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**SAARC Chamber of Commerce
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Apex business organization of SAARC

SAARC CCI Young Entrepreneurs Forum (SYEF)

**November 24, 2009
Colombo-Sri Lanka**

Supported by

Friedrich Naumann
STIFTUNG **FÜR DIE FREIHEIT**

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Launching of SAARC CCI Young Entrepreneurs Forum (SYEF) November 24, 2009 – Colombo (Sri Lanka)

The SAARC CCI Young Entrepreneurs Forum (SYEF) is a program to invite young business professionals and leaders from various business sectors of South Asian countries including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka at one stand of SYEF. It will tap on the resources, skills and experience of the members to interact and exchange ideas regularly, and help develop entrepreneurial skills to achieve personal and professional growth. The young entrepreneurs will also play an active role in the development of the South Asian region. It is a platform which will focus on issues of regional importance in the economic and social agenda of South Asia. SYEF will provide its members access to a dynamic network of peers and corporate leaders on a regional level.

As a strategic initiative to bring together young business leaders so as to groom them to be the next generation of business leaders for South Asia, SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SAARC CCI) has organized ceremony of launching SAARC CCI Young Entrepreneurs Forum (SYEF) supported by Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF) on November 24, 2009 at Colombo (Sri Lanka).

The objectives of the SYEF shall be as follows:

- To bring about closer contacts and interactions between young entrepreneurs in South Asia for regional fellowship and cooperation
- To introduce and share new ideas and business models that can be adapted by young entrepreneurs of the region in key growth areas.
- To complement the efforts of SAARC CCI to promote economic cooperation and integration of SAARC into a global economy.
- Providing out-of-the-classroom education through ideas, experience sharing, discussions, and interactions with business professionals across South Asia.
- To create a network of new generation entrepreneurs with competencies in enterprise development, information technology, communication, entrepreneurship and global trade.
- To create an organized platform for young business professionals to play an active role in the development of businesses and industry in their communities.

The launching of SYE Forum was addressed by Ex. Parliamentarian Mr. Ramiah Yogarajan, Chairman of the Plantation & Human Development Trust, National Organizer of Ceylon Workers Congress on behalf of Minister of Youth Empowerment and Socio-economic Development (Sri Lanka). Welcome address was given by Mr. Tariq Sayeed, President SAARC CCI. Dr. René Klaff, Regional Director-South Asia (FNF), Mr. Kosala Wickramanayaka, President FCCISL presented their remarks

The mission of SYEF is to fabricate a new league of young business leaders from the region that are equipped with the knowledge and ability to meet the challenges of the dynamic business world.



(Left to Right): Mr. Iqbal Tabish, SG-SAARC CCI, Mr. Kosala Wickramanayaka, President FCCISL, Mr. Ramiah Yogarajan, Chairman of the Plantation & Human Development Trust, National Organizer of Ceylon Workers Congress (Sri Lanka), Mr. Tariq Sayeed, President SAARC CCI, Dr. René Klaff, Regional Director, South Asia, (FNF) and Mr. Zubair Ahmed Malik, ECM-SAARC CCI.

on launching of forum. Mr. Zubair Ahmed Malik, Executive Committee Member of SAARC CCI offered vote of thanks while Mr. Iqbal Tabish, Secretary General, SAARC CCI participated as moderator at the Forum. The Forum brought together young business professionals, VP of SAARC CCI, EC members from SAARC countries to share views and participate in the discussions with the other participants.

Mr. Tariq Sayeed, President SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SAARC CCI) while launching SYEF said that SAARC CCI intended to enable its members, who are amongst the most successful in South Asia, to hone their leadership and strategic business skills, and to gain broad perspectives beyond company and industry concerns.

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“With globalization and the rapidly changing market dynamics, it is imperative that we nurture young, visionary business leaders who are aware, articulate and willing to serve a larger cause” said Mr. Sayeed and added that the SAARC CCI recognizes the need to cultivate a core group of Young Entrepreneurs and CEOs aged 40 and below to be the next generation of business leaders to steer South Asia ahead in the local and international arena.

