Medical and Diagnostic Services
Mob: +975-17118889
Email: lt_assoc@yahoo.com

5. MS. KARMA TSHERING DENKA

Managing Director
Karyang Medi-Call Services
Mob: +975-17863431
Email: karmatsheringdenka@gmail.com

6. MR. SONAM PHUNTSHO

Managing Director
Bhutan Nortor Adventures
Tel: 0097517118130
Email: bhutannortor@gmail.com

7. MR. JIGME THINLEY

Managing Director
Dzambala supplier
Tel: 0097517114243
Email: info@dzabalabhutan.com

8. MR. RINJAY

Managing Director
Losel Phendey Consultancy, Bhutan
Mob: +975-17641964
Email: lpeduconsultancy@gmail.com

9. MR. PHURPA THINLEY SHARPA

Proprietor
Lhatshog
Tel: 0097517624123
Email: phurba73@gmail.com

10. MS. THINLEY LHAM

Managing Director
Wangchuk Hotels and Resorts
Post Box No: 507 Thimphu, Bhutan
Tel: +975-2-365262
Fax: +975-2-365164/ 326232
Mob: +975-17110504
EM: druktrin@hotmail.com
Web: www.wangchukhotel.com

INDIA EC MEMBERS**1. MR. B K BAJORIA**

Chairman & Mg Director
Seagold Exports Pvt Ltd.
305, Bharat Chambers 52-C, Baroda Street
Mumbai 400 009
Tel: 022 49109999, 23480037/1376/1126/1239
Mob: 09821053020
Fax: 022 49109911, 23480285
Email: bkbajoria@hotmail.com

2. MR. VINOD AHUJA

Managing Director
VRA Cotton Mills Pvt Ltd.
M-31 A, Greater Kailash Market Part II, New
Delhi 110 048
Tel: 011 29213982, 29211981
Mob: 9810185007
Fax: 011 29212226
Email: chairman@ahuja-group.com;
pvrahuja@gmail.com

3. MS. ARCHANA GARODIA

President
FICCI Ladies Organisation &
Director
Touchstone Gems & Jewelry India (P) Ltd.
F-106, Sector - 8, Noida 201 301, Uttar
Pradesh
Tel: 0120 2424871 /2424759
Mobile: 09810344443
Email: archana_garodia@hotmail.com

4. MR. RAMESH KUMAR MUTHA

Vice President, SAARC CCI &
Managing Director
Mohan Mutha Exports Pvt Ltd.
Siyat House, 961, Poonamali High Road,
Chennai 600 084
Tel: 044 43444600 (D), 43444666 /625
Mob: 9840062232
Fax: 044 26430087/89
Email: rkmutha@mmexports.com

5. MR. SUNIL DUGGAL

Chief Executive Officer
Dabur India Limited
Kaushambi, Sahibabad, Ghaziabad 201 010
Tel: 0120 4182543 (D), 3982000, 3962100,
39412525
Fax: 01 20 4374929, 4374876
Email: duggals@dabur.com

6. MR. SUDHIR DEORAS

Past Chairman - CII (Eastern Region) &
Managing Director
TRF Limited (Tata Group)
11, Station Road, Burmahines, Jamshedpur -
831 007
Tel: 91-657-3046266 / 221
Tel: 91-033-22885018
Fax: 91-657-2345712
Email: sdeoras@trf.co.in

7. MR. HAKIMUDDIN ALI

Managing Director
BU India, South Africa and Middle East
Calderys India Refractories Limited
Fidvi Tower 6th Floor, Opp. Saraf Chambers,
Mount Road, Sadar, Nagpur - 440 001.
Tel: +91 7122536228

Mob: +918805172999
Email: Hakimuddin.Ali@calderys.com

8. MR. SANJAY JADHAV

Vice President and Head of International Operation for South Asia
Mahindra & Mahindra Limited
India

