

Chairman's Message



Mr. Lowell C. Paddock

President & Managing Director
General Motors India

Amcham brings you the first issue of UPDATE, for the year 2014. We are focusing on challenges faced by MNCs looking at setting up Manufacturing Facilities in India .

It is imperative that the Industry and Government have discussions to iron out the grey areas in policy related and also non-policy issues and chart out what works best for the country, with inputs from the experts. Amcham plays a very crucial role in bringing all stakeholders on a common platform and facilitating a dialogue. Amcham has a mission to facilitate a healthy dialogue between the regulators & the industry and also to help the industry grow while fulfilling its commitment to India.

Amcham Sector Committees have been meeting and we have had many interesting events in Delhi and other regions. A multi-sector delegation met the Secretary Economic Affairs GOI - Dr Arvind Mayaram. IT & Healthcare Committees met the US Ambassador Ms Nancy Powell. Meetings & interactions were organized with Embassy & Consulate officials by Amcham in Delhi and other cities on a variety of topics concerning trade, commerce, security, visa procedures etc.

Compliance, Governance, FCPA, Global Mobility, Companies Act, Transfer Pricing, Tax Technology Risk Management etc. are certain issues of import for the industry, which Amcham India concentrated on and organized interactions and meetings, bringing on board panels of experts to share their knowledge with the industry. An objective of a Chamber of

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H I G H L I G H T S

- **Special interview with Mr Rustom Desai, Managing Director – CorningIndia, on Challenges in Manufacturing in India**
- **Amcham Events**
- **Amcham Sports Event in Hyderabad**
- **Amcham welcomes new members**



NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

National Executive Board – 2013-14

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Mr. Ajay Singha
Executive Director

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Commerce is to provide platforms for sharing of knowledge and best practices in the industry. And, Amcham is working towards creation of more such platforms.

Human Resources has always taken a place of importance with Amcham. We organized a talk on the 'The Sexual Harassment of Women at the Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013'. As I mentioned, People are most important to any business across the world. It is with this intent that we have a committee dedicated to HR, which is doing good work.

One of the most important aspect to be considered by any organization while doing business in any part of the world, is its People. Hiring people with the right skills, training them and helping them realize their potential, is the success 'mantra' for any business.

Corporate Social Responsibility is a focus area for Amcham. The CSR Committee is very active and is deliberating on events and interactions with the Industry and Government. Amcham members lay great emphasis on CSR and most of them have projects running in their companies. We would be keen to have a dialogue with the Government for exchange of views and ideas.

All work and no play, will not yield the results we look for in our businesses. Amcham organized a Sports Event in Hyderabad in which 1400 employees from around 28 companies participated. A huge success, the event garnered support from our member companies.

Amcham strives to keep connected to the latest research and advances in the world and aims to share the knowledge with its membership. We organized a talk on Gait based human recognition, with an internationally renowned researcher. We have played host to delegations from the US and organized interactive meetings wherein there was exchange of ideas and sharing of issues of relevance.

We look forth positively to the strengthening of US-India ties and working closely with the Governments to promote trade between the countries.

As I take on new responsibilities in my company, I will be moving on from my role as the Chairman of Amcham India. A role, I thoroughly enjoyed. This is the last issue of UPDATE I will be writing in as the Chairman. I extend my best wishes to Amcham and its secretariat. I am sure that with their zeal, they will reach greater heights and Amcham will prosper. I would like to extend my wishes to my successor and am sure he / she will find it equally interesting to interact with Amcham and its team and its membership.

And, as always, I would like to put on record, my appreciation of the support given to Amcham by its membership. We look forward to more support from you and greater interaction with you.

Do send in your feedback on Amcham activities. You can mail us at amcham@amchamindia.com.



Manufacturing in India



Mr Rustom J Desai

Chairman Amcham Manufacturing Committee & Managing Director Corning India and Telecom Operations

Congratulations on the Optical Fiber manufacturing facility in Chakan near Pune, India - The first manufacturing facility in India by Corning. Why did you choose India, particularly Maharashtra?

Thank you very much. Corning believes in the robustness and potential of India's telecommunications market. This is why we chose to build a state-of-the-art optical fiber facility in India. Maharashtra is India's most industrially developed state, has tremendous depth in its human capital, and I have personally met some of the most competent and pro-business Government representatives in this state. That's why Maharashtra.

