



یومِ یکجہتی کشمیر

Fortnightly Bulletin

**THE SIALKOT CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE & INDUSTRY**

ایوان صنعت و تجارت سیالکوٹ



یوم یکجہتی کشمیر



آزادی کشمیر کیلئے قربانیاں پیش کرنے والے شہداء کشمیر کو شاندار الفاظ میں خراج تحسین پیش کرتے ہوئے کہا کہ کشمیر پاکستان کی شہ رگ ہے اور کشمیری مسلمانوں کا ساتھ دینا ہماری دینی و ملی ذمہ داری ہے جس کو ہم ادا کرتے رہے ہیں اور ہمیشہ کرتے رہیں گے۔ تقریب سے چیئر مین کمیٹی جناب میاں محسن گل نے بھی خطاب کیا۔ جبکہ صدر سیالکوٹ چیمبر جناب میاں عمران اکبر، سینئر نائب صدر جناب شیخ زوہیب رفیق سیٹھی، نائب صدر جناب قاسم ملک، سابق صدر میجر (ر) منصور احمد، صدر و وائس چیئر محترمہ ڈاکٹر مریم نعمان صاحبہ، اراکین مجلس عاملہ اور مختلف مکاتب فکر سے تعلق رکھنے والے افراد سمیت چیئر ممبران کی کثیر تعداد نے شرکت کی۔

ایوان صنعت و تجارت سیالکوٹ کی ڈیپارٹمنٹل کمیٹی برائے مذہبی و ثقافتی امور کی جانب سے یوم یکجہتی کشمیر اور اسلام میں اصول تجارت کے حوالہ سے ایک پروقار تقریب کا اہتمام کیا گیا۔ تقریب کی صدارت صدر سیالکوٹ چیمبر جناب میاں عمران صاحب کی جبکہ شیخ الاسلام مفتی محمد زبیر صاحب دامت برکاتہم نے بطور مہمان خصوصی اس اہم تقریب میں شرکت کی۔ صدر سیالکوٹ چیمبر نے کہا کہ سیالکوٹ کی بزنس کمیونٹی 5 فروری یوم یکجہتی کشمیر کے موقع پر مقبوضہ کشمیر کے مسلمانوں کے ساتھ نہ صرف مکمل یکجہتی کا اظہار کرتی ہے بلکہ ہر سطح پر ان کی اخلاقی اور سفارتی حمایت کو جاری رکھنے کا عہد بھی کرتی ہے۔ شیخ الاسلام مفتی محمد زبیر صاحب نے میڈیا سے بات کرتے ہوئے



THE SIALKOT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

ایوان صنعت و تجارت سیالکوٹ

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WHAT IS INSIDE

- ➔ President Message. P-04
- ➔ Batain Aiwan Ki. P-05
- ➔ Monthly Activities of Sialkot. P-06
- ➔ Pakistan Leather Garments Industry. P-30

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معزز اراکین چیمبر

اللہ اکبر علیہ وسلم اللہ وکبر اللہ وکبر اللہ

بلاشبہ سیالکوٹ ایک ایکسپورٹ Oriented سٹی ہے اور اس شہر کا ہر دوسرا شخص برآمدی سرگرمیوں کا حصہ ہے۔ ہماری نوجوان نسل بھی حسب روایت اسی ٹرینڈ کے ساتھ آگے بڑھ رہی ہے۔ وطن عزیز پاکستان 22 کروڑ نفوس پر مشتمل ایک بڑی Domestic مارکیٹ ہے جس کو ہم مسلسل نظر انداز کر رہے ہیں۔ قوت خرید کے بین الاقوامی انڈکس کے مطابق ہمارے ملک کا شمار دنیا بھر کی ریٹنگ میں 70 ویں نمبر پر ہے، جو میرے خیال کے مطابق ایک اچھی پوزیشن ہے۔ اس وقت فوڈ، کاسمیٹکس، کنفیکشنری آئیٹمز اور گارمنٹس سمیت دیگر روزمرہ اشیائے ضروریہ کے تقریباً تمام بڑے برانڈز کراچی و دیگر شہروں کے تیار کردہ ہیں۔ لہذا ہمیں برآمدات کے ساتھ ساتھ اپنے ملک کی اتنی بڑی Domestic مارکیٹ پر بھی توجہ دینے کی اشد ضرورت ہے۔ ہم مارکیٹنگ، پیکنگ، پراڈکٹس کی برانڈنگ سمیت دیگر ذرائع کاروبار اپناتے ہوئے اپنے ملک کی Domestic مارکیٹ کو آسانی Capture کر سکتے ہیں۔