9. MR. HAZIQ BEG

Chief Operating Officer
IL & FS Energy Development Company Ltd
India

10. MR. SHREE GOPAL KABRA

President
R R Group
Ram Ratna House, Oasis Complex, P. B. Marg, Worli, Mumbai – 400 013, India.
Fax: 0091 – 22 – 2491 2586
Tel: 0091 – 22 – 2494 9009 / 2492 4144
Email: rrkabel@rrglobal.in; shreegopal.kabra@ramratna.com

INDIA GA MEMBERS

1. MR. RAJEEV CHADHA

Director - Marketing
Spray Engineering Devices Ltd.
14-18, First Floor, Srinath Complex, S D Road Secunderabad 500 003
Tel: 040 86310603, 66329509
Mob: 9391384849 / 9849996790
Fax: 040 27840677
Email: chadharajeev@gmail.com

2. MR. HARVINDER MANOCHA

Vice President - Business Development
GMR Consulting Services Pvt Ltd.
Airport Building - 302
New Udaan Bhawan Complex
Near Terminal 3, IGI Airport
New Delhi 110 037
Fax: 011 25661409
Tel: 011 47157603, 47165702, 25661000
Mobile : 9910383076
Email: harvinder.manocha@gmrgroup.in

3. MR. RAJIV MALHOTRA

Executive Director and Chief Risk Officer
PTC India Limited
2nd Floor, NBCC Tower, 15 Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi – 110066
Fax: 011 41659144
Tel: 011 41595105
Mob: 9818456201
Email: rajiv@ptcindia.com

4. MR. PANKAJ KUMAR TANDON

Snr. Vice President
KEC International Limited
Bldg No. 9A, 8th floor
DLF Cyber City, Phase III
Gurgaon-122 002
Tel: 0124 6757630
Mobile: 9810373156
Fax: 0124 6757617/18
Email: tandonpk@kecrpg.com

5. MR. SATINDER SINGH BANGA

Managing Director
Victoria Tool Engineers Pvt Ltd.
Plot No. 46, Sector 25
Faridabad 121 023
Tel: 0129 4192800
Mob: 9811081162
Fax: 01 29 2230504
Email: ssbanga@victoratool.com, sunil@victoratool.com

6. MR. RAMESH HANDA

Chairman & Mg Director
Saya Automobiles Ltd.
A-21/22, G T Karnal Road
Azadpur Industrial Area
Azadpur, Delhi 110 033
Tel: 011 47088888, 25918855, 27231957, 27231960
Mob: 9811020668
Fax: 011 27445502, 27216900
Email: handaramesh@sayaindia.com

7. MR. MOHAN SHUKLA

Chief – External Affairs
Bharti Enterprises
Email: mohan.shukla@bharti.in
Mob: 98102 71430

8. MR. DURGESH BUXY

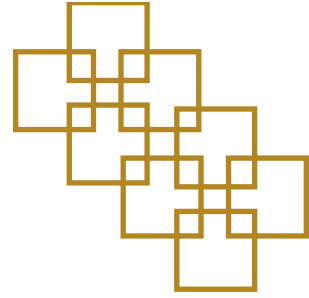
Head International Sales
Orient Electric-a CK Birla Group Company
India

9. MR. ANIL KUMAR

Chairman
Ankita Overseas Limited
India

10. MR. SUNIL SURESH UPLAP

Managing Director
Shubham Aqualink Pvt. Ltd
India



NEPAL EC MEMBERS

1. MR. CHANDRA PRASAD DHAKAL

Executive Chairman
IME Group, Pioneering Spirit
Nepal
P.O.Box-19797, IME Complex, Panipokhari,
Kathmandu
Fax: 00977 4425800
Tel: 00977-4430600
Mob: 00977-98510 85929
Email: chandra@imeremit.com

2. MR. GYANENDRALAL PRADHAN

EC Member
FNCCI
Nepal
Fax: 00977 4439319
Tel: 00977-4434003-8
Mob: 00977-98510 21222
Email: glp2067@gmail.com

