

**PAKISTAN – BELGIUM BUSINESS FORUM (PBBF)  
PERFORMANCE AND ACTIVITIES REPORT 2004-2007**

**FIRST SEMINAR ON WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO) HELD ON 10<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2004**

The first seminar was held on 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2004 when the topic was "Impact of WTO on Pakistan's Economy". The guest speaker was Dr. Manzoor Ahmed, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the WTO, Geneva. Members of other European business fora were also invited. The seminar was largely attended with wide coverage in print and electronic media.

**FIRST TRADE DELEGATION VISIT TO BELGIUM FROM 6<sup>th</sup> TO 8<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2004**

The first delegation visited from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2004. H.E. Mr. Patrick X. Renault, Belgian Ambassador accompanied the delegation. The visit was fruitful as the delegates from Pakistan made useful contacts with their Belgian counterparts. The special feature of this delegation was the Investors in People (IiP) certification award ceremony to 6 member delegates/companies. These companies were selected under the EU's Asia Invest Programme aimed at introducing Pakistani companies to the UK's IiP standard for best practice in human resource development. A UK consultant, Exemplas Limited, was PBBF's partner in this project, which was funded under the EU's Asia Invest Programme. PBBF thus became the first Business Forum in Pakistan to obtain such funding from the EU.

Furthermore, the delegation received a very warm response from the Brussels Chamber of Commerce, the Pakistani Embassy in Brussels and Walloon Export Agency which arranged useful business-to-business meetings for the delegates.

**SECOND SEMINAR ON WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION (WTO) HELD ON 19<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2005**

The second seminar on "WTO – the Doha Round and Pakistan's Interests" was held on 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2005 at Karachi Marriott Hotel.

**BELGIAN FOOD FESTIVAL HELD ON 19<sup>th</sup> AND 20<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2005**

PBBF and Walloon Trade Commission (with the support of the Royal Belgian Embassy) organized the first ever Belgian Food Festival on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2005 at Pearl-Continental Hotel, Karachi. Large number of members, diplomats, Government officials, prominent businessmen, media representatives, etc. attended the festival.

**SECOND TRADE DELEGATION VISIT TO BELGIUM ON 29<sup>th</sup> AND 30<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2005**

A 14 member (second) trade delegation visited Belgium on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2005. H.E. Mr. Patrick X. Renault, Belgian Ambassador accompanied the delegation. The visit was fruitful as the delegates from Pakistan made useful contacts with their Belgian counterparts. The delegation received a very warm response from the Brussels Chamber of Commerce, the Pakistani Embassy in Brussels and Walloon

Export Agency which arranged useful business-to-business meetings for the delegates.

#### **SEMINAR ON 6<sup>th</sup> APRIL, 2006**

A seminar was organized on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2006. The speaker was Mr.Frank Scherschmidt, CEO of Karachi Electric Supply Corporation (KESC), who spoke on "Challenges and Opportunities of a Privatized KESC". Large number of members from PBBF, Pakistan Italy Business Forum and Pakistan France Business Alliance attended.

#### **FAREWELL OF BELGIAN AMBASSADOR ON 20<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2006**

A grand dinner was arranged on 20<sup>th</sup> May, 2006 at the Karachi Boat Club in honour of outgoing Belgian Ambassador H.E.Mr.Patrick X.Renault. Mr.Christophe Payot, outgoing Deputy Head of Mission also attended. Besides large number of PBBF members, several diplomats also attended the gathering.

#### **MEETING WITH TRADE COMMISSIONER, BELGIAN EMBASSY ON 13<sup>th</sup> JUNE, 2006**

The members of Executive Committee held a meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2006 with Mr.Abid Husain, Trade Commissioner, Economic & Commercial Representation, Royal Belgian Embassy. Items of mutual interest were discussed.

#### **PROMOTION OF ANTWERP PORT IN NOVEMBER, 2006**

In November, 2006 Royal Belgian Embassy asked PBBF to avail Belgian Government subsidy toward events which project or boost the image of Belgium and its regions as well as enhancing trade between Belgium and its foreign counterparts. PBBF submitted a proposal to organize a seminar on the "Promotion of Antwerp Port" with expert(s) from Antwerp Port to address maritime and trade sector professionals in Pakistan. Unfortunately the proposal was time-barred by the concerned authorities in Belgium.