What were your experiences in setting up the plant? What challenges did you face?

There were some positive surprises. The incredible talent we have found is one of them. A market that values differentiated high-tech products is another.

And there were some challenges. Infrastructure issues continue to be an area of concern.

Please share with us some experiences Corning had in hiring the right people for the plant. Any tips for HR while hiring new teams?

Hiring has been one of our key successes. Talent in Maharashtra is plentiful, we are blessed to have a workforce that is talented, driven and aligned with Corning's values. The

people that run our plant are our most critical asset.

My advice for HR leaders: Take the time to define the culture you want to build before you start hiring- make your every hiring, on boarding and training move about what culture you want to have in your facility 3 years out.

Do you think India is capable of meeting the demand for skilled personnel in manufacturing? What more needs to be done?

Absolutely, raw talent is plentiful. However, companies need to invest a lot in training and development. It has the dual benefit of enhancing performance and being perceived by our teams as a means to recognize and develop key talent. Thus far, we have invested close to 200,000 hours on training our people.

Any suggestions / advise for MNCs starting manufacturing in India ?

Plan conservatively.

Invest in good, experienced, credible advice up front.

Leverage organizations like Amcham, that can help create networks and support in unexpected ways!

What are the positives which prove beneficial for MNCs looking at making India their manufacturing base?

People, People, People.

First, hiring and developing a skilled workforce is critical, and doable.

Second, members of the eco system including Government representatives can be your biggest allies, if you take the time to educate about your strategy and goals, and to understand theirs. It takes time, patience and effort.

Any suggestions or views which you would like to share with the Indian Government on their policies on investments by MNCs in the Manufacturing Sector?

Our experience working with the Government of Maharashtra has been very positive. This plant would not have come to fruition like it did without the support we were given, across political parties and the men and women who work for the State Government. We thank the Government for that.

The challenge continues to be the availability of infrastructure. World class manufacturing requires world class infrastructure. There's no getting away from that, and how the Government develops its infrastructure will have a direct bearing on the quantity and quality of future investment by MNC's.

The challenge for India is to make our positive experience the rule, not the exception. It's hard, but possible.

Do you think the Amcham Manufacturing Committee should interface with other Amcham Sectoral Committees like the Tax & Tariff, HR, Infrastructure Committees (please add any which you think is relevant)? What are the common issues you visualize, where you can partner with other Amcham Committees?

Absolutely! Manufacturing relies heavily on the work that many of these committees do. And our "lessons learned" starting up and operating a state-of-the-art manufacturing facility will likely help other committees frame up their agendas/action plans as well. So collaboration is key to our collective success, and we need to do more of it.



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Mr Venkatesh Valluri takes over as Chair of U.S. India Energy Cooperation Program

The U.S India Energy Cooperation Program which is housed at The American Chamber of Commerce in India, is a public- Private partnership between Amcham member companies and the Governments of the United States and India. The new E.C.P Chair- Mr. Venkatesh Valluri is the Chairman& President for Ingersoll Rand, India and a member of Ingersoll Rand's global Executive Leadership team.

Mr Valluri serves on the Prime Minister's Fellowship scheme board for Doctoral Research grants and is on the board of many organizations with the Government and Industry. Mr Valluri is a member of the National Executive Board of Amcham India.



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

Delhi

Meeting of Amcham Defense Committee

Amcham Defense Committee members met on December 16, 2013 to discuss the agenda for the meeting with the present DG(Acq), recommendations for the meeting with Mr Ashok Kumar Meena, JS (DOMW), engaged participation between AMCHAM & other Industry bodies like FICCI, interactions for January 2014, member's views on conducting a OEM-MSME, Amcham's role in Defexpo 2014, February 6 – 9 at New Delhi.

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

A meeting of Amcham's Tax, Tariff and Regulatory Affairs Committee was held on December 17, 2013. The meeting was chaired by Ms Neeru Ahuja, Chairperson of the Committee and Partner, Deloitte Haskins & Sells. Ms Saloni Roy, Partner, Deloitte Haskins & Sells, made a presentation on Service Tax 'Recent Issues and Challenges'.

Ms Neeru Ahuja made a presentation on 'Looking Back at 2013 and Year Ahead 2014 ' Round-up of Important Tax Developments'.

