

AmCham Update



AmCham- The Voice of American Business in India

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HIGHLIGHTS

Interactive session with U.S. Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, Mr. Stefan M. Selig

AmCham Eastern Region- Farewell breakfast for the U.S. Consul General Ms. Helen LaFave

Meeting with Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Mr. R.N. Choubey

AmCham's meeting with the Chief Minister of Karnataka

AmCham's National Executive Board Meeting, Bangalore

Meeting with Urban Development Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh

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Chairperson's Message

Our approach as AmCham is to establish a differentiated value proposition for every member company and provide sustainable solutions. This summer has been very busy with multiple programs and levels of engagement across the period July to August. This newsletter will give you an update of some of the key initiatives and activities of AmCham.

Last few months were focussed on seeking opportunities for member companies in Smart City and related initiatives of the Government of India. We engaged with the Ministry of Urban Development and made several suggestions to be included in their policy document. We are also looking at prospective clients in the U.S. and exploring opportunities of Smart City and infrastructure projects. With this intention, the Smart City group within AmCham decided to meaningfully engage with some of the more pro-active state administrations.

As the engagement focus shifted to State governments, and rightfully so, AmCham reached out to some of the active administrations. Starting with Andhra Pradesh our delegation went to Vishakhapatnam and participated in a full day seminar organised by the State. We conducted a half day meeting with the ministry of Urban Development and related departments in Maharashtra. A similar interaction took place with the Jaipur Development Authority and Ministry of Urban Development in Rajasthan. KPMG, Aecom, IBM and Accenture helped put together individual vision documents and we are extremely grateful for their knowledge partnership.

The State of Chhattisgarh showed interest in our work and invited some of us to Bilaspur and Raipur. I am glad our member companies collectively visited Bilaspur and examined the emerging business opportunities in the state. The Smart City group within AmCham has developed an operational system which can be replicated across the country when engaging with State Governments.

Our individual member companies have varied experiences and different levels of involvement across upcoming projects. AmCham is quite advanced in its engagement and we intend to keep this lead by intensifying our efforts through collaboratively addressing Water, Waste, Transportation, Energy, ICT and Healthcare requirements of various stakeholders. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) is working hard to develop and adopt standards for Smart City projects. AmCham members have been invited to attend some of these meetings to provide their inputs on a regular basis. I request technology companies to regularly participate in our outreach programs and provide suggestions for future growth so all members have visibility to opportunities.

The Civil Aviation committee met the new Aviation Secretary and offered inputs on the evolving Aviation policy. Easing the regulatory regime and making India an attractive destination for creating an Aviation hub was the central theme for

continued



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Mr. Ajay Singha

Executive Director
AmCham

our discussions. Low cost airports, MRO development and simpler procedures for airlines dominated the discussions. USTDA has once again included AmCham as a supporting organisation for the forthcoming Aviation Summit in India.

DIPP Secretary and officials met our members on four occasions to help resolve some of the ongoing concerns and issues of individual companies. They also isolated systemic problems to ease the process of doing business in India. Deloitte helped put together a document addressing some of these generic issues. An aggressive tax regime, multiplicity of governmental agencies, unpredictable business environment and opaque procurement policies dominated the topics of discussions. This exercise led to the creation of a robust document comprising challenges of a generic nature impacting U.S. business in India. AmCham also met the Ministry of External Affairs and shared thoughts around where the Government needs to bring in reforms for an improved business climate. The AmCham Deloitte document was also presented to the U.S. Embassy and representatives of the U.S. Government as they prepared for the forthcoming bilateral U.S.-India Strategic and Commercial dialogue in Washington DC. AmCham along with USIBC also met the visiting U.S. Under Secretary of Commerce Mr. Stefan Selig and updated him on issues impacting U.S. companies operating in the country.

Last quarter, AmCham's HR committee launched a white paper competition for millennials on 'Leveraging SMAC for HR' for our member companies. We had an overwhelming response with 37 teams comprising of 74 HR officials participating. The jury had a tough time shortlisting 10 teams who would be presenting their final paper in front of the jury in October. We also had various Leader's Speak sessions which were highly appreciated and well attended.

I recently led a delegation of AmCham members to meet with the CM of Karnataka, Mr. Siddaramaiah. We discussed investment and expansion plans for individual companies and heard the CM outline his views for attracting investments from U.S. companies to the state. They have opened up a dialogue to address some of the issues ahead of the Karnataka Invest Summit in November.

I am leading AmCham's annual door knock delegation to Washington DC, accompanied by a dozen of my colleagues. We plan to showcase the inherent advantages of India and how it is positioned for growth in today's rapidly changing global economy. However, we do have our own challenges with the implementation of GST and other reforms still a distant reality. But the positive mind set of the political leadership in India has brought considerable confidence in the system. I am sure we are poised for growth and several economic reforms will be implemented in the months to come.

Ms. Vanitha Narayanan
Chairperson – AmCham

A M C H A M E V E N T S



Delhi

AmCham India Delegation calls on President of Sri Lanka

On 10th September 2015, members of the AmCham delegation, led by Mr. Prabal Chakraborty, Vice President & Managing Director, Boston Scientific India Pvt. Ltd., called on the President of Sri Lanka, H.E. Mr. Maithripala Sirisena, in Colombo. Hon'ble President said that the focus areas for Sri Lanka were agriculture, food processing, dairy farming, IT, tourism, healthcare and infrastructure. He invited U.S. companies to invest in these areas and share their expertise. Sri Lanka offered a hassle free and transparent business environment for investors. Mr. Chakraborty said that the U.S. companies were looking to forging stronger business ties with Sri Lanka.



The President with Mr. Prabal Chakraborty

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AmCham Infrastructure Consortium meets with Secretary, Ministry of Urban Development, Govt. of India

On 2nd July 2015, a delegation of select members of Infrastructure Consortium led by Executive Director, Mr. Ajay Singha, met with Secretary Sh. Madhusudan Prasad, Ministry of Urban Development. He was briefed on the AmCham engagements with state governments of Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh on Smart cities and Digital India. The Secretary encouraged the activities of AmCham and gave some insights on how the Smart cities program was to be rolled out post the Smart City guidelines issued by the ministry on 25th June 2015.

The meeting was followed by a more detailed interaction with Joint Secretary, Dr. Sameer Sharma, where Industry representatives from GE, UTC, Ch2M Hill, UL and HP raised specific concerns and sought clarity on implementation aspects and models of engagement for private sector participation, for Smart city project planning. Dr. Sharma addressed all concerns

and gave a broad overview of the next steps to be progressed on the pan - India selection of the first 100 smart cities by the year end. Joint Secretary Sharma also expressed his keenness to address a wider audience and initiate a dialogue with AmCham members on the Smart City Implementation aspects over a roundtable program to be organized sometime in August.

AmCham co-sponsored The 239th U.S. Independence Day Celebration: Take Me Out to the Ballgame

On 2nd July 2015 AmCham co-sponsored the 239th U.S. Independence Day celebration at Hotel Taj Palace, New Delhi, with a rather interesting theme – the American national sport, baseball. The venue was decorated with baseball jerseys and guests were served typical baseball game refreshments, like hotdogs and popcorn. The winner of The Million Dollar Arm, Dinesh Patel, who went on to pitch for the Pittsburgh Pirates was also present.

Adding flair to the celebration of independence was a



Mr. Richard Verma

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Mr. Richard Verma thanking the U.S. Army division band

stellar performance by the U.S. Army's 25th Infantry Division Band, Paradise Brass, which came all the way from Hawaii. U.S. Ambassador Richard Verma welcomed the guest of honor General V K Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India. Over 500 people took part in the celebrations. Ambassadors of Ireland, Austria, High Commissioner of Cyprus, and Minister Counsellor of British High Commission were also present.