علاوہ ازیں بین الاقوامی وبا COVID-19 کی وجہ سے پاکستان سمیت پوری دنیا میں B2C آن لائن فروخت کا رجحان تیزی کے ساتھ بڑھ رہا ہے۔ پچھلے دو سالوں کے دوران سیالکوٹ چیمبر کی رجسٹریشن میں غیر معمولی اضافہ دیکھنے میں آیا ہے، جس میں کثیر تعداد نوجوان ایکسپورٹرز کی ہے جو نہ صرف سیالکوٹ کی برآمدی انڈسٹری کے لئے خوش آئند چیز ہے بلکہ ملکی معیشت کے استحکام کیلئے بھی انتہائی فائدہ مند امر ہے کہ نوجوان نسل ملازمتوں پر آس لگانے کی بجائے بزنس کی جانب راغب ہے۔

معزز اراکین چیمبر! میں یہاں خصوصی طور پر B2C کے حوالہ سے آپ کی توجہ اس جانب مبذول کروانا اپنا اولین فرض سمجھتا ہوں کہ چند آن لائن مصنوعات فروخت کرنے والے افراد جاذب نظر ویب سائٹس اور پروفیشنل مارکیٹنگ ٹولز استعمال کرتے ہوئے کسٹمرز کو اپنی جانب راغب کرنے میں تو کامیاب ہو جاتے ہیں مگر جب انہیں کسٹمرز سے آرڈر کنفرم ہوتا ہے تو پھر معاہدہ کے مطابق کسٹمرز کو مال سپلائی نہیں کرتے جو انتہائی غیر اخلاقی عمل ہے۔ جس سے نہ صرف ملک و قوم کی بدنامی ہوتی ہے بلکہ اس سے ہماری برآمدات پر بھی منفی اثرات مرتب ہوتے ہیں۔ میری ایسے تمام چیمبر ممبران بالخصوص نوجوانوں سے اپیل ہے کہ چند ڈالر کی خاطر اپنے شہر، ملک اور مذہب کو بدنام نہ کریں۔ کسٹمرز کو مال سپلائی کرتے وقت کوالٹی اور معیار کے سلسلہ میں طے پانے والے معاہدہ کی مکمل پاسداری کریں۔ تجارت نبوی ﷺ منج ہے، اپنی تجارت کو اسلامی اصولوں کی روشنی میں ترتیب دیں۔ مال فروخت کرتے وقت غیر ضروری منافع سے اجتناب کریں، مال کی فروخت پر منی بیک گارنٹی فراہم کریں، جھوٹ اور دھوکا دہی سے بچیں۔ حالات جیسے بھی ہوں مگر سچائی اور ایمانداری کا ساتھ نہ چھوڑیں، اسی میں دنیا و آخرت کی بھلائی اور کامیابی ہے۔ اپنے کاروبار میں خیر و برکت کے حصول کیلئے اپنا مال اللہ کی رضا و خوشنودی کی خاطر معاشرہ کے غریب و مستحقین پر خرچ کریں۔ اللہ تعالیٰ نیک اعمال کرنے کی توفیق عطا فرمائے۔ بہت شکریہ

میاں عمران اکبر

صدر

ایوان صنعت و تجارت سیالکوٹ

باتیں ایوان کی

2000ء میں "باتیں ایوان کی" میں لکھی گئی تحریروں کے کچھ اقتباسات کو 2022ء کے تناظر میں پڑھیے