Amcham Anti-Corruption Committee Teleconference

Amcham Anti-Corruption Committee had the monthly

Teleconference on December 18, 2013, and the Guest Speaker was Dr. Bruce Horowitz, Partner, Paz Horowitz Roalino Garces.

Meeting of Amcham's ICT Committee

A meeting of Amcham's ICT Committee was held on December 20, 2013 in New Delhi. The meeting was chaired by Mr Amit Sharma, Executive Vice President, President Asia, ATC Tower Company of India Pvt. Ltd., and Chairman of the Committee. Issues such as PMA; Safety Testing; M2M; E-waste/RoHS; Unified Licence; Centralized Monitoring System (CMS) and cloud computing were discussed.

Meeting with Dr Arvind Mayaram, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance

The meeting on January 09, 2014, with Dr Arvind Mayaram, Secretary Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, focussed on Financial Services, Civil Aviation (MROs) Infrastructure, Taxation and Manufacturing. The Financial services issues were well received and action will be taken by the DEA. On Taxation issues, the Secretary suggested Amcham should be more robustly engaged with the Advance Ruling authorities and address individual matters there.

The Secretary agreed to meet members of the manufacturing groups separately as it required discussion and understanding for further action. On Civil Aviation; MROs,

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the matters will be put up by Amcham before Secretary Revenue. On infrastructure projects, the Secretary felt that specific orders cannot be issued on adopting new norms for processing tenders & granting of contracts as this may amount to interference.

Meeting of the Amcham Civil Aviation Committee

The Committee met on 09 January 2014, to discuss the way forward for the year 2014 under the Chairmanship of Mr Palash Roy Chowdhury, Managing Director, Pratt & Whitney. It was decided that Amcham's key focus areas for 2014, should be MRO, Regional Connectivity and Low Cost Airports and Ongoing advocacy on Aviation issues and opportunities.

Amcham Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Committee Teleconference

Amcham Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Committee Monthly Teleconference was on January 15, 2013. The Guest Speaker was Mr Jasmeet Wadhera, General Counsel, International Paper – India.

Roundtable discussions between Amcham members from the ICT sector and US Ambassador Ms Nancy Powell

Amcham organized a Roundtable discussion with the US Ambassador Ms Nancy Powell for Amcham members from the ICT sector on January 22, 2014. The meeting was chaired by Mr Amit Sharma, Chairman of the Amcham ICT Committee and Executive Vice President, President Asia, ATC Tower Company of India Pvt. Ltd.

The ICT industry is one of the leading sectors in US-India bilateral economic relationship but has dealt with

numerous policy changes over the past few years.

Discussions at the meeting centered around the Government of India's December 2013 decision to eliminate the Preferential Market Access (PMA) policy for private sector procurement, which was seen as a positive move and upcoming policy issues.

Meeting of Amcham Healthcare Committee members with US Ambassador Ms Nancy Powell

Ambassador Powell met the Healthcare Committee members on January 22, 2014 at the office of 3M India, to discuss the Medical Devices Bill and the impact it would have on stakeholders. She did a brief tour of the 3M facility before the meeting started.

During the meeting, members also discussed their CSR initiatives in India and the contribution they have made in the country in terms of innovation and advancements. Participating CEOs were from Zimmer India, 3M, Baxter India, Boston Scientific India and Abbott.

Amcham India - Thomson Reuters event on Tax Technology Risk Management

Amcham in association with Thomson Reuters, organized an interactive session on 'Tax Technology Risk Management' on January 28, 2014. The event was attended by Tax Experts and CFO's of American companies.

Ms Neeru Ahuja, Chairperson, Amcham's Committee on Taxation & Partner, Deloitte Haskins & Sells made a presentation on 'Global Tax Compliance- Management & Technology'. Other presentations were by Mr Patrick Trapp, Partner, Ernst & Young LLP on 'Managing Tax Risk & Transforming Tax Operations'; Mr Priyajit Ghosh, Partner, KPMG on 'Practical Aspects of Tax Technology from an



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Indian Business Perspective’ and Mr Sandeep Khurana, Head - Market development, Thomson Reuters on ‘Tax Risk Mitigation using Tax Technology’.

Interactive session of the Amcham Civil Aviation Committee with US officials

With the recent downgrade of DGCA to Category II by FAA and its implications on the US Aviation sector in India, Amcham organized an interactive session over breakfast on February 05, 2014, for the Civil Aviation Committee members with the FAA, U.S. Embassy and USTDA administrators to seek their guidance on the subject and also offer suggestions for consideration. The group had focused conversation on matters of flight safety, ATF tax policy, ATC/ATM upgradation and other topics.