CSR Best Practice Visit

On 7th July 2015, AmCham CSR Committee organized a best practice visit for its committee members at the Tapkan School, in Tapkan Village, Haryana. The initiative was appreciated by all the attendees. The members visited the school and understood the challenges faced by them. It definitely motivated the participants to consider similar effective activities for their own organizations. The requirement of the participation of all the concerned parties: school head, villagers, children and the project managers for the success of a CSR programme is well established in the Tapkan School Project. The key take away was connecting CSR officials from the member companies, learning the best practices followed for a school education project and planning thereafter on how they can help this project to do better. The members plan to do more of such Best Practice Visits in the future.

Roundtable: Preparing for U.S. – India Strategic & Commercial Dialogue



A roundtable discussion with the U.S. embassy officials

On 7th July 2015, AmCham hosted a roundtable discussion with the U.S. embassy officials to provide industry inputs for the U.S. – India Strategic & Commercial Dialogue scheduled to take place in Washington D.C. between 20- 22nd September.

The discussion was moderated by Mr. Atul Dhawan of Deloitte and Chairman of AmCham's Economic Affairs Committee. Remarks on the forthcoming dialogue and related issues were made by U.S. embassy representatives George Sibley, Counselor for Economic Affairs and Environment, Science & Technology, and John McCaslin, Counselor for Commercial Affairs. Comments were also made by Jinu Koola, Financial Attaché to India and Scott Sindelar, Counselor for Agricultural Affairs.

Presentations were made on the opportunities and challenges impacting U.S. industry in the following sectors: healthcare, medical devices, agriculture and food processing, pharma, supply chain and logistics, procurement, ICT, energy, manufacturing and IPR. AmCham's Economic Affairs Committee is in the process of compiling a comprehensive document on the same.

Meeting with Mr. Amitabh Kant, Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion

On 8th July 2015, the Chairman of AmCham's Economic Affairs Committee, Mr. Atul Dhawan, National Leader, Clients & Markets, Regional Managing Partner (North) Deloitte Haskins & Sells; a member of AmCham's National Executive Board, Mr. Ramkumar Ramamoorthy, Senior Vice President, Cognizant Technology Solutions; and Executive Director of AmCham, Mr. Ajay Singha, met Mr. Amitabh Kant, Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion, Government of India, in his office to invite him for a two-phased interaction with AmCham.

The Secretary has agreed to meet AmCham members to discuss issues to be taken up in the U.S.-India Strategic and Commercial Dialogue. On the same occasion, he will also interact with members on individual company matters which need to be resolved for efficient business functioning. The date of the proposed meeting will be announced shortly.

Meeting with Mr. R.N. Choubey, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation

On 8th July 2015, the Chairman of AmCham's Aviation Committee, Mr. Palash Roy Chowdhury, Country Manager – India, United Technologies Corporation India Pvt. Ltd. (Pratt & Whitney); Knowledge Partner of the Committee, Mr. Amber Dubey, Partner, KPMG in India; and Mr. Ajay Singha, Executive Director, AmCham, met Mr. R.N. Choubey, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India, in his office.

They apprised him about the past engagements which

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AmCham had with the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The issues discussed were: establishment of an eco-system for encouraging MRO activities, regional air connectivity, issues relating to cargo operations and related matters.

“Smart Cities Mission 2015”- Coordination and Review Call

On 16th July 2015, a teleconference call on “Smart cities Mission 2015” was organized by AmCham’s Smart Cities & Infrastructure committee. The call was held at the request of the committee members to know the status of Government-to-Government level consultations taking place in the three cities of Vizag, Allahabad and Ajmer.

U.S. Government participants from FCS, Mr. John McCaslin, Minister Counsellor, and USTDA Regional Director, Mr. Henry Steingass, updated the participating U.S. private sector companies on their recent discussions and follow up developments post the signing of the three MOUs between the States of Telengana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. The roles of various agencies involved in multiple stages of developments was discussed.

A walk- through of the recently launched Smart Cities mission was also provided by Ms. Shivani Raina, Program Director, AmCham India and member’s queries on the various aspects of the Mission were addressed as appropriate. The participating companies included IBM, UTC, CISCO, UL, Corning, HP, AECOM, Ch2m Hill etc.

Meeting with Mr. Vinay Mohan Kwatra, Joint Secretary (AMS), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India

On 21st July, a group of AmCham members called on Mr. Vinay Mohan Kwatra, Joint Secretary (AMS), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, to provide inputs for the U.S.-India Strategic and Commercial Dialogue scheduled to be held between the two countries in September 2015 in Washington D.C.

From the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. Kwatra was accompanied by Dr. Acquino Vimal, Director (Americas), AMS Division; Mr. K. Nagaraj Naidu, Director (Investments); and Ms. Nabanita Chakrabarti, Under Secretary (AMS).

The AmCham group was led by the Chairman of AmCham’s Economic Affairs Committee, Mr. Atul Dhawan, National Leader, Clients & Markets, and Regional Managing Partner (North), Deloitte Haskins & Sells.

AmCham members discussed investment issues, policy and regulatory issues and financing of infrastructure. Mr. Kwatra was open to suggestions and encouraged AmCham members to write to him for issues regarding their business operations in India.

HR Member Showcase for Best Practices Followed under SMAC – NCR Corporation



Ms. Wendy Smith

On 21st July 2015, AmCham HR Committee organized the first of its Member Showcase Initiative, a breakfast session on “Best Practices Followed under SMAC” by NCR Corporation at Mumbai. The forum provided a unique opportunity to interact with Ms. Wendy Smith, Head of New Employee Experiences, NCR Corporation.

The time to move to SMAC-enabled HR technology is now, as the global workforce dramatically changes with the growth of the consumer-worker. It's no surprise that this new breed of employee, who's been consuming technology most of their life, expects tech to be an integral part of their work experience. Today's consumer-worker shops and remains loyal to employers who make innovative technologies available, easy to use and responsive to their personal needs. Ms. Wendy Smith, head of new employee experiences at tech giant NCR, highlighted how HR can utilize SMAC-enabled solutions to create more engaging, meaningful experiences for consumer-workers who dominate today's global workforce.

It was a very engaging session and attendees thoroughly enjoyed it.

AmCham Aviation Core Committee members Meeting with Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation

On 24th July 2015, a core group of AmCham Aviation Committee members met with Shri R N Choubey, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and shared with him the challenges being faced in the Aviation sector. The Secretary requested the members to

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share with his team concrete solutions to the issues raised and promised to take them up with the concerned authorities. He commended the recommendations made by the group and expressed interest in a subsequent meeting with the team at a later date.

AmCham July Defense Committee Meeting

On 24th July 2015, the Defense committee members met to briefly discuss on the Amendments to the draft policy recommendations made by the DPP Experts Committee. E&Y provided brief insights for the report and highlighted its key points. Members met Mr. Pritam Bhavnani, former Chairman of AmCham Defense Committee, formally thanking him for his leadership and continued support to the team. AmCham also welcomed Ms. Rachel Duran, Commercial Officer, U.S. Foreign Commercial Service at her new assignment at New Delhi.