تحریر: ڈاؤد احمد چٹھہ
سابق صدر ایوان صنعت و تجارت سیاکوٹ

کے حکام اس کا کچھ بھی جواز پیش کریں لیکن یہ حقیقت ہے کہ ڈاک خانوں کی سروس انتہائی گھٹیا ہو چکی ہے۔ پارسلوں کے کرایوں میں ہوشربا اضافہ کر دیا گیا ہے، پاکستان کے اندر اور باہر ہوائی خطوط اور پارسل ہفتوں اور مہینوں بعد ڈلیوریے جاتے ہیں یا پھر غائب ہی کر دیئے جاتے ہیں۔

چیئیر کے ممبران اکثر شکایت کرتے ہیں کہ جو سپیل باہر کے ملکوں سے آتے ہیں یا وہ گاہوں کو بیرون ممالک بھیجتے ہیں، چوری کر لئے جاتے ہیں۔ ایل اطلاع کے مطابق سپیل پیکٹ اصل مالکان تک پہنچانے کی بجائے بھاری رقوم کے بدلے کچھ "کالیسیروں" کو فروخت کر دیئے جاتے ہیں۔



ایکسپورٹ پراسیسنگ زون (EPZ) کے قائم ہونے کے بعد اب ہوائی اڈے کی تعمیر شاید اس سے پہلے کبھی بھی اتنی شدت کے ساتھ محسوس نہ کی گئی ہو جتنی آج محسوس ہو رہی ہے۔ یہ ہوائی اڈہ حکومت کیلئے انتہائی منفعت بخش ہوگا۔ نیز سیاکوٹ گوجرانوالہ اور گجرات کے علاقے تجارتی نقطہ نظر سے مساوی طور پر استفادہ کر سکیں گے اور برآمدات میں بے پناہ اضافے کے ساتھ ساتھ ان تینوں اضلاع کے مسافروں کو سفری سہولتیں بھی دستیاب ہو جائیں گی کیونکہ سمبو یال جہاں یہ ہوائی اڈہ تعمیر ہونا ہے ان تینوں اضلاع کے وسط میں واقع ہے۔



چیئیر کے فورم پر ہم ہمیشہ اس امر کا پرچار کرتے رہتے ہیں کہ شادی بیاہ یا دیگر تقریبات اور رسومات پر سادگی کا انداز اپنایا جائے اس سلسلے میں چیئیر عملی مظاہرہ بھی کرتا ہے اور اپنی تمام تر تقریبات میں کوشش کرتا ہے کہ سادگی کا عنصر ان میں نمایاں نظر آئے۔ چند سال پہلے ہمارے شہر کی ایک نہایت معتبر اور متمول شخصیت پروفیسر امین جاوید صاحب (سلائم سپورٹس) نے اپنے ایک فرزند کی شادی پر "ولن ڈش" کی شروعات کر کے شہر کے دوسرے اہل دھن دھن کو دعوت فکرو عمل دی مگر افسوس کہ یہ سلسلہ کچھ آگے نہ بڑھ سکا دوستوں نے پروفیسر صاحب کو وہ ڈش کی روایت قائم کرنے پر بڑے تپاک سے مبارکباد تو پیش کی مگر خود اس پر عمل پیرا نہ ہو سکے۔

کرنا ہوتا ہے۔ سیاکوٹ ایوان صنعت و تجارت کو کبھی بھی اس سے کوئی سروکار نہیں کہ کوئی پارٹی برسر اقتدار ہے اور کوئی نہیں ہے چیئیر کا بنیادی مقصد حکومت کو ممبران کی مشکلات سے باخبر رکھنا اور اس امر کیلئے کوشاں رہنا ہے کہ سیاکوٹ کے ساڑھے چار ہزار سے زائد ایکسپورٹرز جو تھوڑا تھوڑا کر کے تیس ارب روپے کا کثیر زرمبادلہ کماتے ہیں بلاسود یا کم شرح سود پر سرکاری قرضے حاصل کریں۔ بے روزگاری کی شرح کو مزید کم رکھنے کیلئے زیادہ سے زیادہ صنعتیں قائم ہوں۔