3. MS. RITA BHANDARY

Executive Director:
Federation of Women Entrepreneurs
Association
Ramshah Path, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: 977 1 2003080
Fax: 977 1 4239942
Email: ritaniwas@gmail.com

4. MR. SHAHIL AGRAWAL

Joint Managing Director
Jag Damba Steels Pvt. Ltd.
7th Floor, Jag Damba Tower, Subida Nagar
Tinkune, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel: +977-1-4111322
Fax: +977-1-4111852/94
Email: shahil@shankergroup.com

5. MR. RAJENDRA MAN SHERCHAN

Chairman & CEO
Himalayan Center for Education and
Development
Tel: 4271208, 4271014, 4270315
Fax: 4282111, 4271704, 4271395
Mob: 98510 21761
Email: rmsherchan@stcnepal.com,
rmsherchan@gmail.com

6. MR. R.B RAUNIAR

MD
Interstate Multimodal Transport Pvt. Ltd
Telephone: 4271473,4271987,4283863
Fax: 00977 4271570
Mob: 98510 20313
Email: rauniar@mos.com.np

7. MRS. PRAMILARIJAL

Former President,

SAWDF Nepal

Tel: 4247682

Mob: 98510 97113

Email: pramila_rijal@hotmail.com,sawdf321@
hotmail.com

8. MR. ASHOK KUMAR BAID

Director
Shalimar Group of Companies
Birgunj, Nepal
Tel: 977-51-521568/521024
Fax: 977-51-522893
Mob: 977-98029 22156
Email: Ashok.baid@shalimar.com.np

NEPAL GA MEMBERS

1. MS. JYOTSNA SHRESTHA

EC Member, FNCCI
Mob: 9851067559
shrestha_jyotsna2003@yahoo.com

2. MR. RAJAN SHARMA

EC Member, FNCCI
Mob: 98510 20211
Email: rssharma760@gmail.com

3. MR. SANDEEP KUMAR AGRAWAL

Managing Director
Shiva Shakti Group Nepal
Teku, Kathmandu
Tel: 977-1- 4100041
Fax: 977-1-4100051
Mob: 977-98510 20911
Email: ssgu@gadia.com.np

4. MRS. SHREEJANARANA

Executive Director
Hotel Annapurna Pvt. Ltd.
Durbar Marg, Kathmandu
Tel: 977-1-4269991
Mob: 977-98020 24964
Email: shreejana@annapurnacorporate.com

5. MR. VIJAY DUGAR

Vice Chairman
HC Dugar Group
Thimi, Bhaktapur
Tel: 977-1-6630102/6630417
Fax: 977-1-6630102
Mob: 977-98010 20342
Email: vdugar@mail.com.np, hppl@mail.com.
np

6. MR. BIJAY DALMIA

Immediate Past President - Mechi CCI
Tel: 977-23-562864
Mob: 977-98526 72787; 98014 00078
Email: bijay2dalmia@gmail.com

7. MR. PAWAN KUMAR SARDA

President, Morang Merchant's Association
 Director, Sharda Group
 Morang, Biratnagar
 Tel: 977-21-524075
 Fax: 977-21-523903
 Mob: 977-98520 20128
 Email: pawan@shardagroup.com

8. MR. RAM KUMAR SHARMA UPADHYAY

President, Siddharthangar Chamber of
 Commerce and Industry
 Managing Director, Top Wood Furnitures
 Siddharthanagar, Rupandehi
 Tel: 977-71-524405
 Fax: 977-71-521619
 Mob: 977-98570 12405
 Email: ram405sharma@gmail.com

9. MR. PRADEEP KUMAR KEDIA

President, Birgunj Chamber of Commerce
 and Industry
 Director, Kedia Organization
 Birgunj, Parsa
 Tel: 977-51-522092
 Fax: 977-51-522086
 Mob: 977-98550 21686
 E-mail: nst@kedianepal.com; pradeepkedia@
 kedianepal.com

