

**PBBF ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD
FROM 1.3.2012 TO 31.12.2013**

1) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (2012-2013)

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 was 64 as at 31st December, 2012 and 61 as at 31st December, 2013.

3) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

5 meetings of the Executive Committee were held during the period.

GT Party

PBBF organizes different events from time to time in order to build fraternity amongst its members. In this regard on 3rd January, 2012 PBBF organized its fourth GT at Port Grand, where PBBF members enjoyed the celebrations of New Year. All the attendees appreciated the effort of holding GT at Port Grand, a brand new venue with unique vistas of Karachi Port.

4) AGM AND MOU SIGNING CEREMONY WITH PBIT

The 15th Annual General Meeting of the Pakistan – Belgium Business Forum was held on Saturday, 7th April, 2012 at 11:45 a.m. at Karachi Marriott Hotel (Ambassador I). The meeting was attended by 21 members.

Pakistan Belgium Business Forum (PBBF) organizes events from time to time to benefit its members. In this vein, PBBF hosted the MOU signing ceremony with Punjab Board of Investment & Trade (PBIT). This was a unique initiative as PBBF being the first business forum of its kind to enter into such a MOU with PBIT.

Dr. Sajid Yoosufani, CEO, PBIT and Mr. Sameer Hamid Dodhy, President, PBBF signed the MOU on behalf of their respective organizations. The MOU signing ceremony was well attended by PBBF members and representatives of print and electronic media.

The Chief Guest was Dr. Sajid Yoosufani, CEO, PBIT. Mr. Sameer Hamid Dodhy, President, PBBF welcomed him and stated that it was a great honor for him to sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between PBBF and PBIT.

He declared that this MOU would commit both organizations to work together more closely towards the common goal – increase of trade and investment between Belgium and Pakistan. He stated that through this MOU both organizations will share ideas and leverage each other's strength in order to become more effective.

He observed that geographically and culturally, Belgium is ideally situated at a crossroads of Europe. Belgium though a small country with a population of 10 million people is an economic powerhouse with a GDP of approximately \$467 billion. Punjab is a resource rich province with Human Capital of 93 million and has a potential to become a world leader in food production & processing due to availability of arable land & and an extensive irrigation system.

He concluded by asserting that tangible benefits will soon be achieved under the framework of the MOU for the benefit of the two organizations.

Dr. Sajid Yoosufani, CEO, PBIT speaking as a Chief Guest on the occasion said that this MOU today between PBIT and PBBF is as yet another milestone for enhancement of investment and trade ties of Pakistan with Belgium and to reiterate the economic cooperation understanding between both regions. Pakistan is keenly looking forward to developing closer linkages with the EU.

He stated that through the joint platform of PBBF and PBIT, Belgium and Punjab may hold catalogue exhibitions, exchange delegations, etc. to increase the volume of two-way trade.

Briefing about Punjab he said that Punjab is a perfect place to expand, relocate or start a business. It contributes almost 60% to Pakistan's economy, having skilled and efficient labor.

He informed that PBIT has achieved a lot in a very short period of just 2.5 years; it has increased the investment and trade in Punjab and given the security guarantee to the foreign investors/traders which is helpful in changing the perception about Pakistan in the third world countries.

He concluded by saying that PBIT hopes that under the guidance of Pakistan Belgium Business Forum both the countries would be able to work out a bilateral trade arrangement which would go a long way in cementing bilateral economic relations.

FAREWELL DINNER IN HONOR OF BELGIAN AMBASSADOR H.E.MR. HANS CHRISTIAN KINT

Pakistan Belgium Business Forum (PBBF) organized a dinner reception to bid farewell to outgoing Belgian Ambassador to Pakistan H. E. Mr. Hans-Christian Kint, on Thursday 31st May, 2012 at Mr. Asif Ali Rashid's residence. Mr. Sameer Hamid Dodhy, President, PBBF speaking on occasion welcomed H. E. Mr. Hans-Christian Kint with gratitude. In his address to the gathering he highlighted friendly relationship between Pakistan and Belgium and also thanked the Ambassador for his sparing time to grace the occasion.

Several dignitaries and eminent businessmen, members of PBBF and guests apart from the representatives of print and electronic media attended the farewell/dinner.

H. E. Mr. Hans-Christian Kint in his address thanked PBBF for such a warm welcome and organizing a function in his honor. He spoke on the importance of EU and bilateral relationship of Belgium and Pakistan. He hoped that each member of PBBF would play a vital role in these developments as PBBF is a dynamic and proactive organization. He was steadfast in his optimism that the strong partnership and friendship between Belgium and Pakistan will continue to thrive.

Mr. Mohammed A. Rajpar appreciated and acknowledged H. E. Mr. Hans-Christian Kint's contribution with dedication and sincerity in bringing Pakistan and Belgium even closer in trade and business and thanked him for his cooperation and collaboration.

BELGIAN TEXTILE MACHINERY ROAD SHOW IN PAKISTAN

The Belgian Textile Machinery Association (Symatex) organized a Textile Machinery Road Show in Pakistan from 8 to 13 October, 2012. The Road Show comprised 10 of the largest Belgian hi-tech textile machinery manufacturers and exporters and visited Karachi, Multan and Lahore it also participated in the Textile Trade Exhibition "IGATEX" (11-13 October) in the Lahore Expo Centre.

Belgian manufacturers and exporters of Cardwire solutions, Sensors & monitoring systems, Electronic Jacquard machines, Carpet & velvet weaving machines, Customized sewing machines, Weft feeders & accessories, Warping machines, Weaving systems and Wireflex Looms participated in the Road Show.

The Belgian Textile Machinery Road Show held seminars to meet with the key decision makers in Karachi, Multan and Lahore. PBBF representatives interacted with the visitors in

Karachi.

