

**PBBF ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE PERIOD
FROM 1.2.2007 TO 28.2.2008**

MEMBERSHIP

Membership increased from 80 to 83.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Four meetings of the Executive Committee were held on 29th March 2007, 12th June 2007, 10th August 2007 and 11th December 2007.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

The 10th AGM was held on 17th February, 2007 at the Pearl-Continental Hotel, Karachi Marriott Hotel. The meeting was attended by 21 members.

BELGIAN TRADE AND INVESTMENT DELEGATION

A Belgian Trade and Investment Delegation under the umbrella of Trade Commissioner's Office, Royal Belgian Embassy visited Pakistan from 11-17 March, 2007. PBBF organized/arranged Harbour Cruise courtesy of Chairman, Karachi Port Trust (KPT) and reception/dinner in honour of delegates at Sindh Club on 11th March. The dinner was sponsored by our distinguished member Mr.Abdul R.Sattar of Sattar & Sattar. PBBF records its deep appreciation for Mr.Abdul R.Sattar for this gesture.

Mr.Sadrudin Hashwani, the Honorary Consul of Belgium in Karachi and Honorary Patron-in-Chief of PBBF organized a dinner on 12th March at Karachi Marriott Hotel.

EXHIBITION

KCCI's My Karachi Exhibition promoting the central theme "Oasis of Harmony" was held on 1st, 2nd and 3rd June, 2007 at Expo Centre. For the first time nine PBBF members namely M/s.Ahbab Associates, M/s.Audit Services International, M/s.Fashionwear (Pvt) Ltd., M/s.General Maritime Agencies (Pvt) Ltd., M/s.Habib ADM Ltd., M/s.Icom Overseas Trading, M/s.Powertec (Pvt) Ltd., M/s.Star Denim (Pvt) Ltd., and M/s.The Indus Basin Company jointly participated in this exhibition. Due to this joint participation the cost was divided/shared by these exhibitors.

DEPUTY HEAD OF MISSION, BELGIAN EMBASSY

Mr.Hubert Roisin, Deputy Head of Mission visited Karachi on 2nd August, 2007. During the visit he held an informal meeting with Members of the Executive Committee.

AMBASSADOR, BELGIAN EMBASSY

H.E.Mr.Michel Goffin, Ambassador visited Karachi on 28th and 29th November, 2007. Mr.Abid Husain, Trade Commissioner, Economic & Commercial Representation, accompanied him during this visit.

28th November: A lunch on was organized at Karachi Boat Club with Members of Executive Committee which was also attended by Swiss and German Consul Generals followed by meeting with Chairman, Karachi Port Trust and visit to Pakistan International Container Terminal (PICT).

In the night a very successful get together/dinner in honour of the Ambassador was organized. Our member Mr.Aamir Butt provided his beautiful house for this event. The Ambassador was very positive in his address about Pakistan, Karachi and PBBF. He especially assured his support to make our organization stronger in the future.

We had also allowed members to invite guests in order to give others a flavour of PBBF and induce new memberships. This proved to be successful as several diplomats and businessmen attended the function besides PBBF members and their spouses.

29th November: A full day visit to Port Muhammad Bin Qasim was arranged which included meeting with Chairman, Port Qasim Authority (PQA), visit to facilities, etc. The Chairman PQA held a lunch in honour of Ambassador.

CONSUL, BELGIAN EMBASSY

Mr.Emmanuel Rixhon, Consul visited Karachi on 3rd December, 2007. Members of the Executive Committee met him and discussed matters of mutual interest especially regarding issuance of visas.

TREATIES BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND BELGIUM IN JULY, 2007

In July, 2007 Mr.Hubert Roisin, Deputy Head of Mission requested PBBF to study following treaties and suggest any amendment(s). PBBF requested its senior Legal Consultant, Mr.Abdul R.Sattar, who kindly provided his feedback on gratis basis.

- Maritime agreement - 1958
- Agreement on double taxation - 1980
- Agreement on mutual protection and promotion of investments (signed in 1988 but not yet ratified by Belgium)