10. MR. SHIV SHANKAR SAH

President, Janakpur Chamber of Commerce
 and Industry
 Proprietor, Anju Traders
 Janakpur, Dhanusa
 Tel: 977-41-520571
 Fax: 977-41-528914
 Mob: 977-98540 25851
 Email: jccipresident12@gmail.com

PAKISTAN EC MEMBERS

1. MR. ZUBAIR AHMED MALIK

EC Member SAARC CCI & Former President
 FPCCI
 SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry
 (Permanent Headquarter)
 397, Street No 64, I-8/3,
 Islamabad
 Tel : +92-51-4860612-3
 Fax : +92-51-8316024
 Mob: +92-300-5207447
 Email:barrymalik@hotmail.com

2. MIAN MUHAMMAD ADRESS

Immediate Past President FPCCI
 Chairman & CEO Sitara Chemical Industries
 Ltd (Pakistan)
 Chairman Pakistan Chemical Manufacturers

Association

President Federation of Pakistan Chambers
 of Commerce & Industry (FPCCI) - 2015
 President ECO Chamber of Commerce &
 Industry (2015)
 President D-8 Federation of Chambers of
 Commerce & Industry (2015)
 President Faisalabad Chamber of Commerce
 & Industry
 (2004-05)
 Multiple Council Chairman MD 305
 International Association of Lions Club
 (2003-04)

3. MR. S. M. NASEER

Chairman
 Din Leather (Pvt) Ltd
 Din House, 35-A/1, Lalazar Area, Opp Beach
 Luxury Hotel P.O. Box No 4696 Karachi
 -74000
 Tel: +92-21-35610001-3-4
 Fax: +92-21-35610009,3 5610455
 Mob: +92-300-8244100, 333-2403000
 Email: dingroup@dingroup.com,
 fayyazahmed@dingroup.com

4. MR. SAIFUDDIN N. ZOOMKAWALA

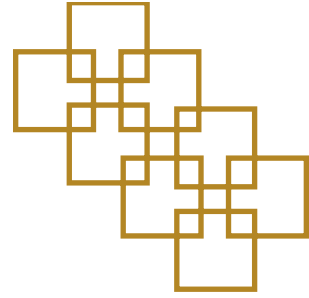
Chairman
 General Insurance Ltd.
 EFU House 1st floor, M.A. Jinnah Road
 Karachi
 Tel: +92-21-32312379,2310967
 Fax: +92-21-32310450
 Mob: +92-333-2334242
 Email: saifuddin@efuinsurance.com

5. MR. ZUBAIR F. TUFIAL

CEO
 Tufail Chemical Industry Ltd
 Mezz Floor, Progressive Centre 30-A/6,
 P.E.C.H.S, Main Sharhrah-e-Faisal
 Karachi.
 Tel: +92-21-34388204/8
 Fax: +92-21-4546688
 Mob: +92- 300-8203555
 EM: ptufail@tufailgroup.com

6. MR. HAMEED AKHTAR CHADDA

Former Vice President -FPCCI
 Former Chairman-PCSUMEA & Partner
 New Stainless Industries
 Arif Shaheed Road, Nazimabad
 Wazirabad
 Tel: +92-055-6600577/6600677/6602477
 Fax: +92-055-6600004/6600944
 Mob: +92-302-4500300
 Email: hameedchadda@yahoo.com

**7. MIAN TARIQ YAQOOB**

Chief Executive
Tariq Enterprises
Liaquat Market Sargodha, Punjab
Pakistan
Tel: 0092-300-8602222
Email: mian_tariq_yaqoob@live.com

8. MR. SHABAN KHALID

President
Commonwealth Alliance of Young
Entrepreneurs -Asia (CAYE-Asia)
Director
Ittehad Steel Industries.
Plot # 417, Industrial Area, Sector I-9/3,
Off 9th Avenue, Islamabad.
Tel: +92 (51) 443 5500, 5600, 5700.
UAN. +92 (51) 111 500 300.
Email: sadaf.tahir@ittehad.com.pk