انڈسٹریل اسٹینڈس قائم ہوں اور فیصل آباد کی طرح یہاں بھی تعلیمی ادارے قائم ہوں۔ کلکٹر کسٹم جناب یاسین طاہر کی ایک کتاب "Problems and Prospects of Export Promotion in Sialkot" کے حوالے سے شہر اقبال میں لاء کالج ہو۔ میڈیکل کالج قائم ہو، ہنر مندوں کو جلا بخشنے کیلئے ٹیکنیکل یونیورسٹی کا قیام عمل میں آئے۔ سفاری پارک ہو، ریلوے اسٹیشن شہر سے باہر منتقل ہو، برآمد کنندگان کیلئے رہائشی کالونیاں تعمیر ہوں، ٹینریز اسٹینڈ بنے جہاں Waste Treatment Plant نصب ہو اور سب سے بڑھ کر یہ کہ برآمد کنندگان ISO-9000 کے تقاضوں کو پورا کرنے کے اہل ہو جائیں۔

سیاکوٹ چیئیر پاکستان کے دوسرے چیئروں اور کاروباری تنظیموں کے مقابلے میں ایک لحاظ سے انفرادی حیثیت بھی رکھتا ہے کیونکہ اس کے ساڑھے تین ہزار سے زائد ممبران ہیں جو سب کے سب ایکسپورٹرز ہیں چونکہ یہ سب برآمد کنندگان کم وسائل اور زیادہ مسائل رکھتے ہیں اس لئے حکومت پر یہ لازم ہے کہ وہ تجارتی پالیسی اور بجٹ بناتے وقت نہ صرف اس چیئیر کی تجاویز کو پذیرائی بخشنے بلکہ سیاکوٹ برآمد کنندگان کو خصوصی مراعات سے بھی نوازے۔



سیاکوٹ میں جنرل پوسٹ آفس کی عمارت کسی بھوت بنگلہ کی طرح دکھائی دیتی ہے۔ اس کے کاؤنٹر پر جو لمبی لمبی قطاریں لگا کرتی تھیں وہ غائب ہو چکی ہیں۔ محکمہ ڈاک خانہ

سیاکوٹ ایوان صنعت و تجارت کا قیام 1982ء میں عمل میں آیا تھا۔ چیئیر کے قیام کے ذکر پر، اے ڈی بھٹہ مرحوم، نور خواجہ مرحوم، غلام علی شبیر مرحوم، حاجی محمد اشرف کھوکھر مرحوم، آغا کمال حیدر مرحوم، مظہر علی شبیر مرحوم، خواجہ ذکاء الدین مرحوم، اعجاز احمد باگڑی اور دیگر معماران چیئیر کی یاد بڑی شدت سے ستاتی ہے۔ یہ سب احباب مختلف سیاسی اور مذہبی جماعتوں سے ہمدردی یا تعلق رکھتے تھے۔ مگر ان کے درمیان نہ تو کبھی فرقہ واریت حائل ہوئی اور نہ سیاسی اختلافات آڑے آئے بلکہ جذبہ حب الوطنی سے سرشار ہو کر انہوں نے اس چیئیر کو قائم کرنے کیلئے دوڑ دھوپ کی اور کامیابی سے ہمکنار ہوئے۔ الحمد للہ تب سے آج تک انہی احساسات اور انہیں جذبات کو پیش نظر رکھ کر چیئیر کو سیاسی اور فرقہ واریت کی آلودگیوں سے بچانے کا سلسلہ جاری ہے۔

