

PBBF ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD FROM 1.4.2010 TO 28.2.2011

1) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (2009-2010)

Mr.Mohammed A.Rajpar (President)
Mr.Zahid Dada (Vice President)
Mr.Sameer H.Dodhy (Vice President)
Mr.Mehelli B.Dinshaw (Secretary General)
Mr.Takreem ul Haque (Treasurer)
Engr.Salahuddin Zia (Executive Committee Member)
Mr.Mashood Husain (Executive Committee Member)

2) MEMBERSHIP

Membership strength 77

3) EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

4 meetings of the Executive Committee were held on 10th May, 2010, 19th August, 2010, 30th September, 2010 and 17th January, 2011.

4) AGM AND NETWORKING

The 13th AGM was held on 3rd April, 2010 at the Beach Luxury Hotel, Karachi. The meeting was attended by 18 members.

After the AGM, PBBF organized an interaction/networking event over lunch 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.

5) PAKISTAN INVESTMENT CONFERENCE

In continuation of SBC's efforts on 7th November, 2009, Pakistan Japan Business Forum (PJBF) organized meeting on 16th April, 2010 to discuss common Agenda for such meetings in future. Mr.Mohammed A.Rajpar, Mr.Sameer H.Dodhy, Mr.Takreem-ul-Haque and Engr.Salahuddin Zia attended. Other foras present were PGBF, PIBF, PRBF, PFBA, etc.

6) EUROPEAN UNION AMBASSADOR

H.E.Mr.Jan De Kok, Ambassador/Head of EU Delegation to Pakistan visited Karachi on 15th April, 2010 and met with the Executive Committee of PBBF and discussed matters of mutual interest. Some of the items covered were: a) Resumption of Seafood exports from Pakistan to European Union. (b) Access to European markets for Pakistani Exports. (c) Offer to host an event with other European bilateral business Fora on the Ambassador's next visit to Karachi. (d) Working methodology and future prospects for EU in Pakistan.

7) ROYAL BELGIAN EMBASSY

Mr.Mohammed A.Rajpar visited Islamabad on 27th April, 2010 and met with H.E.Mr.Hans-Christian Kint, Ambassador of Belgium in Pakistan and Mr.Emmanuel Rixhon, Consul & DHM and discussed matters of mutual interest.

8) PUNJAB BOARD OF INVESTMENT & TRADE (PBIT) CONFERENCE

a) PBIT of behalf of Chief Minister, Punjab invited PBBF Members to attend a Conference on 4th February, 2010 at Lahore which was circulated to all members. PBBF member, Mr.Malik Pervez Zaman of Venset Export Import, Lahore kindly represented the Forum during the Conference.

b) PBIT invited PBBF at a Punjab Investment Conference on 3rd May, 2010 at Sheraton Hotel, Karachi. Mr.Mohammed A.Rajpar alongwith some members attended the Conference.

9) FEDERAL BUDGET PROPOSALS 2010-2011

PBBF, PJBFB, PGBF, PRBF, PFBA, PIBF and SBC collectively submitted a few items to the Ministry of Finance for inclusion in the Budget 2010-2011. PBBF submitted the following items (a) Reduction in taxes rate (b) Minimum interaction between tax payers and tax collectors (c) Abolition of Federal Excise Duty on Port and Terminal Operators (d) Income tax on KPT/PQA will increase cost of doing business.

10) 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.

11) KCCI's MY KARACHI EXHIBITION

After six continuous years of success in the promotion of the central theme "Oasis of Harmony", KCCI's My Karachi International Exhibition seventh appearance was held on 11, 12 and 13 June, 2010 at the Karachi Expo Centre. The Exhibition covered Consumer Goods, Consumer Electronics, Food & Beverage, Domestic Appliances, Fabrics & Apparel, Leather & Leather Products, Home & Decor, Surgical & Pharma, Auto &Auto Parts, Gems & Jewelry, Financial Institutions, Estate & Construction, Travel & Tourism and Leisure. For the second time (previously participated in 2007) PBBF has taken one stall measuring 18 square meters wherein members namely i.e. (a) Chairman Chairs (b) General Maritime (c) General Shipping Agencies (d) Powertec (e) Star Denim (f) The Indus Basin Company jointly participated resulting in the cost which was divided/shared by these exhibitions.

12) BELGIAN MINISTER FOR DEVELOPMENT

Mr.Charles Michel, Minister for Development and Mr.Jan Luykx, Chief of Cabinet, Kingdom of Belgium accompanied by some senior Belgian officials and media persons visited Pakistan on 13th September, 2010 to visit flood victims in Sindh. H.E.Mr.Hans-Christian Kint, Belgian Ambassador to Pakistan also accompanied him. The members of the Executive Committee met the Minister and discussed matters of mutual interest.

13) PUBLICATION OF NEWSLETTER

In November, 2010 Pakistan Belgium Business Forum (PBBF) published a newsletter covering various events and occasions. The newsletter also contained messages from Ambassador of Belgium to Pakistan, Pakistan's Ambassador to Belgium, Hon. Consul of Belgium, President of FCCIB, Minister of State/Chairman, Board of Investment, Pakistan and Minister of Finance, Pakistan.

14) BELGIAN FOOD FESTIVAL

Pakistan Belgium Business Forum (PBBF) also organizes cultural events from time to time to bring the people of Belgium and Pakistan closer together. In this vein, PBBF hosted a Belgian Food Festival on 13th November, 2010 in collaboration with Marriott, Karachi which was supported by the Belgian Federal Government and Governments of Flemish region, Walloon region, and Brussels Capital region as well as the Royal Belgian Embassy in Pakistan. The festival was also sponsored by Dredging International, Fauji Akbar Portia Marine Terminals and Habib Sugar Mills Ltd.

The event was inaugurated by H.E.Mr.Hans-Christian Kint, Belgian Ambassador to Pakistan. For the occasion, a chef from Belgium was especially flown in to prepare authentic Belgian cuisine.

PBBF also launched its Newsletter at the event as well as publishing a special newspaper supplement in Daily Business Recorder.