

PBBF ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01.3.2010 TO 28.2.2011

1) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (2010-2011)

Mr. Sameer H.Dodhy (President)
Mr. Mohammed A.Rajpar (Vice President)
Mr. Zahid Dada (Vice President)
Mr. Mehelli B.Dinshaw (Secretary General)
Mr. Takreem ul Haque (Treasurer)
Mr. Asif Ali Rashid (Executive Committee Member)
Mr. M Faisal Iftikhar (Executive Committee Member)

2) MEMBERSHIP

Membership strength 82.

3) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

2 meetings of the Executive Committee were held on 27th April, 2011 and 16th August, 2011.

4) DINNER IN HONOUR OF MR.MICHEL KEMPENEERS

Pakistan Belgium Business Forum organized a dinner reception in honour of Mr. Michel Kempeneers, Asia-Pacific Division of the Wallonia Foreign Trade & Investment Agency (AWEX) on 19th September, 2011 at a local hotel.

The Chief Guest was Mr. Tariq Iqbal Puri, Chief Executive of Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP).

Sameer Hamid Dodhy President Pakistan Belgium Business Forum in his welcome address said that Micheal Kempeneers visit was very important as he was here to assess the potential and prospects of business in Pakistan and to prepare the country strategy for the coming years. He stated that Mr Kempeneers was heading the most dynamic division within the Agency as it dealt with the emerging Asian markets.

Michel Kempeneers who is visiting Pakistan for the first time said that the perception of Pakistan abroad is quite different from what it can be described as ground reality. He said that it was a land of friendly people with enormous economic potential; and that that Wallonia could be future dynamic high tech partner of Pakistan.

Tariq Iqbal Puri, Chief Executive TDAP speaking as the chief guest on the occasion said "Belgium is Pakistan's 4th largest trading partner in Europe. He requested Director, AWEX for Belgium's technical and financial support in the areas of meat, pharmaceuticals, corporate agriculture and Halal food meat certification and logistic.

Speaking on the occasion Abid Husain, Trade Commissioner Royal Belgian Embassy said that Pakistan presents a multitude of opportunities and challenges to Belgian companies. Globalization, the word that is on every ones lips these days, has long been an established fact of life in Belgium. While the country represents 0.2% of the world's population, it accounts for almost 4% of world exports.

Mohammed Rajpar Vice President Pakistan Belgium Business Forum gave the vote of thanks and reminded the audience that the Forum was formed in 1997 under the umbrella of the Royal Belgian Embassy, Islamabad and over the years has contributed significantly to the building of bridges between our two countries.

The Pakistan Belgium Business Forum dinner reception was attended by members, former diplomats and the leading businessmen of Karachi.

5) VISIT TO BELGIUM

Mr. Mohammed A. Rajpar visited Brussels on 7th September, 2011 and met with H.E. Mr. Jalil Jilani, Ambassador of Pakistan in Belgium, Mr. Qasim Niaz, Ms. Ayesha Saeed (Commercial Secretary), Mr. Wouter Van Gulck (FCCIB), Mr. Jean Phillip Mergen (Beci), Ms. Nancy Cobbaut (FIT), Ms. Sabine Vincke (FIT) and Mr. Peter Bulckaert (FIT) and discussed matter of mutual interest.

6) MULTILATERAL INVESTMENT AND TRADE CONFERENCE

The Multilateral Investor & Trade conference 2011, a joint effort by the bilateral business groups of friendly countries based in Pakistan and the Board of Investments (BOI) and Trade Development Authority of Pakistan (TDAP), to boost global business relations between progressive countries and Pakistan, was held on Thursday, October 20 at the Marriott Hotel, Karachi. Investors and business leaders from more than 15 countries participated in the strategic breakout groups which include infrastructure & energy, engineering, agriculture & dairy, mines & minerals and pharmaceuticals. The conference has been arranged with the collaborated efforts of the business forums from Australia, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Russia, Sri Lanka and Switzerland, showing confidence in the productivity and potential of the Pakistani people and resources.

Heads of the following bilateral bodies including Pakistan Australia Business Forum, Pakistan Belgium Business Forum, Pakistan France Business Alliance, Pakistan German Business Forum, Pakistan Italy Business Forum, Pakistan Korea Business & Friendship Council, Pakistan Japan Business Forum (PJBF), Pakistan Malaysia Friendship Association, Pakistan Russia Business Forum, Pakistan Sri Lanka Business Forum, Pak Swiss Business Council were present at the press conference.