AmCham and PwC Seminar on GST

On 24th July 2015, AmCham along with PwC organized a Seminar on GST at New Delhi. The following were the speakers:

- Mr. Prakash Kumar, CEO, Goods and Services Tax Network (GSTN)
- Mr. Gautam Khattar, Partner - Tax & Regulatory Services, PwC



(L to R) Mr. Prakash Kumar, Mr. Vivek Mishra and Ms. Madhvi Kataria

- Mr. Vivek Mishra, Partner - Indirect Taxes, PwC

Ms. Madhvi Kataria, Deputy Executive Director, AmCham, welcomed the speakers and the participants.

Mr. Prakash Kumar made a presentation on various aspects of GST such as model laws and the nationwide IT network for GST and shared some interesting facts and insights on the proposed GSTN framework.

Mr. Vivek Mishra moderated the discussion and proposed the vote of thanks.



Mr. Prakash Kumar addressing the meeting

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Meeting with Haryana Government



(L to R) Mr. Parul Soni, Mr. T.L. Satyaparkash, Mr. Ajay Singha, Mr. Devender Singh, Mr. Vineet Garg and Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi

On 29th July 2015, AmCham organized an interactive session with the officials from the Government of Haryana in Gurgaon. The Government officials present, among others, were:

- Mr. Devender Singh IAS, Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce and Electronics & I.T. Department;
- Mr. Vineet Garg IAS, Managing Director, Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited;
- Mr. T.L. Satyaparkash IAS, Deputy Commissioner, Gurgaon; and
- Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi IAS, Director General & Secretary, Information, Public Relations & Cultural Affairs

AmCham members discussed their ongoing operations in Haryana and some of the challenges they were encountering. The Government officials were receptive and keen to resolve the difficulties faced by American investors. They also discussed the visit of Haryana Chief Minister to the U.S. in August 2015.

Meeting of Committee to Fast-Track Implementation of U.S. Investments in India

On 3rd August 2015, Mr. Amitabh Kant, Secretary, DIPP, called a meeting of the Committee to Fast-Track Implementation of U.S. Investments in India at Udyog Bhawan, New Delhi. AmCham members, who had submitted their specific issues, were called for this meeting.

Secretary, DIPP responded to the progress made on their concerns with the help of representatives of other Ministries called for this meeting. While some issues raised by member companies were resolved, many remained unresolved.

Secretary, DIPP promised to take them up with the concerned Ministries.

AmCham supports OPPI Fourth Healthcare Access Summit, Mumbai

On 7th August 2015, the Organization of Pharmaceutical Producers of India (OPPI) recently organized its fourth 'Healthcare Access Summit' in Hotel Palladium, Mumbai. AmCham India was one of the supporting associations during the summit. The day-long event registered key industry stakeholders and policy makers which included Shri Hansraj Gangaram Ahir, Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilisers, Government of India, Dr. V K Subburaj, Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Dr. K Srinath Reddy, President, PHFI and many other stakeholders who discussed various measures which needs to be taken in order to improve healthcare access in India during the summit. The summit saw participation of more than 400 delegates.



(L to R) Dr. VK Subburaj, Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India, Ms. Ranjana Smetacek, Director General, OPPI

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Shri. Hansraj Gangaram Ahir, Hon'ble Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers during the 4th OPPI Healthcare Access Conference

Mr. Nitin Goel, MD, IMS Health Information and Consulting Services India presented the gaps in Indian healthcare infrastructure limits especially in rural areas during the conference and he also released their latest report on the healthcare system.

From AmCham India, Mr. Sanjiv Navangul, Chair, AmCham Pharma Committee and M D, Janssen Pharma, Pharmaceutical Company of Johnson & Johnson was involved in many sessions

and delivered the "Vote of Thanks" during the summit. The event was also attended by many members from AmCham's Pharmaceuticals Committee and Medical Devices committee along with Mr. Gaurav Mendiratta from AmCham's Secretariat.

Meeting with Urban Development Secretary, Government of Chhattisgarh

On 11th August 2015, a preliminary meeting with Principal Secretary, Urban Development, Government of Chhattisgarh, Shri R.P. Mandal IAS was held at Raipur. It was indicated that the State Government is keen to develop Bilaspur as a Smart City. A combination of Greenfield, Retrofit and Redevelopment projects as per the GOI guidelines is envisaged.

Consequently, AmCham members in the Smart City business will visit Bilaspur and Raipur to engage with the local administration and to understand the needs and requirements with an aim to provide inputs for developing a Smart City road map for Bilaspur.

AmCham, USIBC and FICCI interact with officials of Indian and U.S. Government as run-up to U.S.-India Strategic and Commercial Dialogue

On 12th August 2015, AmCham, USIBC and FICCI interacted with Ms. Rita Teatota, Secretary, Department of Commerce; Mr. Amitabh Kant, Secretary, DIPP and Mr. Stefan M. Selig, Under



(L to R) Mr. Didar Singh, Mr. Amitabh Kant, Mr. Stefan M. Selig, Ms. Rita Teatota, Mr. Vinai Thummalapally and Mr. Ajay Singha

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Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, U.S. Department of Commerce, at New Delhi.

Other Government officials from DIPP and Department of Commerce were also present. Mr. Selig was accompanied by Mr. Vinai Thummalapaly, Executive Director, SelectUSA, U.S. Department of Commerce and other officials.

Members representing the three organizations spoke about overall investment environment in India and the U.S. and raised issues relating to specific sectors. Representatives of both the Governments spoke on the growing India-U.S. relationship and further steps that would strengthen the bilateral relations.

AmCham and USIBC interact with Mr. Stefan M. Selig, U.S. Under Secretary of

Commerce for International Trade

On 12th August 2015, AmCham along with USIBC organized a closed door meeting followed by an interactive meeting with Mr. Stefan M. Selig, U.S. Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade, at New Delhi.

During the closed door meeting, AmCham members raised specific issues as inputs for the forthcoming U.S.-India Strategic and Commercial Dialogue scheduled to be held in September 2015 in Washington D.C.

From AmCham, the meeting was chaired by Ms. Vanitha Narayanan, Chairperson of AmCham; and Managing Director - India / South Asia, IBM India Pvt. Ltd.



(L to R) Mr. Stefan M. Selig, Ms. Vanitha Narayanan and Mr. Banmali Agrawala

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Meeting with Joint Secretary, DIPP and Director, Department of Commerce

On 19th August 2015, AmCham members met with Mr. Rajiv Aggarwal, Joint Secretary, Department of Industrial Promotion and Policy and Ms. Mugdha Sinha, Director, Department of Commerce, Government of India, at New Delhi.

The purpose of the interaction was to firm up issues, concerns and challenges which can be taken up during the forthcoming Government-to-Government Strategic and Commercial Dialogue taking place in Washington D.C. Challenges related to ICT, medical devices, aviation and taxation were taken up in greater detail.

Another meeting for ICT and civil aviation is planned before the bilateral dialogue. The date and time will be announced shortly.

AmCham CSR Committee: Best Practice Visit-Indian Food Banking Network by Cargill India



CSR Executives at a Best Practice Visit in the Food Bank Warehouse, Gurgaon



On 21st August 2015, the AmCham CSR Committee organised the next of the series of Best Practice Visits – Food and Nutrition.

We witnessed how a systematic and technology driven process leads to a lean, efficient and realizable way to improve food and nutrition security in the country thus breaking the cycle of poverty overtime by providing access to healthcare, education, skill development and livelihoods for underprivileged children and their families.

With an insightful tour of the Delhi – Gurgaon Food Bank and its institutional partner, an initiative of India Food Banking Network pioneered by Cargill in India in partnership with Responset Development Services, DLF Foundation, Reliance Foundation and GAIN (Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition) proved a great learning platform for many CSR officials of our member companies. We have received a tremendous response to our Best Practice Visits now happening every alternate month.