EEBDG working group meeting with Ms Meredydd Evans, PNNL, US Department of Energy

Members of the Energy Efficiency & Building Design working Group (EEBDG) of ECP had a discussion with Ms Meredydd Evans, Senior Staff Scientist at Pacific Northwestern National Laboratory (PNNL), on February 06, 2014, to develop content for a training module as part of the group capacity building efforts.

A training workshop is proposed for augmenting capacities of Urban local bodies for implementation of the Energy Efficiency Building Code in some states that have mandated the implementation of the ECBC code.

ECP members meet with India Smart Grid Forum, ISGF

Members of ECP had an interaction on February 06, 2014, with India Smart Grid Forum President Mr Reji Pillai on ways of engagement for U.S companies in the 14 pilot projects that are in execution mode. Mr Pillai shared the Smart Grid vision and Roadmap Document with the team and informed them about the proposed launch of a National Smart Grid mission.

Roundtable interaction organized by Amcham & USIBC with US Government officials

On the occasion of Defexpo 2014, Amcham & USIBC jointly organized a Roundtable Discussion over breakfast on February 06, 2014, with the visiting US Government

Officials for Defexpo 2014 at New Delhi.

The opening remarks were shared by Ms Ann Cataldo, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Defense Exports & Cooperation and Ms. Karen Garvey, Principal Director for Security Cooperation Operations, DSCA. Senior Members of Amcham Defense Committee participated and shared their views with the team.

Meeting of the Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Committee

The Amcham Anti-corruption & FCPA Compliance committee met on February 18, 2014. Mr. Anand Dayal, Chairman- Amcham Anti-Corruption & FCPA Compliance Committee Meeting, chaired the meeting.

The meeting was held to discuss and chart out the activity calendar for 2014 for the committee. Mr. U S Dutt, IPS(Retired) was invited as the guest speaker. Discussions centered around various initiatives like FCPA bootcamps across different cities in India and a revamp of the Amcham and Hill & Associates handbook on FCPA Compliance.

The Anti-Corruption Committee tele-conference

The Anti-corruption Committee's tele-conference, is part of the “Anti Corruption Informational Series” and the purpose is to share information amongst Amcham member companies, to get practical insights on market access and compliance strategies.

The Guest Speaker for the telecon on February 19, 2014 was Ms. Priyanka Sharma, Partner, Dua Associates. Priyanka presented on India's Anti-Bribery Legislative Landscape.

Panel discussion on Elections – Risks and Rewards for Business



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Amcham, British Business Group (BBG) and European Business Group (EBG) jointly organized a Presentation cum Panel discussion on 'Elections – Risks and Rewards for Business' on February 19, 2014 at The Metropolitan Hotel.

The eminent panelists were Mr. Anil Padmanabhan - renowned Journalist, Mr. Swapan Das Gupta - Senior Journalist & Political Commentator and Dr. A Didar Singh-Secretary General, FICCI. Mr. Jan Zalewski, Expert on Political and Security Risks in India at Control Risks, chaired the session, which was attended by over 75 persons.

E.C.P interaction with Secretary Moniz at U.S India Energy Dialogue

The U.S.-India Energy Dialogue met in New Delhi on March 5-11, 2014. India and the United States reaffirmed strong commitment to collaborate on energy and promote greater technological and business innovation, scientific cooperation, research, development and deployment of environment-friendly technologies and products, open trade, and sound regulatory frameworks to deliver energy solutions for sustainable growth. The Energy



Dialogue highlights ongoing engagement in the areas of civilian nuclear energy, electrical grid and power generation cooperation, energy efficiency, oil and gas exploration and investment, expanding markets for renewable energy technologies and addressing barriers to clean energy deployment.

At a brief interaction on the sidelines of the Energy Dialogue with Secretary Moniz on March 11, 2014, USTDA director Lee Zak said that USTDA is supporting activities to promote the development of solar projects and micro-grids, the uptake of smart grid technologies by Indian utilities and the implementation of new technologies in the refining sector by leveraging the expertise of other U.S. government entities and U.S.-India Energy Cooperation Program member companies.

