

PBBF ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01.01.2015 to 31.12.2015

1) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (2014-2015)

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

2) MEMBERSHIP

Membership strength was 70 as at 31st December, 2015.

3) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

3 meetings of the Executive Committee were held on Wednesday, 28th January, 2015, Friday, 12th June, 2015 and Saturday, 7th November, 2015.

4) 17th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF PBBF

The 17th Annual General Meeting of the Pakistan – Belgium Business Forum was held at 11.30 a.m. on Saturday, 14th March, 2015 at the Beach Luxury Hotel.

5) INTERACTIVE SESSION WITH H.E. MR. KHURRAM DASTGIR KHAN ON 22 JANUARY 2015

Pakistan Belgium Business Forum, Pakistan Australia Business Forum, Pakistan France Business Alliance, German Pakistan Trade and Investment, Pakistan German Business Forum, Italian Development Committee, Pakistan Russia Business Council and Pakistan Sri Lanka Business Forum jointly organized an interactive session on "Prime Minister's Vision 2025" with Mr.Khurram Dastgir Khan, Federal Minister of Commerce on Thursday, 22nd January, 2015 at Karachi Marriott hotel. Members of PBBF were in attendance.

6) LAHORE CHAPER OF PBBF

A working lunch was held at the residence of H.E.Mr.Peter Claes, Belgian Ambassador to Pakistan in which discussion regarding the launch of the Punjab/Lahore Chapter of the PBBF was discussed. Mr.Mohammed A.Rajpar, Mr.Sameer Hamid Dodhy and Mr.Sohail A.Mohammadi attended on behalf of PBBF while Mr. Karel Van Hecke, Counsellor, Mr.Abid Husain, Belgian Trade Commissioner, Dr.Ata ul Haque, Economic Advisor in Lahore and Mr.Athar Rafiq were also present. It was decided to form a Steering Committee which will oversee preparation and launch of Lahore Chapter.

7) INAUGURATION OF THE BELGIAN PAVILION AT THE POGEE 2015 (23-25 APRIL) AT THE KARACHI EXPO CENTRE

The Belgian Trade Commission participated in POGEE 2015 (23-25 April) at the Karachi Expo Centre. H.E.Mr.Peter Claes, Belgian Ambassador to Pakistan inaugurated the Belgian Pavilion

on Thursday 23rd April, 2015. Mr.Mohammed A.Rajpar, President and members of PBBF were also present.

8) BELGIAN AMBASSADOR'S VISIT TO FSRU EXQUISITE AT PQA

H.E.Mr.Peter Claes, Belgian Ambassador to Pakistan visited PQA on 24th April, 2015 in order to meet Mr.Agha Jan Akhtar, Chairman, PQA and to visit Belgian flag FSRU Exquisite anchored at PQA.

9) FAREWELL DINNER IN HONOR OF H.E.MR.PETER CLAES, BELGIAN AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN BY PBBF ON 24TH APRIL, 2015

PBBF hosted a farewell dinner in honour of Patron-in-Chief H.E.Mr.Peter Claes, Belgian Ambassador to Pakistan on 24th April, 2015 at 8:30 p.m. at Karachi Marriott hotel wherein members of PBBF were present. Mr.Mohammed A.Rajpar, President, PBBF thanked the Ambassador for his guidance, support and patronage during his tenure. In his remarks, H.E.Mr.Peter Claes, Belgian Ambassador to Pakistan thanked PBBF for its role in promotion of bilateral business and cultural activities between the two countries.

10) FEDERATION OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY OF BELGIUM (FCCIB)

Mr.Mohammed Rajpar and Mr.Syed Khurram Bukhari attended the Chamber Academy and General Assembly organized by FCCIB on 27-28 May, 2015 in Mons, 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 representatives 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 21st Century.

One of the Assembly sessions was graced by Mr. Pieter De Crem, Secretary of State for Foreign Trade, whom Mr.Mohammed A.Rajpar addressed and particularly spoke of the USD 46 billion China Pakistan Economic Corridor as an opportunity for trilateral cooperation.

11) INTERACTION WITH POTENTIAL MEMBERS OF LAHORE CHAPTER

PBBF organized a meeting followed by Lunch in order to meet H.E.Mr.Peter Claes, Belgian Ambassador to Pakistan with potential members of PBBF's Lahore chapter on Saturday, 15th August, 2015 at 12:30 p.m. at Pearl Continental Hotel, Lahore.