Meeting of AmCham's National Executive Board

On 25th August 2015, the Third Meeting of the National Executive Board of AmCham for the year 2015-16 was held at Bangalore. The meeting was chaired by Ms. Vanitha Narayanan, Chairperson of NEB; and Managing Director - India / South Asia, IBM India Pvt. Ltd.

Meeting of AmCham's Tax, Tariff and Regulatory Affairs Committee

On 25th August 2015, the Second Meeting of AmCham's Tax, Tariff and Regulatory Affairs Committee for the year 2015-16 was held at Bangalore under the chairmanship of Mr. Indraneel Roy Choudhury, Chairman of the Committee; and Partner, PwC. Mr. Vikas Vasal, Co-Chairman of the Committee; and Partner, KPMG, was also present.

Around 40 members participated. The meeting, inter alia, discussed APA, BEPS, ICDS and GST.

AmCham Defense Committee Meeting

25th August 2015, AmCham Defense Committee members met to deliberate on the Dharendra Singh Committee report on DPP 2013 which was recently released by the Ministry of Defense, Government of India.

Homeland Security 2015 – "Safe and Smart Cities"

On 25th and 26th August 2015, AmCham supported FICCI for the annual program on "Homeland Security 2015-Safe and Smart Cities" at New Delhi. The programme was supported by Telangana State Police and IPS(Central) Association. The programme proposed to bring together experts from Government, enforcement agencies and industry to discuss and debate security issues for the cities that will soon become smart, fair use of technology and issues of capacity building etc.

Leader's Speak Session- "Can I Have It All" presented by the HR Committee

On 28th August 2015, Ms. Anuranjita Kumar welcomed the committee members and thanked the members for setting time aside from their busy schedules to attend the meeting. She then set the agenda of the meeting. She appreciated

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Ms. Anuranjita Kumar spoke on successfully launching her book everyone present in the meeting as it was the first committee meeting in Gurgaon and it was a full house.

In the this session Ms. Anuranjita Kumar, interviewed by Sumit Chadha, spoke on successfully launching her book "Can I Have It All" which reflects on the trials and triumphs of a woman at the workplace. It reflects on the three crossroads in a woman's life - Marriage, Mobility and Maternity, she believes are a blow to mid-career female professionals but insists work-life balance isn't a figment of imagination.

HR Committee Meeting



Mr. Sarthak Raychauduri gave a presentation on Future of Work



Mr. Shaswat Kumar gave a presentation on Refresh & Reboot HR

On 28th August 2015, Mr. Sarthak Raychauduri gave a presentation on Future of Work, which reflected following key

issues:

- (a) Forces impact Future of Work
- (b) Principles of the Future Employee
- (c) Principles of the Future Manager
- (d) Principles of the Future Organization
- (e) Some examples
- (f) Some Impacts & Suggestions

After that Ms. Radhaa presented some thoughts from the Talent Management & Leadership Development group followed by Mr. Shaswat Kumar, Partner, AON Hewitt, presented Refresh & Reboot HR – Outcomes that HR should own for the new world at work – a Talent Charter Study which focused on the following issues

- (a) A strong undercurrent of talent shifts below the global megatrends
- (b) Talent is now a Top 3 risk for businesses in Asia
- (a) Engagement insights reveal limited differences in drivers
- (b) Leadership skills needs to change
- (c) HR needs a refresh of context and a reboot on capabilities
- (d) Successful HR organizations of the future will deliver on 5 outcomes
 - Actualize Culture
 - Future proof through capability
 - Deliver on Experience & Aspirations
 - Enable High Performance
 - Influence Change
- (e) Delivering on key outcomes needs focus on interconnected disciplines

Mr. Sarthak Raychauduri concluded the meeting and thanked the committee members for their participation. It was mutually decided to make more effort to be a part of the meeting.

Smart City interaction with Secretary, Urban Development, Government of Chhattisgarh, Shri R.P. Mandal



Minister UD Chhattisgarh, Shri Amar Agarwal and Commissioner Bilasour, Ms. Ranu Sahu IAS

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On 28th August 2015, a delegation of AmCham's Smart City Infrastructure Consortium Companies were led by Ajay Singha, Executive Director, AmCham India. They went for an interactive meeting held in Bilaspur/Raipur, with the Principle Secretary, Urban Development, Government of Chhattisgarh Mr. R. P Mandal, who along with other senior officials including Collector & District Magistrate Mr. P. Anbalagan, Commissioner Bilaspur Municipal Corporation, Ms. RanuSahu, Commissioner Bilaspur Division, Mr. Sonmoni Borah, had extensive deliberations on the scope of U.S. private sector participation in Chhattisgarh infrastructure development sectors. The delegation also called on Minister, Urban Development, Govt. of Chattisgarh, Mr. Amar Agarwa, and apprised of the offerings of the U.S. Consortium based at AmCham. The Minister has asked AmCham to prepare a composite document for solutions provided by U.S. companies for Retrofit & Redevelopment projects for Bilaspur city. This task is being undertaken by Aecom's Saurabh Srivastava, and will be completed and presented to the Minister subsequently.

Kolkata

AmCham Farewell Interactive Breakfast Event for Ms. Helen LaFave



Ms. Helen LaFave



Ms. Amada Kidwai giving a farewell speech for Ms. Helen LaFave

On 10th July 2015, AmCham Eastern Region organized a farewell interactive breakfast session at Hyatt Regency, Kolkata for the U.S. Consul General Ms. Helen LaFave. Ms. LaFave spoke on *Reflections on U.S.-India Relations*.

Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director gave the introductions and mentioned Ms. LaFave had during her tenure truly integrated with all segments of the Kolkata society. She also welcomed and introduced Mr. Jonathan Ward the newly arrived Principal Commercial Officer to Kolkata and Mr. Andrew Posner the Public Affairs Officer and Director of the American Center.

The welcome address was given by Mr. Dinesh Agarwal, Chairman AmCham Eastern Region. Mr. Agarwal said that during the tenure of Ms. LaFave, she supported and participated in all major AmCham Eastern Chapter's initiatives and she very aptly highlighted the significance of North-East as a gateway that connects India with its neighbours in the east. He said that Ms. LaFave has reiterated U.S.'s support to the vision of an Indo-Pacific economic corridor that would help bridge South and Southeast Asia. He said that she had demonstrated the United States government's support for universal education. During her tenure, she had visited many academic institutions and interacted with students. As a result of her initiative, the U.S. Regional English Language office in India supported two English language specialists to train 120 secondary school teachers cum Master trainers in Shillong over three weeks. She has also worked towards the social front by stressing the need to curb the child labor and human trafficking and provided solutions towards the same.

In her farewell address on *Reflections on U.S.-India Relations* she spoke about her decision to choose India as the place of work mentioning that "She is privilege to be a partner with India in India". She elaborated further on the work that she had undertaken over the last two years, talking about the political and the bilateral ties between India and U.S. and also about the good bilateral investment opportunities in India and the Eastern Region.

Mr. Suranjan Bhanja, past chairman of AmCham Eastern

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Chapter, Ms. Poonam Burman, HR Country Head of Lexmark International and Mr. Rinkish Satyajit, Vice President of PepsiCo spoke about their personal interactions with Ms. LaFave and spoke about the contributions of Ms. LaFave in AmCham and Eastern India over the past two years.

Mr. Joydeep Dutta Gupta in his concluding remarks and vote of thanks also spoke about the support Ms. LaFave had provided to AmCham and its members and wished her well in her new assignment.

