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Tshongdrel

Bi-monthly Newsletter

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UPCOMING PROGRAM:

BUMTHANG FAIR

BCCI is organizing the trade fair in Bumthang from 28 September to 2nd October 2016.

For participation, interested participants may contact Mr. Jigme Wangchuk, BCCI at 322742 or email at lookdruk@hotmail.com.



Hon'ble Lyonpo Dorji Choden unveiling the knot for the 7th Construction Expo.

7th Bhutan Construction Expo

Much awaited 7th Bhutan Construction Expo captivated the eyes of spectator with massive construction machineries that were held on 15-18 July 2016. With an aim to provide platform to display the latest and efficient products and technology available for construction sectors, a total of 25 Bhutanese companies and 63 Indian Companies participated for this expo.

Lyonpo Dorji Choden, the Hon'ble Minister for Ministry of Works and Human Settlements graced the events with inaugural address highlighting the importance of latest construction technology that eases the job of

construction sector and enhance its productivity.

Varieties of construction materials were displayed during the fair from Bhutan and India that attracted huge crowd from construction sectors.

The expo was sponsored under three categories (i.e, platinum, gold and silver sponsorship) by six Bhutanese companies. Companies being Ugen Earthmovers (JCB), Continental Bhutan Enterprise, Druk Trading Equipment, Ugen Earthmovers (ATLAS COPCO), Ugen Earthmovers (APOLLO), and Ajax Fiori.

Compiled for BSD by Sonam Cheki

First BBIN Business Forum



During the opening of First BBIN Business Forum

The first BBIN Business Forum that was expected to play a vital role in boosting trade and investment among the four countries was formally launched in Kolkata on 14th July 2016. Together, a three-day expo titled 'BBIN Business Expo' was held from 15-17 July 2016 at Siliguri, India. The program was jointly organized by Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FBCCI), Bhutan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI) and Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FNCCI). Aum Phub Zam, Hon'ble President and Mr. Yeshi Dorji, Sr. Research Officer were part of this program from BCCI.

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Sensitization workshop on GPP



Participants for the program

The Green Public Procurement (GPP) in Bhutan Project that was aimed to maximize the public procurement of goods produced by CSMTs and to implement the existing margin of preference that is allowed to local suppliers has convened 2nd sensitization and awareness raising program with the members of construction association of Bhutan. The program was co-hosted by BCCI, RIM, CSCP, IISD/GPPB and RSPN on 26th July 2016.

The GPP Bhutan project has identified construction sector as a major driver of Bhutanese economy, thus the integration of GPP principles can contribute to the long term improvement in quality of constructions, assurance of value-for-money, enhance transparency, boost local employment and promote use of local raw materials in constructions. A total of 22 participants representing large, medium and small categories of contractors attended the event.

Participants found the day-long event timely, relevant and important to reduce gaps between contractors and procurers of works, noting that there is room for improvement from both sides. Other similar sensitization workshop on GPP was held in Phuentsholing with business community on 30-31 August 2016 with 50 participants.



An update from GPP Desk

Continued from Page 1

The first BBIN Business Forum was aimed to discuss on promotion of trade, commerce, investment and economic integration within BBIN framework. Further it was to discuss on to address major infrastructure issues, customs and taxation issues, development of micro level operational know-how, including modern methods of customs clearance and border check posts in the BBIN member countries among other objectives.

The Forum touched on the concern of resolving the prevailing customs and tariff, technical infrastructure issues, and review of country specific

systems, industrial zone to be established in Panchagarh, Bangladesh because of its proximity of four countries were discussed to mention few. The members agreed to convene BBIN Business Forum as an annual event and FBCCI President volunteered to host the next BBIN Business Forum in Sylhet, Bangladesh and proposed subsequently to be hosted in Bhutan.

Participants from public sector, private sector bodies, Chambers, NGOs, industry associations, independent bodies and eminent speakers were present for the first BBIN Business Forum.

An update by Yeshi Dorji

Highlights of the Seventh BIMSTEC Business Forum

A two member delegation led by Vice President Dasho Tashi Dorji, Bhutan Chamber of Commerce & Industry (BCCI) and Senior Research Officer, Yeshi Dorji attended the Seventh Meeting of BIMSTEC Business Forum (BBF) event held on 21 July 2016 at Hotel

Shangrila, New Delhi. The meeting was hosted by Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ASSOCHAM) with the support of Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and BIMSTEC Secretariat, Bangladesh.



