

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 54 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, 21st March, 2017 and Monday, 9th October, 2017.

4) PRESIDENT PBBF'S ISLAMABAD VISIT

Mr.Mohammed A.Rajpar, President, PBBF held a luncheon with Mr.Roland Reiland, the Deputy Ambassador of Luxembourg on 16th March, 2017.

Mr.Mohammed A.Rajpar, President, PBBF attended opening of Belgian cartoon/poster exhibition on Thursday, 16th March, 2017 at Marriott Islamabad which was also due to be displayed at Marriott Karachi (with inauguration by the Ambassador on 29th March, 2017).

Mr.Mohammed A.Rajpar, President, PBBF was invited by the Belgian Ambassador, H.E.Mr. Frédéric Verheyden for lunch on Friday, 17th March, 2017 at his residence. Mr.Abid Husain, Mr.Karel Van Hecke and Mr.Bruno Vandecasteele were in attendance alongwith spouses.

Mr.Mohammed A.Rajpar, President, PBBF gave a briefing on the political, security and economic situation of Karachi with a special focus on ports, shipping and logistics sectors especially in light of CPEC.

5) 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.

6) 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.

7) 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, 1st April, 2017 at Marriott Karachi which was followed by a talk on CPEC by Mr.Khurrām 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.

8) INTERACTIVE SESSION ON PAKISTAN VISION 2025

PBBF in collaboration with PABF, PKBF, PRBC, PJBF, 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.

9) 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 16th May, 2017. Mr.Sameer Hamid Dodhy, Vice President and Mr.Takreem ul Haque, Treasurer were present during the inauguration.

10) BLCCA ACADEMY & GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF FEDERATION OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY OF BELGIUM (FCCIB)

Mr.Mohammed Rajpar, President, PBBF attended BLCCA Academy on 31st May - 1st June and General Assembly of FCCIB on Friday 2nd June in Brabant Wallon, Belgium.

Mr.Mohammed A.Rajpar spoke about the opportunities presented by CPEC and the current robustness of Pakistan's economy. The information was appreciated by all present.

Mr.Mohammed A.Rajpar also spoke about PBBF's activities particularly the recent AGM where a networking opportunity was provided for PBBF members with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Karachi alongwith other senior Federal and Provincial government officials. He also contrasted the quality of our events versus quantity (same for membership and resources). I also mentioned the impending conversion from Pakistan Belgium Business Forum (PBBF) to Pakistan Belgium Luxembourg Business Forum (PBLBF).

The strands of his thoughts were picked up by the FCCIB President and the representative of the Spanish chapter.

During the only bilateral meeting scheduled for PBBF, Mechelen Chamber requested assistance on HALAL meat branding.

Overall the content of all three days was useful and PBBF's presence was welcomed and appreciated.

11) REGISTRATION WITH SECURITIES & EXCHANGE COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

As approved during the EOGM held on 5th September, 2015 the General Body had agreed to convert Pakistan Belgium Business Forum (PBBF) to Pakistan Belgium Luxembourg Business Forum (PBLBF) i.e. from bilateral to trilateral business forum.

Subsequently, PBBF engaged M/s.M.R.Merchant & Co. for completing process of obtaining license and registration with SECP under Companies Act 2017.

On 25th September, 2017 after more than two years of hectic, cumbersome and time consuming process SECP granted PBLBF license No.1125 under Companies Act, 2017 pending registration with SECP Karachi office.

Subsequently, PBLBF started process of registering itself with SECP Karachi office. On 20th December, 2017 SECP Karachi office formally granted Certificate of Incorporation to PBLBF.

12) BELGIAN KING'S DAY SUPPLEMENT

On King's Day, 15th November, 2017 a supplement in Dawn was published in which following members placed advertisements: Mr.Amir Aziz of M/s. KICT, Mr.Asim Saeed Khan of M/s.General Maritime (Pvt) Ltd., Mr.Babar Badat of M/s. ECU Worldwide (Pvt) Ltd., Mr.Kalim Farooqui of M/s. Technology Links (Pvt.) Ltd., Mr.Mohammed A.Rajpar of M/s. General Shipping Agencies, Mr.Muhammad Awais Humayun of M/s. Humayun Wellchem Trading Concern, Mr.Sameer Hamid Dodhy of M/s. The Indus Basin Company, Mr.Syed Ammar Bukhari of M/s. Ahbab Associates, Mr.Syed Salahuddin Haider of M/s. Century 21 USA Karach, Mr.Zahid Dada of M/s. Steel Agencies Corporation