Hyderabad

Amcham Sports Event 2013

The Amcham Hyderabad Sports Event 2013, began on September 14, 2013 with Cricket matches. There were a total of 12 sports at the Amcham Hyderabad Sports Event - Cricket, Basketball, Throwball (Women), Volley Ball (Men and Women), Tennis, Football, Table Tennis, Badminton, Chess, Carom, Athletics.

The matches were conducted from September 14, 2013 through December 15, 2013 on weekends. A total of 1400 employees spread across 28 Amcham Member Companies participated.

The Sports Event was sponsored by DST, D E Shaw, Qualcomm and S&P Capital IQ. Basketball & Tennis matches were conducted at the premises of CA India Technologies and Chess matches were conducted at the

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premises of St. Jude Medical. Amcham extends a heartfelt thank you to all the sponsors. The Amcham Sports Event was organized with the help of The Sportz Managers.

Meeting of the Executive Committee of the Amcham Hyderabad Chapter

The Executive Committee of Amcham Hyderabad Chapter met at Hotel Trident on December 16, 2013. The Executive Committee was apprised of the events for the quarter and plans for 2014 were shared with them.

Dinner meeting with American Council of Young Political Entrepreneurs

Amcham Hyderabad organized a dinner meeting on December 16, 2013, with the delegation of the American Council of Young Political Entrepreneurs, the Consulate officials including the CG Mr Michael Mullins and the Amcham Executive Committee members. It was an informal gathering with discussions centering around variety of issues.

Executive Committee Meeting

Amcham Hyderabad Chapter had their Executive Committee meeting on January 20, 2014.

Interactive Session on FCPA

An Interactive Session on Foreign Corrupt Practices Act FCPA was organized on January 23, 2014. Mr Rajiv Khanna, Seyfarth Shaw LLP, USA & Mr Sandeep Baldava, Ernst & Young LLP, addressed the gathering.

The session highlighted the stringent view taken by the regulators across the globe on non-compliance; what constitutes proper and improper gifts, travel and entertainment expenses; the nature of facilitating payments, as mentioned in the Resource Guide to the U.S. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, latest developments in the US around FCPA and Corporate Governance that impacts global operations of US Companies; key regulatory developments in India etc.

Interactive Session on Global Mobility

A Session on Global Mobility was organized on January 24, 2014. Mr Scott Flicker spoke on Program Compliance Management and Governance, Cost Control and Cost management of Global Mobility, Enhancing the Value of the Global Mobility Function.



Mr Flicker said that leading or world class mobility requires focus on three objectives simultaneously- Operational excellence to rapidly fill immediate needs, Integrate with talent to support leadership development, Formalize a mobility strategy to migrate capability to new markets.

CSR Water Symposium

The CSR Water Symposium was organized on February 19, 2014 by Amcham in support with USAID, US Consulate Hyderabad and Unlimited India and was sponsored by International Paper. The objective of the symposium was to create a forum for sharing knowledge and building expertise in the area of clean water, raise the awareness regarding the different avenues and options available for CSR contributions, create a groundwork for more coordinated and strategic CSR activities to promote clean water, provide an interactive learning session for companies engaged in CSR activities.

Mr Michael Mullins – Consul General, expressed a desire for Hyderabad to be at the forefront of the USAID initiative. Speakers were from Monitor Group, Coca-Cola India, Arghyam, Safe Water Network and International Paper India.



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Mumbai**Roundtable discussion on 'Companies Act 2013'**

Amcham Western Region, in partnership with Ernst & Young LLP, organised a Roundtable Discussion on 'Companies Act 2013' on December 17, 2013.

An expert panel of speakers - Mr Dolphy D'Souza, Head of Technical Directorate, Assurance services (member firm of EY), Mr Amrish Shah, Transaction Tax Partner, EY, Mr Hitesh Sharma, International Tax partner and Mr Debtosh Mishra, Manager -Advisory, E&Y, made in-depth & insightful presentations on Global Key aspects of Accounting & Auditing, Corporate Governance, Merger & Acquisitions and Tax related implications, Related Party and Corporate Social Responsibility.

Meeting of Amcham's Supply Chain & Logistics Committee

The Amcham Supply Chain & Logistics Committee meeting was held on January 17, 2014 in Mumbai. The meeting was chaired by Mr Neil Basu, Chairperson of the Committee and Regional Executive Director, Council of Supply Chain Management Professionals India Pvt. Ltd.

