

**PBBF ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD  
FROM 01.01.2017 to 31.12.2017**

**1) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Mr. Mohammed A.Rajpar (President)  
Mr. Sameer H.Dodhy (Vice President)  
Mr. Zahid Dada (Vice President)  
Mr. Syed Khurram Bukhari (Secretary General)  
Mr. Takreem ul Haque (Treasurer)  
Mr. S.Salahuddin Haider (Executive Committee Member)  
Mr. Haider Haqi (Executive Committee Member)

**2) MEMBERSHIP**

Membership strength was **66** as at 31st December, 2017 which was 66 as on 31st December, 2016.

**3) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**2** meetings of the Executive Committee were held on Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2017 and **Wednesday, 2nd November, 2017.**

**4) BELGIAN AMBASSADOR'S VISIT TO FSRU EXQUISITE AT PQA**

H.E.Mr. Frédéric Verheyden, Belgian Ambassador to Pakistan visited PQA on 29th March, 2017 in order to meet Mr.Agha Jan Akhtar, Chairman, PQA and to visit Belgian flag FSRU Exquisite anchored at PQA.

**5) BELGIAN BUSINESS CONTACT DAY & BELGIAN COMPANIES CATALOGUES EXHIBITION AT THE KCCI**

The Economic & Commercial Representation, Embassy of Belgium organized a Belgian Business Contact Day & Belgian Companies Catalogues Exhibition at the Karachi Chamber of Commerce & Industry on Thursday 30th March 2017.

The Exhibition was jointly inaugurated by the Ambassador of Belgium H.E. Mr. Frédéric Verheyden and the President of the KCCI Mr. Shamim Ahmed Firpo in the presence of KCCI Executive Committee Members at 11:30. Mr.Sameer Hamid Dodhy, Vice President, Mr.Takreem ul Haque, Treasurer and Mr.Syed T.Hussain, Executive Officer were present during the inauguration.

**6) 19th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF PBBF**

The 19th Annual General Meeting of the Pakistan – Belgium Business Forum was held at 12.00 a.m. on Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2017 at Marriott Karachi which was followed by a talk on CPEC by Mr.Khurram Hussain, a renowned senior columnist of Dawn who was associated with the Woodrow Wilson Centre in Washington DC in the past. Members found his talk very informative and incisive.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Karachi alongwith some other senior Federal and Provincial government officials held a networking/interaction session with members.

**7) INTERACTIVE SESSION ON PAKISTAN VISION 2025**

PBBF in collaboration with PABF, PKBF, PRBC, PJBFB, PIBC, PFBA, and GPCCI organized an interactive session on "Pakistan's Vision 2025" with special reference on "CPEC Gateway to Pakistan's Future Prosperity" on Monday, 8th May, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at Karachi Marriott Hotel (Crystal Ball Room) followed by Dinner. The Governor of Sindh Mr.Mohammad Zubair graced the occasion as Chief Guest whilst renowned Economist Dr.Qaiser Bengali was the key note speaker.

Mr.Mohammed A.Rajpar and Members of PBBF were in attendance.

## **8) INAUGURATION OF THE BELGIAN PAVILION AT THE POGEE 2017 (16-18 MAY) AT THE KARACHI EXPO CENTRE**

The Economic & Commercial Representation, Embassy of Belgium showcased the Belgian technology & know-how in the oil, gas, energy & industrial sectors through a vast number of company catalogues at the POGEE exhibition in Karachi Expo Center , Hall 2, Stand 2-144 from 16 till 18 May 2017.

H.E.Mr. Frédéric Verheyden, Belgian Ambassador to Pakistan inaugurated the Belgian Pavilion on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> May, 2017. Mr.Sameer Hamid Dodhy, Vice President and Mr.Takreem ul Haque, Treasurer were present during the inauguration.

## **9) BLCCA ACADEMY & GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF FEDERATION OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY OF BELGIUM (FCCIB)**

Mr.Mohammed Rajpar attended the Chamber Academy and General Assembly organized by FCCIB on 31<sup>st</sup> May -1<sup>st</sup> June, 2017 in Brabant Wallon, Belgium. This is a bi-annual event attended by a host of local Belgian - Luxembourg Chambers as well as Chambers located abroad e.g. Africa, Caribbean, Japan, Pakistan, etc.

The general content of the meeting comprised presentations on various initiatives undertaken by some chambers, exchange of best practices, networking and future strategies and activities. PBBF's representative also conducted a series of bilateral meetings with Belgian Government agencies as well as local Chambers from various regions of Belgium and requested them to disseminate the true picture of Pakistan as an investment and trade opportunity for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

## **10) BELGIAN KING'S DAY SUPPLEMENT**

On King's Day, 15th November, 2016 a supplement in Dawn was published in which following members placed advertisements: Mr.Asif Ali Rashid of Al-Murtaza Machinery Co. (Pvt). Ltd., Mr.Humayun Ishtiaq of Nawab Brothers Steel Mills (Pvt) Ltd., Mr.Faisal Iftikhar Ali of Deep Blue Seafoods (Pvt) Ltd., Mr.Mohammed A.Rajpar of General Shipping Agencies (Pvt.) Ltd., Mr.Sameer Hamid Dodhy of The Indus Basin Company, Mr.Asim Saeed Khan of General Maritime (Pvt) Ltd., Mr.Babar Badat of ECU Line Pakistan (Pvt.) Ltd., Mr.Khalid Lakhani of RABICO, Mr.Syed Ammar Bukhari of Ahbab Associates and Mr.Syed Salahuddin Haider of Century 21 USA Karachi.

## **11) BELGIAN MENU DINNER IN HONOUR OF THE BELGIAN AMBASSADOR**

On 22nd November, 2016 PBBF took the initiative of organizing a Belgian menu dinner in honour of H.E.Mr. Frédéric Verheyden which was attended by PBBF members as well as renowned individuals from business and government circles. In addition, Diplomats from Russia, Switzerland, U.K., U.S.A., etc attended.

In his address Mr.Mohammed A.Rajpar, President PBBF stated that in 2015 Pakistan's exports to Belgium recorded a new high of Euros 379.8 million whereas Belgian exports to Pakistan recorded slight decline in 2015 amounting to Euros 314.71 million.

H.E.Mr. Frédéric Verheyden appreciated PBBF's initiatives in cementing bilateral relations between the two countries. He informed about participation of a Belgian company in defense exhibition IDEAS 2016.

H.E.Mr. Frédéric Verheyden also presented a certificate from the Fund Christoffel Plantin to Sister Jeanine Geuns in recognition of her extraordinary work at the Marie Adelaide Leprosy Centre (MALC) in Manghopir. He also highlighted difficulties being faced by her in renewal of her Pakistani visa and appealed for help and assistance in this regard.