Roundtable Discussion on Japan's Strategic Trajectory and Implications for India by U.S. Speaker - Nicholas Szechenyi

On 14th July 2015, AmCham Eastern Region in Association with the Public Affairs section of the American Consulate, Kolkata, had a roundtable discussion at EY office. The guest speaker was Mr. Nicholas Szechenyi, Deputy Director of the Japan Chair at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) where he is also a senior fellow.

Mr. Dinesh Agarwal, Chairman AmCham Eastern Chapter opened the discussions and welcomed the American Team and the guests from Japan Company - MCPI. He invited Mr. Nicholas Szechenyi to open the floor. Mr. Szechenyi began by saying that with partners like India, the USA is trying to strike a balance in engaging with China and persuading it from not carrying out any coercive activities in the region. According to an expert on international relations, "The role of the United States is to ensure that we all are pursuing a process of engagement with China that leads to constructive relationships and economic cooperation". He also mentioned that "On the other hand, we have to signal that China's military ambitions and possible coercive activities can potentially destabilize the region which is not in our interests". Mr. Szechenyi, whose research focuses on U.S.-Japan relations and U.S.-East Asia relations, rejected the notion that America is trying to contain China. He added that it is "quite natural" for U.S., Japan and India to enhance defense cooperation because the same sends a very strong signal of coordination and cooperation in the region for regional stability. The expert claimed that China's activities in East China Sea, Indian Ocean and land reclamation in South China Sea has increased the demand for U.S. engagement in the region. "China has been engaging in a particular behavior, particularly in maritime domain which raises questions about what its long-term ambitions are strategically in the region" he said adding that the question is how to manage China's rise. Mr. Szechenyi also said that it is not clear whether China wants to socialize, follow the rules and norms of the international community or whether it wants a new set of rules for the region.

Mr. Dinesh Agarwal thanked Mr. Szechenyi for sharing his insights on the political and economic affairs on the South East and East Asia. He also briefed on how investment opportunities between countries in South Asia would be beneficial to all. He mentioned that the *Make in India* campaign of India's Prime

Minister will help in increasing investments in manufacturing area in India. He also mentioned that Kolkata being located at a strategic region (being located between couple small countries in the region) is likely to play an important role in the all-round development of India. The development of India would also contribute to stability in the region. He said that there has been positivity towards the development in this area and he believes that the increasing relationship between India, U.S. & Japan would further assist in development of the India and other countries in the region.

Mr. Suranjan Bhanja in his concluding remarks suggested if CSIS could guide AmCham members seeking business opportunities in Japan from the key thrust sectors that have earmarked by their present Government.

Meeting on Ease of doing business in West Bengal

On 17th July 2015, AmCham India was invited to the meeting on Ease of Doing Business in West Bengal, convened by Department of Commerce & Industries and Department of MSME & Textiles. This was addressed by officials of Government of West Bengal and Government of India followed by interaction with industry representations. The Chief Secretary, Government of West Bengal addressed the gathering and presided over the interaction.

Breakfast Interactive session on Changing Landscape of Higher Education Globally



(L to R) Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Mr. Dinesh Agarwal, Mr. Supriyo Chaudhuri and Mr. Graham Doney



Mr. Dinesh Agarwal with Mr. Graham Doney

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On 24th July 2015, AmCham in association with Inskills and Knod Global Learning Network organized a breakfast interactive session at Hyatt Regency, Kolkata on the Changing Landscape of Higher Education globally and the crucial requirement of bridging the education-to-employment gap, and how to connect employers into the Higher Education process. Mr. Graham Doxey, the Founder of Knod Global Learning Network was the guest speaker. Graham, formerly of Merrill Lynch and Lehman Brothers, explained how he pioneered an experiential learning model for Computer Science graduates in the United States, and also implemented this in a wider scale when he was the CEO of Laureate Education in Asia. Knod seeks to connect employers and educators and to put their requirements at the heart of the education process. The theme of Mr. Graham Doxey presentation was Closing the Education-to-Employment Gap, Graham spoke about how educators and employers can come together to develop the right skills and competencies, and thereby, closing the skills gap and solving the retention



Ms. Amada Kidwai introducing the guest speaker

problem. Mr. Dinesh Agarwal, Chairman AmCham Eastern Region gave the welcome remarks; Amada Kidwai Regional Director AmCham Eastern Region did the introductions. The Concluding remark was given by Mr. K.P. Sengupta, Executive Committee member.

Meeting with the Dr. Amit Mitra, Minister-in-Charge of Finance, Excise, Commerce & Industries, Public Enterprise, Industrial Reconstruction Commerce and Industry

On 19 August 2015, Dr. Krishna Gupta requested a meeting at the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation, Government of West Bengal (GOWB) office with Mr. Dinesh Agarwal, Chairman AmCham Eastern Chapter and Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director.

Present from the GOWB was The Honorable Dr. Amit Mitra, Minister-in-Charge of Finance, Excise, Commerce & Industries, Public Enterprise, Industrial Reconstruction & Commerce and Industry, Dr. Krishna Gupta, IAS, M.D. West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation, (WBIDC), Mr. S. Kishore, IAS, Principal Secretary, Departments of Information Technology

& Electronics and Commerce & Industries, GOWB and Mr. Kaushick Saha, Executive Director WBIDC.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Bengal Investment Summit which is to be held from 7th- 9th January 2016 at Kolkata. Dr. Mitra has requested AmCham Eastern Chapter to ask delegation of 4-5 American Global Companies (like IBM, Microsoft, HP, Cisco, Accenture, Coca Cola and GE) having presence in India to participate in the summit.

He informed us that the CEOs invited will be the Guest of Honor and shall be provided with an opportunity to speak at the Summit. They would also be treated as guests of the State and would be provided with a personal manager for all the events.

During the meeting Dr. Mitra also spoke to Mr. Ajay Singha, Executive Director, AmCham India to arrange for heads of possible investors to meet him on Monday, September 7 over breakfast at the Bengal Bhawan, New Delhi. Mr. Singha agreed and also spoke of organizing a presentation on "Smart Cities" that AmCham is taking forward.

The meeting was concluded with Dr. Mitra thanking Mr. Dinesh Agarwal and Ms. Amada Kidwai for taking the time to meet with him and his team.

Breakfast Interaction Session: "The Highlights of the New IT Policy of West Bengal"



Mr. Dinesh Agarwal giving the welcome address

On 21st August 2015, AmCham Eastern Chapter organised a breakfast interactive session on "The Highlights of the New IT Policy of West Bengal" in the Bengal Club. Mr. S. Kishore, IAS, Principal Secretary, Departments of Information Technology & Electronics and Commerce & Industries, Government of West Bengal was the Chief Guest.

Ms. Amada Kidwai, Regional Director AmCham Eastern Chapter gave the introduction, Mr. Dinesh Agarwal, Chairman, Eastern Region, in his welcome address expressed his excitement over Chief Minister's visit to United Kingdom which he hopes will bring bilateral prospects in the field of Commerce & Industry, Health, Education, Art & Conservation, Urban planning, etc. He

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Mr. S. Kishore addressing the meeting

said that this development will be able to generate attention among all potential investors across the country and globe. The state will also be able to utilise its true potential by attracting investment and generating opportunities for all.