Mr Prashant Deshpande, Indirect Tax - Leader, Deloitte Haskins & Sells, joined the meeting as the Guest Speaker and made an intensive presentation on GST.

Mr Umesh Madhyan, National Head Infrastructure and Logistics, Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages Pvt. Ltd., shared an update on Collaborative Transport as well as the pilot of the project. Mr. Rohit Mathur, DGM-Commercial, Mosaic India Pvt. Ltd., made a presentation on Mosaic & the Fertilizer Supply Chain Mosaic.

Workshop on the US Visa Process at Nashik

On January 27, 2014, a Workshop was organized in Nashik (Maharashtra) on the US Visa Process with a special focus on B1/B2 & General Visa Category. The event was organized by VUSA (Visit USA), an organisation formed with the support of the U.S. Consulate General.

Amcham Western Region supported the event and invited member companies in the region as an outreach initiative. The workshop aimed to facilitate a better understanding of

the visa processes for employees to travel to the US.

Roundtable Discussion on 'Transfer Pricing - Recent Controversies & Updates'

On January 30, 2014, Amcham Western Region in partnership with Ernst & Young LLP, organized a Roundtable Discussion on 'Transfer Pricing - Recent Controversies and Updates'.



The well attended meeting saw insightful presentations from and engaging discussions with EY experts – Mr Vijay Iyer - Tax Partner & National Leader – Transfer Pricing Services EY, Mr E Miller – Jr Principal Transfer Pricing and Mr Ameet Kapoor – Executive Director Transfer Pricing Services EY. Mr Rohan Vaziralli, Country Manager, ELCA India presented the Vote of Thanks.

Panel Discussion on 'E Commerce & The Tax Implications For Your Supply Chain' - An Initiative of Amcham's Supply Chain & Logistics Committee and Tax & Tariff Committee

Amcham India's Supply Chain & Logistics Committee in collaboration with the Amcham Tax & Tariff Committee, organized a Panel Discussion on "E-Commerce and the Tax Implications for your Supply Chain" on February 21, 2014. Ms Neeru Ahuja, Chairperson, Amcham's Tax & Tariff Committee & Partner, Deloitte Haskins & Sells, emphasized the role of E-commerce in shaping of business and the significance of E-Commerce, Supply Chain & Taxation. She encouraged participants to make use of Amcham's forums to put forth industry issues to be taken up by the committees with the Government.

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The speakers were Mr. Sandeep Prakash, Regional Head Amway India Enterprises Pvt. Ltd, Mr. Rajesh Bhatia, Managing Director-Sales –Federal Express Corporation, Mr. Prashant Deshpande, Indirect Tax Leader -Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India Pvt. Ltd. and Mr. Rohinton Sidhwa, Tax Partner- Deloitte Haskins & Sells. Mr. Abhay Kekre, Member of SCL Committee & Director India CLS Asia Pacific, Johnson & Johnson Medical India, gave the Vote of Thanks.

Kolkata

Interactive Luncheon meeting with US Ambassador to India Ms Nancy J. Powell

Amcham Eastern Chapter hosted on September 6, 2013, an interactive luncheon meeting between the US Ambassador Ms Nancy Powell and Amcham Eastern Region members.

Ambassador Powell introduced Minister Counselor for Commercial Affairs Mr John McCaslin, who was on his first visit to Kolkata. She spoke about the strong relationship of



the Amcham Eastern Chapter with the Embassy & Consulate and emphasized the importance of joint programs on issues of relevance to the Amcham's expanding membership. Mr John McCaslin also met with the members to discuss the programs & services the US Commercial Services offices in the Embassy & Consulates offer American companies in India.

Amcham participation in CUTS International Stakeholders Conference

Amcham Eastern Chapter was invited to participate in CUTS International Stakeholders' Conference - Assessment of Bangladesh-India Trade Potentiality - Need for Cross-Border Transport Facilitation & Mutual Recognition of Standards". The conference was held on November 15-16, 2013.

Session on 'Gait Based Human Recognition' with Dr Shamik Sural, Professor - IIT Kharagpur

On January 10, 2014, Amcham Eastern India Chapter, organized an interaction with Dr Shamik Sural, Professor at IIT Kharagpur on 'Gait based Human Recognition'. Dr Sural is a leading international name in research on computer security, with his focus on gait based human recognition, especially in real-life situations where occlusion is one of the major factors impeding accuracy.