The building of a common Singapore business community heart ware of working together is also one of the important goals of SYEF. According to an estimate one fourth of the Small and Medium Enterprises are owned by young entrepreneurs, however, the share of new entrepreneurs in total SMEs activities is only 10%, indicating discouraging trend, which is due mainly to the presence of number of constraints faced by young entrepreneurs in South Asia. Mr. Sayeed identified some major constraints faced by Young Entrepreneurs comprising difficulty in Finding Qualified Labour, Access to Finance, Instability of Demand, Levels of Taxation, Low Profitability, Government Regulations, Equipment Renewal and Managerial Skills and recommended the respective Governments in South Asia to take concrete measure to encourage and promote entrepreneurship in their respective countries.



Mr. Shahrukh Malik, Director-Guard Group (Pakistan)

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while addresses the forum quoted statement of Albert Einstein: “If I have seen farther than others, it is because I was standing on the shoulders of giants”. He appreciated the launching of SYEF and thanked leadership of SAARC CCI for initiating this forum and said that as young entrepreneurs we should appreciate the change that has been brought, and now build upon this to face future challenges with our end goal to make South Asia a true regional integrated bloc, in terms of economy, technology, investment, and above all people. SAARC has progressed but the opportunities that await us are endless.



Mr. Ashutosh Bajpai, Director, South Asia, Public Policy of DHL Group (Express & Logistics) (India)

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presented his remarks at the launching of SYE Forum and said that SAARC countries are facing common critical challenges, such as developing young great resource by offering quality education, gainful employment and good healthcare. Governments and policy makers across the region are looking at youth issues, mainly education and employment, and their impact on their countries’ development. South Asia’s youth are the key agents for SAARC’s present and future development. Young Entrepreneurs have an important responsibility to succeed. SYEF is a window of opportunity to make young entrepreneurs successful and to fulfill the dreams that each of us have cherished.

Dr. René Klaff, Regional Director, South Asia, FNF

appreciated idea of launching SYEF and said that the inclusion of new generation in forum will help to promote economic cooperation in the region and this transformation of business will help bringing people across region closer together.

Mr. Zubair Ahmed Malik, Executive Committee Member of SAARC CCI in his vote of thanks also appreciated the launching of SYE forum and added that about 45% of the total population of South Asia forms young community (below 30 years), which is one of the biggest advantages for South Asia. He urged upon the veteran businessmen to transfer their experiences and knowledge to their children, which will develop more successful generation, which is already attuned to the knowledge-based economy. He also appreciated Mr. Vickramjith Singh Sahany, Executive Committee Member from India who fully supported him in drafting of Young entrepreneurial concept & necessary rules for this forum.

Note:- Applications are invited for SYEF Membership (Application form is printed at the back page.)



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SAARC Chamber Young Entrepreneurs Forum (SYEF)

Application No: (Official)

Application for Membership

Part A: General Information

Surname..... First Name.....
 Name (Middle)..... Sex..... DOB (dd/mm/year).....
 Mailing Address.....
 Telephone No.:..... Email.....
 Country citizenship No./Passport No.:.....
 Permanent Address (if different from above).....
 Occupation..... Industry.....
 Name of Institution/organization..... Designation.....
 Address of Institution.....
 Office Telephone No; Fax:
 Mobile:

Father's Name.....
 Father's Occupation/ Company.....

Part B: Opinion about Entrepreneurship

Please comment on the following statements in general (for assessment purpose only)

1. Describe yourself as an entrepreneur. What is your general business philosophy and ideology?

.....

2. Where do you see yourself and your nation in the next 10 years?

.....

Applicant's
 Signature.....Date.....
My signature indicates that all information in my application is complete, factually correct, and honestly presented.

For official use only: Approval (SYEF/SAARC CCI) App.
Fee.....Number.....other.....

Dear Applicant,
 Thank you for your interest in the SAARC Chamber Young Entrepreneurs Forum (SYEF). Please send the duly filled form to the SYEF mailing address given below, with *two copies of your PP size photographs and a copy of your valid country citizenship card/passport.*

Fee for Annual Membership:
US \$ 300 (Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Maldives).

US \$ 200 (Bhutan, Nepal, Afghanistan)
 Mode of Payment: DD/PO/TT In the Favor of
 (SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry)
 Account title: SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Ind
 Account No: 0183109451000300
 Bank Name: MCB Bank Limited.
 Bank Address: I-8, Markaz Islamabad
 Swift Code: MUCBPKKA

Postal address:
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