Mr. Kishore touched upon the various aspects of the IT Policy including incentives offered in the scheme covering every conceivable segment of IT Industry – from established players to start-up companies. It provides encouragement for innovation, taking of patents and quality upgradation. He also mentioned about many investment opportunities that were available in the State. He requested members present to look at expansion opportunities in the State and also requested to give their feedback on any issues that they were facing in the State. In his concluding remarks, he hoped that West Bengal will soon emerge as a leading state in all sectors of Information and Communication technology.

The session was concluded with vote of thanks by Chairperson Britta Leick-Milde.

Mumbai

AmCham's SCL Core Committee Concall

In the 1st July 2015 concall, the agenda of the AmCham's SCL Core Committee meeting was to discuss updates on the upcoming AmCham Supply Chain and Logistics Committee Event on 16th July. The Core Committee unanimously agreed to have a larger outreach to encourage participation. GST being one of the key topics, member representatives from the Tax and Finance departments were to be invited.

Ahead of the 7th July- U.S.-India Strategic & Commercial Dialogue, Mr. Nikhil Kush shared the feedback received from members highlighting the key issues and challenges with respect to Supply Chain and Logistics. Post the discussion, 5 key issues were highlighted to be represented at the U.S.-India Strategic and Commercial Dialogue meeting:

1. The need for national registration laws for vehicles
2. The SVB policies and renewal processes

3. The introduction of Form 15 CA / CB for the import of goods
4. E-network
5. Poor infrastructure

Ms. Surabhi Wahal invited views of the members on developing White papers by the SCL Committee. It was suggested that it would work well to reach out to individuals who are pursuing a Phd research on supply chain or logistic issues. The committee members would be happy to share their experiences and inputs on the proposed field, and in return the individual could later share the observations and conclusions of his / her research. It was also suggested that the core committee would reach out to established institutes and their supply chain management centers and check the feasibility of this initiative and discuss them in the next meeting.

AmCham's SCL Core Committee Concall Meeting

In the 9th July 2015 AmCham's SCL Core Committee Concall, the main agenda of the was to form a skeletal base for the SCL Committee Industry Visit in Pune scheduled for December 2015. As a large number of SCL Committee members are based in Mumbai/ Pune, the Committee anticipates greater participation. GE and Honeywell were proposed to be the two main facilities to be visited. GE being the main facility to visit which will provide a multimodal perspective not only in terms of supply chain but a unique multidivisional view of other sectors as aviation and power components as well.

It was decided to fix the industry visit for a date between the 1st to the 10th of December 2015.

Sites such as Meritor, Inc. Automotive Axles Limited (Mysore), Toyota (Bangalore) and Ford (Chennai) among other American companies were suggested for future industry visits. To increase member participation at future F2F events/meetings, it was suggested to try Web Conferencing as a medium.

AmCham's SCL Event- with a Special Focus on GST, Skill Development & GST's implications on Supply Chain & Infrastructure

On 16th July 2015, AmCham's Western Region and Supply Chain Committee hosted an event- SCL: *With a special focus on GST, Skill's Development & GST's implications on Supply Chain and Infrastructure* Diebold Systems Pvt. Ltd. The event, which was well attended by members of the committee and SCL leaders of member companies aimed to be an informative and interactive session.

The afternoon began with Ms. Surabhi Wahal, Regional Director – Western Region, AmCham India welcoming the participants, followed by Mr. Nikhil Kush, South Asia Supply Chain Leader, E.I. DuPont India Pvt. Ltd and Chairperson of the Supply Chain & Logistics Committee, AmCham India giving the opening

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Mr. Vivek Arya giving a presentation on Skills Challenges in the Distribution sector

remarks to usher in the event. Mr. Nikhil briefly spoke about the mission of the SCL Committee to be a medium to address issues and challenges in the field and the committees plan to focus on *Make in India* this year.

Mr. Kumar Kandaswami, Senior Director and Mr. Prashant Deshpande, IndirectTax Leader, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India Pvt. Ltd. gave a presentation on *Fresh perspectives and a clear insight on GST*. The presentation aimed to bring to light that the passing of the GST law which will not only affect tax rates but it will have a much larger impact across various industries, thus urging SCL leader to strategize keeping in mind pricing, cash flow, change in working capital requirement of manufacturers and service providers, etc. Case studies for GST on automotive parts management and on consumer goods further highlighted the need for a redesigning of the supply chain structure to GST.

An interaction Q&A that followed raised questions of the viability of GST for a large country as India and the resultant competition on taxes among states.

An insightful presentation on Skills Challenges in the Distribution sector was shared by Mr. Vivek Arya, Managing Director, Rhenus Logistics India P. Limited. While stating the importance of efficient logistic Services, he emphasized on the need to develop and invest in human capital. Through his presentation, growth drivers in the logistics sector such as the growing need for Integrated Logistics Services and Solutions, the emergence of the middle Class population and the huge geographical spread, proposed implementation of GST in 2016, etc were discussed. The skills gap in logistics sector such as investments focussed on short term gains, the logistics sector not being very women friendly resulting in reduced access to talent, very few formal logistics focussed training institutes, among various others are factors that lead to a vicious cycle in most organisations. Mr. Arya further dwelled on the focus on continuous training and skill development, internship and training modules, infrastructure developments undertaken by Rhenus that has created an efficient working environment.

Mr. Abeer Garg, Senior General Manager, CBRE South Asia Pvt.



Mr. Abeer Garg gave a presentation on Trends in the Industrial, Land and Logistics (ILS) Sector, Real Estate

Ltd. gave a presentation on Trends in the Industrial, Land and Logistics (ILS) Sector, Real Estate. The presentation began with an overview of the Indian Economy and the new infrastructure-smart cities, planned industrial corridors, NIMZ's under the *Make in India* initiative. The presentation also focused on the impact on warehousing post the Union Budget 2015. Challenges such as poor warehousing, government apathy towards organized development in the warehousing sector, ambiguity over land acquisition laws, infrastructure challenges in key micro markets were discussed.

Ms. Surabhi Wahal closed the event, acknowledging the interest and active participation of the participants. Mr. Nikhil Kush invited thoughts for topics that would be of interest for future forums. The feedback received was to discuss incentives, share a perspective on incentives in different states. Cross functional connections and dialogue among supply chain leaders from varied industries was suggested as a topic to be considered.

Mr. Kush shared the idea of inviting supply chain leaders from among the participants of the events to share their experiences and expertise at future SCL meetings / events, thus generating increased value that can be implemented in the supply chain and logistics sector.

AmCham's SCL Core Committee Concall Meeting

In the 29th July 2015, the concall meeting began with a reflection on the life and contribution of Late Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam and the learnings that can be implemented through his example.

It was decided that the Supply Chain and Logistics Committee event to be held of the 15th of October would focus on different perspectives to GST, Skills Development and Infrastructure keeping in mind *Make in India*. For this it was suggested to connect and collaborate with APIC CPIM, Government officials and industry experts from large liner and 3PL as speakers, thus building a synergy that would enable sharing of new trends, technology, developments and approaches in Supply Chain management.

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A presentation on the SCL committee highlighting its initiatives and to educate the larger group that Supply Chain is more than only logistics would be shared in August to the NEB. Contributions and insights towards the content of this presentation would be made by the Core Committee members which would then be presented to the Board by Mr. Nikhil Kush.

AmCham's SCL Core Committee Concall

In the 12th August 2015 concall, the agenda of the meeting was to share updates on the efforts by members towards the forthcoming SCL meetings and events. Industry experts who could be approached as speakers were decided upon.

As the invitation to the event would be extended beyond the SCL committee members, it was decided to have an internal face to face committee meeting between 2pm- 3pm where committee members can brainstorm and invite comments on SCL challenges. The meeting would be followed by the event from 3pm to 6pm. A proposal to extend the event invitation to other AmCham sectoral committees that might benefit from the experiences and discussions, thereby gaining greater traction and more shared value.