Gait or the style of walking of a person is the only perceivable unique bio-metric feature of an individual that can be studied from a distance. Dr Sural took the audience through the various facets of Gait Based Human Recognition System, which is an amalgamation of information technology and intelligent surveillance.



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He explained that though the technology is in a nascent stage, it has the potential for threat detection and security. The session proved to be very interesting and interactive.

Amcham participation in The 24th Core committee meeting with Industry and Chamber heads, chaired by Chief Minister Ms Mamta Banerjee

Amcham participated on January 13, 2014, in the 24th Core committee meeting, the Chief Minister of West Bengal Ms Mamta Banerjee had with Industry and Chamber heads. Various issues of relevance to the industry were discussed by the chair.

Executive Committee meeting

Meeting of Kolkata Chapter Executive Committee was held on January 15, 2014.

Interactive session on Changing trends of Insurance in India

Amcham's Eastern Region HR Sub-Committee hosted a seminar on 'Changing trends of Insurance in India' on February 06, 2014. The speakers Mr Sudip Indani and Mr Ayush Sharma are from Almondz, one of the Global Leading Insurance Advisors.

The Seminar focused on Insurance Policies related to employee benefits, various practices and how they are evolving with the changing business environment. It also touched upon the Director and Officers Liability under the recently enacted Indian Companies Act of 2013.

Bangalore

Meeting with Mr Nicholas Manring, Chief of Consular Services, US Consulate, Chennai

Amcham Bangalore organized a meeting with the Chief of Consular Services, US Consulate, Chennai, Mr Nicholas Manring and his new team of visa officers on December 18, 2013. Mr Manring was accompanied by senior officials from the Consulate.

Senior management from the HR/Travel department from

companies such as IBM, HP, Ingersoll Rand, Cognizant, Northern Trust and others, met with the new team and resolved a lot of their visa issues.

Amcham participation at the interactive session 'Vision for IT, Entrepreneurship, Innovation and e-Governance for Karnataka' organized by NASSCOM & the Department of Information Technology, Government of Karnataka

Amcham participated at the interactive session 'Vision for IT, Entrepreneurship, Innovation and e-Governance for Karnataka' organized by NASSCOM and the Department of Information Technology, Government of Karnataka, on January 08, 2014.

Shri Srivatsa Krishna, IAS, Secretary to the Government, Department of IT and Shri Rentala Chandrasekhar, IAS (Retd), the new President of NASSCOM, addressed the gathering on their plans for the IT sector in Karnataka.

Security briefing by Mr Marlon J. Grullón, Regional Security Officer, American Consulate General, Chennai

Security briefing by Mr Marlon J. Grullón, Regional Security Officer, American Consulate General, Chennai, India, was held on January 15, 2014, to discuss security issues in the region and specific to Amcham companies.

The meeting was specifically meant for security and administrative heads of US Companies. Among those who participated were heads of security from IBM, Ingersoll Rand, Marriott Group, Cognizant, Dell, Northern Trust and Goldman Sachs. American nationals working in Bangalore also attended the meeting.

Amcham Karnataka Executive Committee meeting

Amcham Karnataka Executive Committee Meeting was held on January 24, 2014. In the meeting, the Committee discussed events for the year. It was decided to continue with the interactions with the Government of Karnataka, with a meeting with the new Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka, Mr. Kaushik Mukherjee.

AMCHAM EVENTS

An interaction with the US Consulate on Visa procedures

As part of the Consulate's ongoing efforts to ease travel to the United States, Mr. Eric Swinn, Vice Consul, US Consulate General Chennai and Ms. Vidya Selvam, BEP representative, met with Amcham companies in Bangalore on January 29, 2014, for informal one-on-one meetings to address any questions related to visa matters at the U.S. Commercial Services office.

Among the participating companies were Yahoo, Dell, Grant Thornton, MOOG, UL India and Dover Corporation. CEOs and heads of the HR/Travel departments met with the Consular officials.

Roundtable on Transfer Pricing – Recent Controversies & Updates

Amcham Karnataka Chapter, in association with Ernst and Young and NASSCOM, held a Roundtable on 'Transfer Pricing - Recent Controversies and Updates' on February 03, 2014, at the J.W. Marriott.