9. MS. SHAISTA PERVEZ MALIK

Chairperson SCWEC
Address: 142-E/1, Gulberg-III, Lahore.
Mob: 92-300-8420120
Email: shaistapervaiz@hotmail.com

PAKISTAN GA MEMBERS**1. MR. RIAZ-UD-SHEIKH**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Comet Sports (Pvt.) Limited
Nasir Road, Sialkot
Tel: +92-52-590282/589001
Mob: +92-300-8615337
Email: comet@cometgroup.com.pk

2. MR. MUHAMMAD PERVEZ LALA

Managing Partner
VIP Processing Company
Business address: 15 - A Model Town Lahore
1/2., KM Sheikhpura Road Shahdara
Lahore
Tel: +92-02-37922362
Fax: +92-42-37920862
Mob: +92-300-8461936
Email: pevez.lala@lalatextles.com

3. MR. MANZOOR-UL-HAQ

Proprietor
Industrial Option
Km Lahore Sheikhpura Road Lahore
Lahore
Tel: +92-42-327168711-12
Mob: +92-300-8484522
Email: industrialopt@gmail.com

4. MR. MALIK SOHAIL HUSSAIN

Chairman Coordination FPCCI
FPCCI, 1st Floor, Chamber House, G-8/1,
Islamabad

Pakistan
Tel: 0092-51-2251891
Fax: 0092-51-2251894
Mob: 0092-333-5155300
Email: malick.sohail@yahoo.com

5. HAJI NASIM-UR-REHMAN

Executive Committee Member
Mardan Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Mardan Chamber of Commerce & Industry
Chamber House, Aiwan-e-Sanat-o-Tijarat
Road,
College Chowk, Mardan (KPK) Pakistan
Tel: (+92) (937) 9230215

6. MR. ATIF IKRAM SHEIKH

Director Marketing & Finance
Mujhaid Group of Industries
191-192, Street # 6
Sector I/9-2, Industrial Area
Islamabad
Tel: +92-51-4430237-38
Fax: +92-51-4433043
Mob: +92-300- 8549797
EM: info@mujahidgroup.com

7. MR. GULZARFEROZ

CEO
Feroz International
2nd Floor, Aiwan-e-Sanat, Plot-ST 4/2, Sector
23, Korangi Industrial Area
Karachi
Tel: +92-21-35062200-1-3
Fax: +92-21-35062203
Mob: +92-3
Email: info@firozinternational.com

8. ENGR. DAROO KHAN ACHAKZAI

CEO
Daroo Khan & Bros.
Trading Co.
603-604, Trench Road, Chaman, Pakistan
Tel: 0092-826-613553
Fax: 0092-826-613999
Mob: 0092-345-8870111
Email: dbchaman@yahoo.com

9. MR. NASIR UDDIN SHEIKH

Chairman, Fairs, Exhibitions & Trade Delegate
Standing Committee of FPCCI
Royal Optical Company
209-A, Continental Trade Center , Main
Clifton Road
Karachi
Tel: +92-21-35303111-13
Fax: +92-21-35303114
Mob: +92-300-8222344
Email: roptico@cyber.net.pk

10. SHEIKH SAQIBSALEEM

Chief Executive
House of surgical Pvt. Limited
13-km, Daska Road, Sialkot
Tel: 0092-52-33080-90
Fax: 0092-52-3303066
Mob: 0092-306-611111
Email: sheikh.saqib@hotmail.com

SRI LANKA EC MEMBERS

1. MR. SARATH KAHAPALARCHCHI

President, FCCISL
Chairman and Managing Director, Sachitra
Group of Companies
“Federation House”
No 467 1/1, Sri Mavo Bandaranayake Mawatha
, Colombo14 , Sri Lanka
Tel: 0094112334740 /0112334744
Fax: 0094 112334755
Mob: 0094772280953
Email: sarath@sachitragroup.com