Source:(BusinessLine Newspaper, Noida, New Delhi - 22/07/2016)

Continued in page 3

Organizational Development Exercise (ODE)

The BCCI is in active persuasion of ODE/restructuring exercise as per the mandate from 98th session of the Executive Committee Meeting (ECM).

The Executive Committee (EC) members felt the need for BCCI to evolve as it experience increasing challenges of opportunities for growth. Broadly, the ODE was aimed to look at in-house pro-

fessionalization to strengthen internal management and to endeavor to fulfill boarder aspects of private sector and economic development in partner with government.

The ODE team was led by Dasho Tashi Dorji, Vice President of BCCI with seven officials of BCCI as team members. The ODE was held as a retreat

program in Thimphu from 11-15 July 2016. The progress of the ODE was presented in the recent session of the 99th ECM of BCCI on 19th August 2016 which was acknowledged and appreciated by the EC members. Following the submission, the EC members directed for completion of ODE by December.

Compiled for ODE Team by Sonam Cheki

Training for Procurers on GPP



Participant during the training session

The project on Green Public Procurement (GPP) in Bhutan under BCCI has conducted 2nd Training of Procurers on Green Public Procurement. The training was intended to sharpen the understanding on GPP and learn through interaction on how to integrate environmental and social criteria into the procurement cycle.

A mixed group of professionals from civil service, constitutional bodies, state-owned enterprises, and civil society organisations attended the four days training program. A total of 36 officials represented 24 agencies in the training program.

The program was organized collaboratively by BCCI, RIM, CSCP, IISD/GPPB and RSPN on 19-22 July 2016.

An update from GPP Desk

BCCI-Taskforce for Private Sector Development (BCCI-TPSD)

A taskforce on Private Sector Development was formed within the BCCI with the objective to identify and discuss on the issues countered by the sector associations and to provide recommendations thereof. The members to the BCCI-TPSD comprise from sector associations to enable wider participation and inclusive consultation. The first meeting of the BCCI-TPSD identified Chairman and Vice-Chairman on 7th July 2016.

Compiled for BCCI-TPSD by Tshering Lhaden

Consultative meeting with importers from Thailand

The Bhutanese dealers and importers of Thailand goods of Phuentsholing business community gathered to have a consultative meeting with BCCI to discuss on pertaining issues that concerns their business. The members shared a concern on quantitative restriction of goods, not adhered to bill of landing, avail duty exemption on selected products, and proper research on base rate for BST of RRCO. The intervention was sought from BCCI and will be put forward to concerned agency for proper guidance. The consultative meeting was held on 21st July 2016.

Report from RO Phuentsholing, BCCI

Highlights of the BBF Meeting

A wide range of issues were discussed which underscored an early operationalization of BIMSTEC as imperative to promote trade and investment in the region. Most member countries felt that the BIMSTEC Free Trade Area (FTA) may help activate production links among member countries in rationalization of various non-tariff measures to give big push to regional trade and create value chain. It was felt, as such, all other areas of cooperation will follow once the member countries are connected and the trade and commerce flourishes. However, the need for firm handholding and visionary leadership was felt to harness these resources for its own good. Some member countries cautioned or termed terrorism as a major challenge to the region's economic growth and development; the menaces of terrorism, violent extremism, drugs and human trafficking and cyber-crime are emerging as global challenges.

There were expression of expectation to sign MOU on BIMSTEC energy and Grid Interconnection envisaging to help foster co-operation in energy sector – exploration of regional energy resource potential in order to sustain the economic growth in the region.

The president of ASSOCHAM, while presenting key recommendation of the ASSOCHAM study, outlined the crucial role of BIMSTEC; appealed all the governments to help in realizing the potential of the forum; to help the BIMSTEC encourage bilateral and multilateral co-operation for a win-win situation proposition keeping in mind the global uncertainties. He also emphasized on the BIMSTEC countries' need to work on single window facility, introduce transit facilities to promote effective intra-BIMSTEC trade, improvement of regional connectivity; and introduction of a BIMSTEC Visa to facilitate movement of people particularly for investors and businessman.

The Secretary General of BIMSTEC recalled that once Bay of Bengal region was at a Centre of world economy and emphasized to rediscover our common heritage. The president of ASSOCHAM asserted that Asian economy is least affected by global turmoil and have much in common among themselves. The

Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs informed that the Look East Policy (LEP) has progressed to an Act East Policy (AEP). She said that India, since its inception, has supported BIMSTEC efforts of regional integration and can play an important role as a vehicle for implementation of policy objectives. She emphasized the need for transport linkages (by land, air and water) and said that Bhutan Bangladesh India Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicle Agreement (MVA) can be extended BIMSTEC-wide.