An update was also shared about the white paper being worked upon between AmCham and Deloitte with regards to the challenges in the Supply Chain and Logistic sector which would be presented to relevant Government stakeholders of India and the U.S.

AmCham's SCL Committee Concall- Sharing and Learning

The 19th August 2015 SCL Sharing and Learning Concall began with Ms. Surabhi Wahal welcoming the members and sharing the agenda for the call. Mr. Nikhil expressed gratitude to Mr. Rajender Jog for taking the initiative at this meeting to share Best practices in Supply Chain at Dow.

Mr. Rajender Jog began his presentation with a brief introduction on Dow India and his experience across various segments within Dow. The presentation was an insightful sharing of Dow India's diversity across the sciences of biology, chemicals and physics; its marked presence in electronic and functional material, infrastructure solutions, agricultural sciences, performance materials, feedstock, energy, among others. Dow has made its presence in India- Gujarat, Hyderabad, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu with manufacturing sites, application development centers and centers for excellence. Dow India also focuses highly on CSR through various initiatives in health, hygiene, environment and education.

Mr. Jog further dwelled upon the Supply Chain segments and the segregation of duties vis-a-vis Supply Chain improvement, the SC expertise center, planning, international trade operations and logistics. At Dow, people are its primary strength. Employee development, talent and training programmes are at a premium- where the focus is on building

cross functional, professional leaders. Dow heavily depends on its processes. Fixed systems as Government Laws and Regulations, Responsible Care, Dow Standards and Business Risk Management are followed. Mr. Jog also spoke about the Dow S4TAR program which is a mutually beneficial initiative from Dow Business Group in India to promote business growth for both Dow and its supply chain partners in a sustainable manner. The program helps Dow's supply chain partners achieve advancements in Safety, Sustainability, Social Responsibility and Services. Dow hopes to raise the sustainability bar of the industry by sharing the company's expertise in Responsible Care practices. The presentation also focused on hazardous material movement- pursuing alternate sourcing and modes of delivery and converting to less hazardous derivatives; as well as Dow's focus on financial discipline and low cost to serve.

Ms. Surabhi Wahal shared an update on the preparations for the SCL F2F meeting scheduled for 15th October 2015. Mr. Srinu Sarangapani and Mr. Kumar Kandaswami will approach industry experts and senior officials from CPM, FICCI, DHL and from DB Schenker to invite them as speakers for the event. It was proposed to extend the event invitation to other AmCham sectoral committees that might benefit from the experiences and discussions, thereby gaining greater traction and more shared value.

The meeting closed with Mr. Srinu thanking Mr. Jog for the insightful and informative presentation. He also thanked members who participated and made the session an interactive learning experience.

Hydrabad

AmCham Hyderabad Executive Committee Meeting

On 6th July 2015, the Executive Committee met and approved the Sports event while they were updated on the other events for the coming months.

Healthcare Committee Meeting

On 23rd July 2015, the Healthcare Committee met at the office of Eli Research India, Hyderabad, to discuss the panelists and to refine the sessions which are going to be conducted in the Healthcare Conference on 19th September 2015, at Hyderabad.

Session on Changes in Industrial Policy / PF and incorporation

On 24th July 2015, a session was held for the AmCham Members on the changes in Industrial policy. The principal secretary Commerce & Industries and Energy addressed this small gathering. The panelists comprising of Uma Devatagupta of Signode India, Kiranmai Pendyala of AMD, Padmaja Chowdary

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Sri Arvind Kumar IAS, Prl Secretary Commerce & Industries & Energy



The panel discussion at the session

of C3i and Sriram of D E Shaw discussed how the changes in PF can be incorporated and encourage savings for employees, including the UAN (to avoid withdrawal but all transfer) and also with the pension scheme.

Sports Coordinator's Meeting

On 31st July 2015, the Sports Coordinator's meeting for the AmCham Sports 2015 was held at S&P Capital IQ. The draws for the team events were conducted at this meeting. There are about 18 teams participating in Cricket and the other team events include – Volley Ball Men, Volley Ball Women, Throw ball, Football and Basketball. The rules and regulations and conduct of the sports and the type of equipment being used were presented at this meeting.

Amcham Healthcare Committee Meeting

On 11th August 2015, the Healthcare Committee met to finalize the details for the 3rd AmCham Healthcare Conference slated to be held on September 19th 2015.

Bangalore

An Exclusive CXO thought leadership program

On 13th July 2015, AmCham collaborated with Altair Technologies for an exclusive CXO thought leadership program - The Next Gen Transportation Ideas for Emerging Markets. The main speakers were: Manu Saale, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Mercedes-Benz Research & Development India; Gopichand Katragadda, Chief Technical Officer, Tata Sons; James R. Scapa, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer, Altair; Chetan Maini, Technologist, Entrepreneur & Founder, Reva Electric Car Company; and Nitin Ranade, Vice President, Mahindra & Mahindra.

Workshop on the Companies Act, 2013 in association with Ernst and Young.

On 16th July 2015, AmCham's workshop on Companies Act, 2013 identified and threw light on various issues related to key regulatory compliances under the new corporate law regime. Ms. Deepa Bhatia Chirayath – Director, Corporate Secretarial Services, Ernst & Young, detailed the key changes in the regulatory framework and the roles and responsibilities of the management in light of the enhanced compliance and reporting requirements under the Act. Finance, tax, and compliance heads of prominent U.S. companies attended this interactive session.

Meeting with Chief Minister of Karnataka

On 25th August 2015, members of AmCham's National Executive Board, members of AmCham Karnataka Executive Committee and U.S. Embassy officials met with the Chief Minister of Karnataka, Mr. Siddaramaiah, in Bangalore. The Chief Minister was accompanied by Mr. Kaushik Mukherjee, Chief Secretary; Ms. K. RatnaPrabha, Additional Chief Secretary, Commerce & Industries Department, and other officials of the Government of Karnataka.

The Chief Minister, in his address, welcomed the U.S. companies to invest in Karnataka, particularly in automobiles, aerospace, infrastructure, healthcare, textiles, and tourism. The new Industrial Policy had just been announced. The Bangalore-Mumbai corridor would provide good opportunities to U.S. companies to participate.

Ms. Vanitha Narayanan, Chairperson of AmCham, and Managing Director - India / South Asia, IBM India Pvt. Ltd., who led the AmCham group, thanked the Chief Minister for giving AmCham members an opportunity to meet with him. She said that large U.S. companies had invested in Karnataka and AmCham's agenda and focus was to help build digital India and provide technologies for smart cities.

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Ms. Vanitha Narayanan with CM of Karnataka, Mr. Siddaramaiah



The CM addressing the meeting

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Ms. K. Ratna Prabha with Mr. John M. McCaslin

AmCham member's cocktail dinner with the NEB members

On 25th August 2015, there was an exclusive dinner with the National Executive Board of the American Chamber of Commerce lead by the Chairman, Ms. Vanitha Narayanan, Managing Director - India / South Asia, IBM India Pvt. Ltd. and the CEOs of other U.S. companies. The U.S. Consulate members and Government of Karnataka bureaucrats were also be present. Mr. Gaurav Gupta, Commissioner of Industries, Government of Karnataka, and Mr. Narasimha Raju, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM, GoK, addressed the audience.