Mr E Miller Williams. Jr. Principal Partner, Transfer Pricing Services Ernst and Young, US; Mr Ameet Kapur, Executive Director - Transfer Pricing Services; and Mr Rajendra Nayak, Partner - International Tax Services, were the main speakers. Financial heads of most U.S. companies attended the Roundtable.

Chennai

Amcham Meeting in Chennai, on 'Responding to Workplace Sexual Harassment', facilitated by Dr. Swarna Rajagopalan, Managing Trustee, The Prajnya Trust

This meeting ,to create awareness on the new Act titled 'The Sexual Harassment of Women at the Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act 2013', was organized on December 23, 2013 in association with the Prajnya Trust.

It is now mandatory for every company to constitute an Internal Complaints Committee. Some Amcham members have already established the POSH Committee- Prevention

of Sexual Harassment.

Amcham meeting in Chennai on 'Challenges of Operating Globally'

A meeting was organized in Chennai on January 23, 2014, on Challenges of Operating Globally and was facilitated by PWC.

In an increasingly competitive global marketplace, a company's ability to operate profitably in diverse geographic markets and to shift operations flexibly between countries may be essential to the success of its business.

Multinational firms must comply with host countries' laws on tax, pensions, business practices and human resources. The meeting highlighted such challenges faced by MNCs.

Sharing Best Practices – Visit of Amcham member companies to the Caterpillar Plant at Tiruvallur

Amcham Tamil Nadu Chapter organized a visit to the Caterpillar Plant at Tiruvallur on January 30, 2014, with the objective of facilitating for the Amcham members, to observe firsthand, the innovations and best practices in the Caterpillar manufacturing plant and to take a tour of the facilities.

They observed the many innovations that have been introduced at the plant. The visit provided a great opportunity for employees at various levels across functions to meet and interact with their counterparts from the Caterpillar facility.

Meeting of the Executive Committee of Amcham's Tamil Nadu Chapter

Amcham Tamil Nadu Chapter's Executive Committee met on February 8, 2014.

The topics discussed included a Mega CSR event; Meeting on Transport Infrastructure in Chennai involving the Railway, Mass Rapid Transport System, Metro Rail, Metropolitan Transport Corporation and the Traffic Police; Workshop on Skill Development; Industry Visits; MNC success story in Tamil Nadu, Golf Tournament and Meeting of all Foreign Business Groups in Chennai.

Amcham Welcomes New Members

Corporate members



Mr Achyuta Narayan Bakshi
Managing Director
Cambridge Energy Resources Pvt. Ltd.



Mr R Murali
Plant Manager
Borg Warner Morse TEC India Pvt. Ltd.



Mr Atul Ahluwalia
Managing Director, India
CMGRP India Pvt. Ltd.



Mr Neeraj Jain
Managing Director
Scholastic India Pvt. Ltd.



Mr Gaurav Verma
Director – RA / Post Marketing Vigilance
Covidien Healthcare India Pvt. Ltd.



Mr. Gaurav Chopra
Principal and Managing Director
HKS India Design Consulting Pvt. Ltd.



Mr Ramesh K. Mirakhur
General Manager – Global Technology Services
LPS India Solutions Pvt. Ltd.

Additional members

Mr Saurabh Singh

Manager Corporate Affairs
Hewlett Packard India Sales Pvt. Ltd.

Ms Elizabeth Hernandez

Vice President, APJ Corporate Affairs
Hewlett Packard India Sales Pvt. Ltd.

Mr Anuj Bugga

Managing Director
FTI Consulting India Pvt. Ltd.

Mr Ramarathnam Varadadesikan

Director
Caterpillar India Pvt. Ltd.



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 principle 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.

Affiliations

Amcham is affiliated to the following Chambers:

- Chamber of Commerce of U.S.A in Washington, D.C.
- Asia Pacific Council of American Chambers of Commerce (APCAC)
- Amcham's in other countries.

Regional Chapters

Amcham's National Secretariat is based in New Delhi with six Regional Chapters in Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai.

American Chamber of Commerce in India

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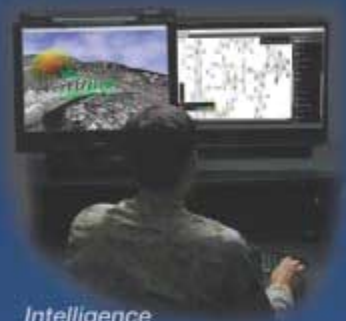
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