BELGIAN KING'S DAY SUPPLEMENT (2012)

On King's Day, 15th November, 2012 Pakistan Belgium Business Forum published a supplement in The Express Tribune to record PBBF's greetings to the Belgian Royal family.

WELCOME DINNER/RECEPTION IN HONOR OF H.E.MR. PETER CLAES, BELGIAN AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN

Pakistan Belgium Business Forum (PBBF) organized a dinner reception to welcome newly appointed Belgian Ambassador to Pakistan H. E. Mr. Peter Claes, on Wednesday 5th December, 2012 at local hotel. H.E. Mr Claes was accompanied by Dr Stephane Mund (First Secretary) and Mr Abid Husain (Trade Commissioner).

Mr. Sameer Hamid Dodhy, President, PBBF welcomed H. E. Mr. Claes and pointed out that H.E Mr Claes is no stranger to Pakistan. He was posted in Islamabad during 1995-1998 as the First Secretary in Islamabad and has many old friends in Pakistan.

H. E. Mr. Peter Claes in his address thanked PBBF for organizing a function in his honor. He stated that he had wonderful memories of Pakistan. He stated that Pakistan had an incredible potential and that he would do his utmost to promote trade and investment.

Mr. Mohammed A. Rajpar gave the vote of thanks and underscored the significance of strengthening and expanding economic and trade relations between Pakistan and Belgium

Several dignitaries and eminent businessmen, members of PBBF and representatives of print and electronic media attended the welcome dinner reception.

DINNER IN HONOR OF H.E. MR. PETER CLAES, BELGIAN AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN

The President and Executive Committee Members of Pakistan Belgium Business Forum (PBBF) hosted a dinner in honor of H.E. Mr. Peter Claes, Ambassador of Belgium in order to introduce him with members of PBBF on Tuesday, 9th April, 2013 at 8:45 pm at the Karachi Boat Club.

VISIT TO BELGIUM

Mr.Mohammed A.Rajpar visited Belgium from 29 to 31st May, 2013 where he held meetings with Pakistan's Ambassador to Belgium H. E. Mr. Munawar Saeed Bhatti and Ms. Ayesha Saeed, Commercial Secretary. The Pakistan Ambassador was pleased to learn more about PBBF and assured his full cooperation in case of any requirement. Mr. Paul Schenynen accompanied Mr.Mohammed A.Rajpar at these meetings.

Mr.Mohammed A.Rajpar also met with Mr. Antonio Giromini, Project Manager International Affairs, of Federation of Belgian Chambers of Commerce and Mr. Jean Philippe Mergen, Director Exports who stated that his Chamber is happy to continue cooperation with PBBF (such as an investment conference) and suggested that we update the information about Pakistan on BECI's website.

GT PARTY

Mr. Mohammed Rajpar, Vice President of Pakistan Belgium Business Forum (PBBF) hosted fifth GT party for members at 8: 30 pm on Friday, 14th June, 2013 at Karachi Boat Club.

BELGIAN KING'S DAY SUPPLEMENT (2013)

The Royal Belgian Embassy had a special supplement printed in the leading English newspaper "Dawn" on the occasion of Kings Day of Belgium in November, 2013. Pakistan Belgium Business Forum supported this supplement to record PBBF's greetings to the Belgian Royal family and also gave an advertisement.

DINNER IN HONOR OF H.E. MR. PETER CLAES, BELGIAN AMBASSADOR TO PAKISTAN

Pakistan Belgium Business Forum (PBBF) organized a dinner reception in honour of Belgian Ambassador to Pakistan H. E. Mr. Peter Claes, on Wednesday 16th December, 2013.

Mr. Sameer Hamid Dodhy, President, PBBF welcomed H. E. Mr. Claes. H. E. Mr. Peter Claes in his address thanked PBBF. He then went on to give a talk entitled "Belgium in Pakistan – an overview of recent developments and priorities".

He stated that "this year marks 65 years of diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Belgium and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. During this time, bilateral relations have steadily grown in various domains. In line with its vocation, Belgium has always favoured to promote relations through trade and investment, rather than political rhetoric. According to figures of the Federal Board of Statistics of Pakistan, Belgium is currently Pakistan's 9th export market (from 12th position in 2012). Belgian export figures show that for the first 7 months of this year, Belgian export to Pakistan grew to Euro 200 million. Belgian companies take a lead in the development of renewable energies, agro-business or waste management in Pakistan, to name just a few sectors.

With the approval by the European Parliament on December 12th of the GSP+ package to Pakistan, it is expected that exports of Pakistan's textiles to the EU will significantly increase. Since Belgium remains one of the principal ports of entry to the EU, this may further benefit the trade figures.

Trade is not the whole picture. More and more bright Pakistani students find their ways to Belgian universities, a tendency Belgium encourages by making visa procedures easier. Due to the image of Pakistan abroad, it is challenging to develop activities in Pakistan of a cultural or social nature involving guests from Belgium. But encouraged by current positive tendencies, opportunities arise.

Belgium remains a partner of Pakistan in its search for long-term development, mainly through its influence and vote in international fora that take appropriate decisions in close cooperation with the Government of Pakistan. It is also a reliable partner to come to help when nature strikes.

"Small is beautiful". Belgium enjoys an excellent reputation in Pakistan and it endeavors to continue its cooperation with Pakistan in a spirit of mutual benefit and respect."

Mr. Mohammed A.Rajpar gave the vote of thanks and underscored the significance of the strengthening and expanding economic and trade relations between Pakistan and Belgium

Several dignitaries and eminent businessmen, members of PBBF, diplomats and representatives of print and electronic media attended the function.