Saleem H. Mandviwala, Minister of State & Chairman, Board of Investments (BoI) said, "It is heartening to see the enthusiastic response to this call for consolidation of potential investors and business leaders from the international market. The recent economic slowdown and recessive trends in the global industrial sectors have necessitated a collaborative approach towards quick economic revival". Abdul Kader Jaffer, Chairman of the conference and also the President of the Pakistan-Japan Business Forum expressed his confidence in the productivity and potential of the country by saying; "Pakistan's economy offers vast opportunities for foreign enterprises and investors, to manufacture, import, relocate and re-export a wide range of high-quality products, commodities, services and resources. The pool of qualified human resources, skilled labour force and a healthy business environment will auger well for investors seeking to do business with Pakistan." Pakistan offers very attractive features and a business friendly environment for Foreign Direct Investments and international trade collaborations. These include; a strategic geographical location, three warm-water Sea-Ports, the world's 6th largest population, a rich service culture, 5-Year Tax Holidays, liberal profit repatriation, 100 per cent foreign equity options, and a minimal 0-5 per cent duty on plant and machinery. Several international business leaders, ambassadors and senior corporate executives will be attending the inaugural session began at 10.00 am.

7) NETWORKING EVENT

Pakistan – Belgium Business Forum (PBBF) was formed in April, 1997 under the patronage of Royal Belgian Embassy. The Ambassador of Belgium is the Patron in Chief of this Forum. PBBF is accredited by Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Belgium and Luxembourg and has a MOU with Brussels Enterprises Commerce and Industry to encourage bilateral trade and business activities between the two countries. Our objectives are to encourage and promote business ties, mutual understanding and friendly relations between the business communities of the two countries whilst our membership of 80 companies encompasses a diverse range of business activities such as Shipping and Freight Forwarding, Textiles, Oil and Gas, Manufacturing of Building Materials, Cement, Glass, etc. with varying degrees of collaboration with Belgium. PBBF enjoys a tremendous reputation amongst other Fora as well as business and official circles.

Pakistan Belgium Business Forum (PBBF) also organizes events from time to time to benefit its members. In this vein, PBBF hosted an interaction/networking event in an informal friendly environment to discuss matters of mutual interest with senior officials of Public and Private

entities e.g. Police, TDAP, IBA, KCCI, SIUT, TCF, Income Tax, Sales Tax etc. at Beach Luxury hotel (Tulip Hall).

Following guest attended the event:

- 1- Dr. Ishrat Hussain Dean & Director, Institute of Business Administration
- 2- Mr.Asfar Din Talpur Director General (P&D), PQA
- 3- Mr.Mir Hussain Ali Secretary Environment & Alternative Energy , Government of Sindh
- 4- Mr.Malik Subah Sadiq Deputy Director, FIA

A presentation on "UN Global Compact" which is basically a voluntary effort for businesses to subscribe to 10 principles covering labour rights, environment, human rights, anti-corruption, etc. Whose benefits are to be gained in terms of being trusted and selected by other progressive businesses up and down the supply chain.

8) INTERACTION WITH MEMBERS

On April 5, the Pakistan Belgium Businessmen Forum (PBBF) held an informal gathering at The Sports Bar, Kamameshi. The get-together (GT) allowed PBBF members and friends to catch up with each other outside the regular office environs. Over coffee and snacks, the conversation ranged from business, media and society to 'natural capital'. Despite being held on a weeknight, the event was a refreshing change for those who managed to show up, with one guest suggesting that such get-togethers be held every fortnight.

Keeping the interest of PBBF members in mind 2nd GT was held on 3rd May 2011 at Mr. Owais Habib's (Member of PBBF) house prior to the dinner. Everyone present enjoyed themselves and appreciated the efforts.

3rd GT was held on 18th of October 2011 at The Sports Bar, Kamameshi in which one of our Belgian delegates Mr. Charles de Landtsheer from Manuchar Company also joined us. This G.T was also very much liked by all. Few of our new members also came and enjoyed meeting with new group in a casual environment.

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

Mr.Mohammed Rajpar and Mr.Sameer H.Dodhy attended the Chamber Academy organized by FCCIB on 26-27 May, 2010 in Luxembourg. This is a biannual event attended by a host of local Belgian - Luxembourg chambers as well as Chambers located abroad e,g, Africa, Caribbean, Japan, Pakistan, etc

This is the first time that a Pakistani entity was present at such a conclave and PBBF representatives were given an opportunity to make a special presentation on Pakistan. The presentation contained important facts and figures about the country in general and its economy in particular with a view to dispelling the poor image often attributed to Pakistan in foreign circles. The audience expressed surprise at the positive aspects of Pakistan's economy which never get attention from the mainstream foreign media.

PBBF's representatives also conducted a series of bilateral meetings with Belgian Government agencies as well as local Chambers from all regions of Belgium and requested them to disseminate the true picture of Pakistan as an investment and trade opportunity.

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.