The Delegation of Bhutan Chamber and Commerce and Industry emphasized on regional tourism (mentioning due regard to Bhutan Tourism and Environment Policies), connectivity, trade & investment and encounter terrorism and transnational crime. He emphasized that SMEs should be properly focused in BIMSTEC as a tool to alleviate poverty in the region, which was appreciated by all the delegates. The Secretary General of BIMSTEC reinforced the meeting the importance of SMEs and proposed the idea of conducting a comprehensive study on the impact of SMEs in promoting regional trade and investment in the Bay of Bengal. The Delegation of Federation of Chamber and Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka (FCCISL) agreed to conduct the study on SMEs.

The delegation of Thai Chamber of Commerce (TCC) proposed for cooperation in BIMSTEC regional tourism places associated with the life of Buddha and Buddhism and people-people-contact. He also expressed importance of SMEs; and in promoting business education in the region.

The meeting adopted that the Draft Report of the Seventh Meeting of BIMSTEC Business Forum for submission to the 17th Session of the senior officials' meeting to be held in Katmandu, Nepal soon.

The next Eight Business Forum was agreed to be held in Dhaka in 2017 to be hosted by Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

An update by Dasho Tashi Dorji, Vice President

Picture Story

Picture Courtesy : Facebook Page



BCCI officials of Phuentsholing were part of Amochu riverbank mitigation work during the heavy downpour (25-26 July 2016) together with volunteers from private sectors.

Meet on BBIN motor vehicles agreement

In pursuance to receive views from the government and private sector on the BBIN motor vehicles agreement, the Legislative Committee of National Council of Bhutan convened consultative meeting in Phuentsholing on 15th August 2016. The Regional office of BCCI was part of this meeting.

Report from RO Phuentsholing, BCCI

Semso

The victims of the Mongar fire incident were provided with Nu. 5000 each as semso by BCCI. The fire that occurred on 16th August has left 28 families homeless with their homes razed to the ground wherein 8 victims include business members.

Report from RO Mongar, BCCI

Effort to ease the consignments transportation from Hashimara

As proposed by Railway officials of India and Container Corporation of India (CONCOR), the meeting to discuss on movement of Bhutanese container through Hashimara was held with BCCI on 29th August 2016. A detailed discussion was held on cost effectiveness and efficiency on the consignment movement to and from Hashimara for Bhutanese business community. CONCOR committed on to facilitate Bhutanese business consignments with desirable service and competitive rate. However, the final business proposal is to be submitted to BCCI by them for onward discussion with business community and to be pursued with relevant government agencies.

Report from RO Phuentsholing, BCCI



BCCI & Railways officials having a discussion

Representations of BCCI officials to various meetings

1. Consultation meeting on Bhutan-Bangladesh Draft MoU on Use of inland waterways for transportation of bilateral trade and transit cargoes organized by Ministry of Economic Affairs, Thimphu that was held on 11th July 2016.
2. Stakeholders' Consultative Meeting on 'Trade & Economic Cooperation Agreement (TECA)' between the Royal Government of Bhutan and the Kingdom of Thailand organized by Department of Trade, MoEA held on 21st July 2016.

About Bhutan Chamber of Commerce & Industry

The BCCI was established as a non-government and non-profit making service oriented organization in 1980 under the Royal Command of His Majesty the Fourth Druk Gyalpo with a traditional role of augmenting and supplementing the efforts of the Royal Government towards development of a formal private sector. The BCCI now function as the apex body of the private sector and represents business communities of Bhutan. The organization is managed by a team of honorary members elected for a fixed term and a salaried Secretary General overseeing the day-to-day functioning of the organization. The honorary members comprising of President, Vice Presidents, and the Executive Committee Members are elected for the term of three years.

The vision statement of BCCI is to embark on “Towards Private Sector Development”. This vision statement is supported by following mission statement:

- Act as the pro-active body, inspiring economic growth development in the country by promoting a dynamic and competitive business in Bhutan.
- Advocate for vibrant business sector that promote sustainable economic development through promotion of trade and investment by facilitating competitiveness and growth for increased investment, productivity and trade.
- Connect businesses and expand member opportunities by providing outstanding member services, with an aim to contribute to Bhutan Sustainable Economic development through expansion and institutional linkages and networks in the regional and global market.
- Safeguard the overall rights and benefits of members and provide leadership and quality services to foster an enabling business sector environment generate gainful employment and create wealth for the country.
- Facilitate entrepreneurship through Human Resource Development of the Private Sector.



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