NEB members enjoying the cocktail dinner

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(L to R) Mr. John Macaslin, Mr. Ajay Singha, Mr. Narasimha Raju D.N., Mr. Gaurav Gupta and Mr. Inderjit Sial



Ms. Vanitha Narayanan addressing the NEB Dinner

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Chennai

AmCham's Breakfast meeting with Dr. Sunder Ramaswamy, Director, Madras School of Economics

Topic: "Elephants Can Dance – An Assessment of India's Economic Performance and Potential"

India's economic performance during the first three decades since independence was christened the "Hindu" rate of growth, a term first used by Prof. Rajkrishna. This was stated by Dr. Sunder Ramaswamy during the August breakfast meet. That reference is fast fading away, thanks to the remarkable transformation in India during the last two decades. Since 1980, its economic growth rate has more than doubled, rising from 1.7 percent (in per-capita terms) in 1950-1980 to 3.8 percent in 1980-2000. Shackled by the socialist policies and the "license-permit-quota raj" of the past, India used to serve as the exemplar of development strategies gone wrong.

Crediting Prime Minister Indira Gandhi as being the architect of India's economic reforms by her bold action of taking a loan from the IMF to tide over a balance of payment crisis in 1981-82, Dr. Ramaswamy went on to add that India has now become the most solid BRICK in the BRICS community.

India's economic growth can be unleashed with a turn towards free markets and open trade. India has yet to catch up to China's

growth rates (or even to China's level of income 1), but thanks to its solid democratic institutions and impressive performance in information technology, the country is increasingly vying with, if not displacing, China as the country of the future in the eyes of many knowledgeable observers.

The improvement in India's economic performance is obviously good news for its 1.3 billion people. But equally important, this transformation also holds hope for other poor countries around the world, insofar as it sends the message that rapid economic growth is attainable under appropriate policies.

In 1991, the big breakthrough happened. Spurred by another balance of payments crisis, Indian policy makers turned to technocrats such as Dr. Manmohan Singh, who promptly began the process of liberalizing the economy. Trade barriers were slashed, foreign investment was welcomed, the license raj was dismantled, and privatization began. The economy started to boom, with software exports and call centers leading the way.

On 27th August, 2015 Dr. Sunder Ramaswamy elaborated on 10 reasons to be optimistic about the economy:

1. **GDP growth estimated to be 8% in 2015-16:** India is considered to be a bright spot in global economy.
2. **Improving industrial output:** Up 3.8% in June compared to 2.5% in May.



Dr. Sunder Ramaswamy, Economist with Mr. Vivek Vanmeeghanathan, MD - Caterpillar & Chairman - AmCham Tamil Nadu

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Dr. Sunder Ramaswamy, Director, Madras School of Economics with Mr. Vivek Vanmeeganathan, Chairman, AmCham Tamil Nadu Chapter at the August Breakfast meeting

3. **Healthier government finances:** Improved tax collections, led by indirect tax growth of 37.6% during April-July; lower subsidy bill due to falling oil prices; expected savings may be around Rs 1 lakh crore.
4. **Inflation - both retail and wholesale - under control:** Retail inflation estimated at 3.8% in July; wholesale inflation at -4.1%, the ninth straight month of contraction.
5. **Better than expected monsoon rains:** Deficit of around 11%, but distribution has been encouraging.
6. **Lower trade deficit:** Due to a fall in import bill for crude petroleum, gold.
7. **Current account deficit:** Appears more manageable at 1.3% GDP in 2014-15 compared to 1.7% in 2013-14.
8. **Forex reserves:** At a record \$355 billion.
9. Early signs of **increase in investment.**

10. **Healthy demand:** In consumer sectors, uptick in consumption.

On the contrary, Dr. Ramaswamy pointed out to areas of concern such as:

1. Sluggish credit growth. Growth in non-food bank credit off-take slowed to 8.4% in June 2015, compared with 13% in June 2014.



Members in rapt attention as Dr. Sunder Ramaswamy speaks on India's economic potential

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Mr. Brian Brendel, CIU Chief and Mr. Brock Fox, Vice Consul from the American Consulate General at the August breakfast meeting

2. High bank NPAs estimated at around 5.75% of gross assets.
3. Falling exports. Declined 10.3% in July, eighth straight month of decline.
4. Several companies have stressed balance sheets, particularly infrastructure firms.
5. Low demand in construction sector.

6. Falling rupee may impact FII inflows; slowing Chinese economy and possible rate hike by U.S. Fed add to market fears.

The session ended with a very engaging and interesting interactive session with members.

Earlier during the event, members welcomed Mr. Brian Bendel, the new CIU Chief at the Consular Section in Chennai, while Mr. Brian Fox, Vice Consul, gave members an update on Visa related matters.



Mr. Jerry Kapoor, MD – Modine Thermal Systems raising a question on where is the feel good factor when the economy is supposed to be doing well.



Mr. V. Mahesh, Plant Engineer at NCR Corporation asking a question during the interactive session after the talk on India's economic potential by Dr. Sunder Ramaswamy

White Paper Competition - Leveraging SMAC for HR - Qualifiers Stage 1

There were a total of 37 teams who submitted the abstracts and contested for the competition among AmCham Member Organizations within two categories A & B.

The jury has selected 10 teams who are going to present full white paper in the next committee meeting to be held in October 2015.

Category A

Textron	Existing SMAC HR BLEND	CatA_2	NipoonTandan
Deloitte	Are you social enough?	CatA_3	UshaSriharsha
			Riha Mehta
Cognizant	Embracing SMAC	CatA_4	Vineeth Kumar Narayanankutty Menon
			Togy Jose

Category B

Citibank	Bringing life back into Induction Programs	CatB-2	AvinashKohli
			Monika Suryawanshi
Axtria India	EmPower-A magic wand for HR Professionals	CatB-7	Rohit Yadav
			Ankit Kanojia
Deloitte	Millennials Today Leaders Tomorrow	CatB_12	Megha Agarwal
			ZarinaParvez
Textron	Futuristic SMAC HR BLEND	CatB_15	AsmaHanifi
			Pooja Bhattad
Monsanto	SMAC Power for HR Challenges	CatB_18	JyotiAbrol
			Sravani VL Bhaganagarapu
IBM	Learning & Development Competency based on user cognition for better availability and		
effective penetration of learning content	CatB_21	Pavithra Sampath	
			BharathMuralidhar
IBM	Engaging Millennials before they join an Organization	CatB_23	Kanisha Raina
			MayokunAduwo

A black and white photograph of a city skyline at night. Several tall skyscrapers are illuminated, and their lights reflect on the surrounding surfaces. In the foreground, there are long, horizontal light trails from moving vehicles, creating a sense of motion and activity. The overall atmosphere is modern and urban.

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*As on February 4, 2014



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AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN INDIA

Established in 1992, the American Chamber of Commerce in India (AmCham India) is an association of American business organizations operating in the country.

AmCham India has around 500 members, spread across the nation. The Chamber enjoys a close relationship with the U.S. Embassy, which supports its objectives and helps in fulfilling them. The incumbent U.S. Ambassador to India is the Honorary President of AmCham.

Mission

AmCham's principal objectives are to:

- Promote activities that encourage and stimulate investment by U.S. companies in the country.

- Support the business operations of its members.
- Encourage bilateral trade between India and the U.S.

These primary objectives are fulfilled by:

- Providing a forum for U.S. – based business organizations to discuss and identify common issues, economic and commercial interests in India and/or the U.S.
- Instituting Sectoral Committees which implement the primary objectives in their respective sectors.
- Reviewing policies and procedures in various sectors that affect the members as well as growth of foreign direct investment.

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