2. MR. DESHABANDUMACKYHASHIM

Past President, SAARC CCI
Past President, FCCISL
Managing Director
Malship Group of Companies
Level 4 & 7, Valiant Towers,
No 46/7, Navam Mawatha, Colombo 2, Sri
Lanka
Tel: 0094 11 4 656000/01
Fax: 0094 11 2 348 931/32
Email: mackkyhashim@gmail.com

3. MR. NAWAZ RAJABDEEN

Past President -FCCISL
Vice President -Confederation SAARC
Industries
International Society of Small and Medium
Enterprise ISSME
No 192, Nawala Road, Narahenpita, Colombo
05 Sri Lanka
Tel: 0094112808315 / 0094112807500
Fax: 0094112348931-2
Mob: 0094 777722128
Email: nawaz_rajabdeen@gmail.com

4. MR. TISSA JAYAWEERA

Past president, FCCISL
Chairman, Chelsea Enamels (Pvt) Ltd
No 51/2, Ananda Coomaraswamy Mawatha,
Colombo 03, Sri Lanka
Tel: 0094112574622
Fax: 0094 112575423
Mobile: 0094722243468
Email: tissaj2009@yahoo.com

5. MS. SHIRLY JAYAWARDENA

Managing Director/Editor
Media Vision (PVT) LTD
Excel building Peradeniya Rd Kandy Sri Lanka
Tel: 0812229520
Mob: 0094775510789
Email: shirleyjaya@hotmail.com

6. MR. AJITHWATTUHEWA

Immediate Past President, FCCISL
Managing Director -Central Pre Cured
Retreads (Pvt) Ltd and Maxton Holdings
(Pvt) Ltd
No 3, Jayanthi Mawatha, Pelawatte,
Battaramulla, Sri Lanka
Tel: 0094112334740
Fax: 0094 112334755
Mob: 0094777797974
Email: ajith@maxtonholdings.com

7. DR. AMILAKANKANAMGAE

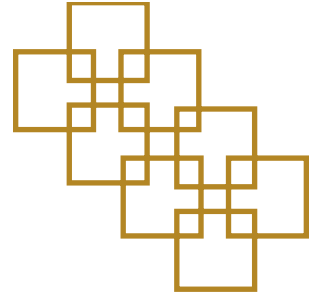
Director, FCCISL
Founder President, Colombo Chamber of
Commerce
Managing director, E3X Global Group of
Companies
Level 03, GPD Building,
No 58, Dharmapala Mawatha, Colombo 07
Tel: 0094117 444 789
Fax: 0094114 503 411
Mob: 0094 777 34 111
Email: amila@e3xglobal.com

8. MR. KEERTHI GUNAWARDENA

President,
International Chamber of Commerce Sri
Lanka
No 53, Level 5 Vauxhall Lane, Colombo 2, Sri
Lanka
Fax: 0094 11 2307841
Tel: 0094- 11 5333392
Mob: 0094- 77 7350677
Email: keerthi@gsrilanka.com

9. MRS. NAFISAT RIFA MUSTHFA

President
Women’s Chamber of Industry and
Commerce
Sri Lanka
No. 380/7, Sarana Road, Bauddhaloka
Mawatha, Colombo 07, Sri Lanka
Fax: 0094 11 2669074
Tel: 0094- 11-2671762
Mob: 0094-7777397993
Email: wcicsl1@sltnet.lk



GA MEMBERS SRI LANKA

1. MR. RUWAN DE SILVA

Director, FCCISL
 Managing Director, Sripalie Contractors (Pvt) Ltd
 No.06, S.H Dahanayake Mawatha,
 Kaluwella, Sri Lanka
 Tel: 0094 91 2246953
 Fax: 0094 91 2233004
 Mobile: 0094777798084
 Email: ruwandayajeewa@gmail.com , ruwan@sripalie.com