12) MEETING WITH MR.JOHAN SORENSEN

The Executive Committee of PBBF met with Mr.Johan Sorensen, Counsellor and Head of Political, Trade and Communication Section, European Union Delegation to Pakistan at Belgian Consulate Karachi on 6th August, 2015 at 1200 hours wherein matters of mutual interest were discussed. Mr.Johan Sorensen inquired about ease of doing business in Pakistan, problems being faced by business community and opportunities, overall security situation in Pakistan. The idea of an EU-Pakistan Business Advisory Group was also discussed in the meeting.

12) EXTRA ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF PBBF

An Extra Ordinary General Meeting of the Pakistan – Belgium Business Forum was held at 12.00 noon on Saturday, 5th September, 2015 at Karachi Marriott hotel, followed by lunch wherein members approved:

1. Change of name from Pakistan Belgium Business Forum (PBBF) to Pakistan Belgium Luxembourg Business Forum (PBLBF).
2. Conversion of PBBF/PBLBF from bilateral to trilateral business forum.
3. Inclusion of patronage of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

14) GHENT TRADE FAIR, BELGIUM – SEPTEMBER 12-20, 2015

The Ghent Fair is the largest consumer Trade Fair in Flanders, Belgium organized under the patronage of the Belgian King. It is also an active, commercial, professional, information and guidance platform and has a professional economic dimension too.

Exhibitors of Textile Fabric & Garments, Home Textile / Bed Linen including Bed Sheets & Covers, Towels, Curtains etc., Rice, Fruits & Vegetables and Other Food Products, Sports Goods, Surgical & Dental Instruments, Carpets & Rugs, Leather Garments & Leather Goods, Footwear, Sanitary Ware, Gems & Jewellery, Handicraft (Wooden/ Metallic, Onyx & Marble etc.) Herbal Products, Cosmetics & Healthcare, etc. participates in the Ghent Trade Fair.

The Ghent Fair is the ideal moment to promote import/export opportunities or possible investment programmes, and to establish new contacts helping the economy and relations.

One of the main items within the fair is the Guest of Honour country and for the 2015 edition, Pakistan was selected as the Guest of Honour country through the efforts of the Pakistani Ambassador in Brussels.

The Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP) took the challenge with vigour and enthusiasm and managed to put together a delegation of business persons, artists and musicians to promote the products and soft image of Pakistan. At the Fair's conclusion Mrs. Rabiya Javeri Agha, Secretary, TDAP gifted a traditional rickshaw which was decorated in Pakistani art/motifs to the city of Ghent.

Mr.Mohammed A.Rajpar, President, PBBF also attended the Ghent Fair apart from extending help and support to TDAP and the Pakistan Embassy in Brussels in every possible manner in preparations for the event.

15) MEETING WITH MR.TOM BALTHAZAR & MR.STEFAN DERLUYN

Mr.Mohammed A.Rajpar, President, PBBF on Monday, 14th September, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. met with Deputy-Mayor of Ghent Mr.Tom Balthazar wherein Mr.Stefan Derluyn, Manager (International Department), Voka – CCI East-Flanders, representatives of Trade Development Authority of Pakistan and Pakistan Embassy in Brussels were also present.

16) PBBF DINNER FOR BELGIAN TRADE DELEGATION ON 5TH OCTOBER, 2015

PBBF organized a dinner in honour of Belgian Trade delegation on 5th October, 2015 at 8:00 p.m. at Karachi Marriott Hotel.

The delegation comprised companies from both the Walloon and the Flemish regions and was accompanied by the Belgian Ambassador to Pakistan H.E.Mr. Frederic Verheyden, Mr.Abid Husain, Belgian Trade Commissioner and Ms. Karine de Vleeschouwer, Area Manager Central & South Asia, Flanders Investment & Trade.

PBBF arranged B2B meetings for its members with the delegation members.

17) PBBF ELECTIONS 2016-2017

PBBF commenced its Election process for the term 2016-2017 supervised by Mr.Cyrus Patel in his capacity as Election Commissioner. The following were elected:

Mr. Mohammed A. Rajpar of M/s.General Shipping Agencies (Pvt) Ltd. as President.

Mr.Sameer Hamid Dodhy of M/s.The Indus Basin Company as Vice President.

Mr.Zahid Dada of M/s.Steel Agencies Corporation as Vice President.

Mr. Syed Khurram Bukhari of M/s.Ahbab Associates as Secretary General.

Mr. Takreem ul Haque of Honorary Consulate of Belgium as Treasurer.

Mr. Syed Salahuddin Haider of 21st Century Real Estate as Executive Committee member.

Mr.Haider Naqi of M/s. Haider Naqi & Company as Executive Committee member.