2. MR.DESHAMANYA S.P. LIYANARACHCHI

President -National Construction Association of Sri Lanka

No. 350 A, Pannipitiya Road, Pelawatta, Sri Lanka
 Fax: 0094 11 2784355
 Tel: 0094 11 2786325 -26
 Mob: 0094 777 305403
 Email: sunilliyandarachchi@ymail.com

3. MS. AYANTHI GURUSINGHE

Managing Director
 ARAVA (Pvt.) Ltd
 Karpos Consultants (Private) Limited
 No 344, Deens Road, Colombo 10, Sri Lanka
 Tel: 0094112793174
 Mob: 0094773087594
 Email: ayanthi17@gmail.com

4. MR. EVAN ANDREW PERERA

Managing Director
 St Anne's Factory Enterprises (Pvt.) Limited
 No 3/3, Rockwood Place, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka
 Tel: 009411 2677244
 Mob: 0094 777714888
 Email: evan@cocoana.com

5. MR. ROSHAN PRIYANTHA RUBASIN

Gunawardena
 Chairman, SUNRAY Auto (Pvt.) Ltd
 SUNRAY Sand (Pvt.) Ltd
 Dostharawaththa Papiliyana Road,
 Nugaegoda, Sri Lanka
 Tel: 0094112816000
 Mobile: 0094777900970
 Email: roshangunawardana65@gmail.com

6. MR. MANGALA DESHAPRIYA JAYASINGHE

Managing Director
 ICS Team (Pvt) Ltd / THK Electrical Engineering (Pvt) Ltd
 No 121, New Kandy Road, Kottalawela,
 Kaduwala, Sri Lanka
 Fax: 0094112 548 880

Tel: 0094-114373872
 Mob: 0094-714324588
 Email: thk@sltnet.lk; md@icsteam.lk

7. MR. WANSAPRIYYA GUNASEELA

8. DR. M. ROHITHA SILVA

Managing Director
 Idac Pvt Limited, Sri Lanka
 21, Sri Sunandarama Road, Kalubowila, Sri Lanka
 Fax: 0094-11-2763800
 Tel: 0094-11-2764000
 Mob: 0094-777750180
 Email: idac@idacgroup.com

9. MR. GAMINI FERNANDO

10. DR. KITHSIRI MANCHANAYAKE



**SAARC CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE & INDUSTRY**

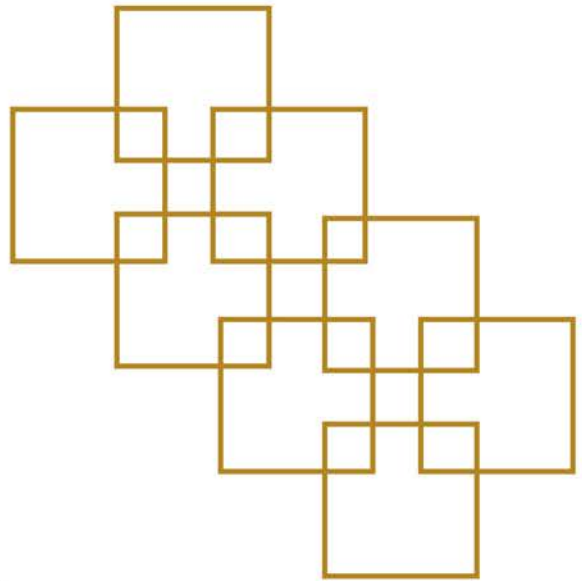
APEX BUSINESS ORGANIZATION OF SAARC

CONTACT US:

No. 397, Street 64, 1-8/3,
Islamabad-44000, Pakistan.
Tel: +92 51 4860612-3, 8316023
Fax: +92 51 8316024
Email : info@saarcchamber.org



SOUTH ASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION



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www.saarcchamber.org