مجلس عاملہ کے ارکان کا تجربہ یہ کریں اور بہ نظر غائر دیکھیں تو معلوم ہوگا کہ مختلف مذہبی مکاتب فکر اور مسالک مختلف سیاسی جماعتوں سے ہمدردی اور تعلق رکھنے کے باوجود یہ لوگ چیئیر کے معاملات نہایت خوبصورتی سے چلا رہے ہیں۔ محسوس ہوتا ہے کہ صحن چمن میں قسم قسم کے پھول ہیں جو اپنی بہار دکھا رہے ہیں۔ ہماری دعا ہے کہ پاکستان کے ہر شہر اور قصبے میں کاروباری اور سماجی تنظیمیں سیاکوٹ چیئیر کی پالیسی اپنالیں اور تمام سیاسی اور مذہبی اختلافات کو بالائے طاق رکھ کر محبت و مودت اور یک جہتی کے جذبہ کے ساتھ تعمیر و ترقی کے منصوبوں کی تکمیل کیلئے اپنا کردار ادا کریں۔

بعض اوقات چیئیر کی مجلس عاملہ یا عہدیداران حکومت کی کسی ایسی پالیسی پر تنقید کرتے ہیں جس کا مقصد سیاکوٹ کی برآمدات کے تسلسل میں روانی پیدا کرنا ہو یا رکاوٹوں کو دور

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES OF SIALKOT CHAMBER

MEETING WITH MR. FAWAD ALI, SENIOR DIRECTOR COMMERCIAL, DHL-PAKISTAN



Mian Imran Akbar, President SCCI welcomed Mirza Fawad Ali, Senior Director Commercial DHL Pakistan and Mr. Usman Wali, Senior Director Operations DHL Pakistan upon their visit to Sialkot Chamber on November 02, 2021. He also expressed his gratitude to the executive committee members and other participants for joining the session. He said that the export sector of Sialkot was based on SMEs and business community of Sialkot had been offering their best to develop the cottage industry. He shared with the house regarding various categories of products that were being manufactured in Sialkot and said that the Sialkot export-oriented sector experienced growth over the years and earned more than 2.5 billion USD of foreign exchange annually to support the economy of Pakistan.

He further said that DHL was an international courier company that had earned international repute by providing best services to the industry. The Business Community of Sialkot preferred to send their shipments through DHL considering DHL as logistic partner, therefore it was expected that DHL would cooperate with the industrialists to resolve the pertaining issues, he added. He listed the problems faced by Export Oriented businesses in Sialkot.

Mr. Fawad Ali thanked Mian Imran Akbar, President SCCI and stated that DHL had done its best to control the prices, since the pandemic of Covid-19 started, DHL adjusted the prices and increased rates sequentially to avoid the sudden burden on the shoulders of Exporters. He also mentioned that most of shipments were sent to USA whose Emergency Surcharge charges were only 0.2 cents per kg rather than Australia/New Zealand which was not a targeted market for exporters. Wholistically the cost of

doing business and global supply chain was disturbed in the entire world because of Covid-19, however DHL absorbed those damages and operated under loss which was also documented, he said. Moreover, just like other brands if DHL would withdraw from the market the export market might face the direct impact, he added.

VISIT OF SAMI ULLAH KHAN, FORMER CAPTAIN OF PAKISTAN'S NATIONAL HOCKEY TEAM



November 03, 2021, Mr. Sami Ullah Khan, Former Captain of Pakistan's National Hockey Team visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry along with his wife and some other dignitaries. Famous Player Mr. Anjum Rashid also came for the meeting; whereas, Mirza Iqbal Baig (Senior Sports Journalist) and Mr. Shehnaz Sheikh joined the meeting online via Zoom. Mian Imran Akbar, President SCCI welcomed the guests; he also applauded the guest for his achievement. He also appreciated Sheikh Zahid Hameed, Chairman Committee to make the visit of the national hero possible. Mr. Hanif Khan, Mr. Khawar Anwar Khawaja, Mr. Aftab Iqbal and many other senior members and Members of the SCCI's Departmental Committee on "Garrison HQ/ Cantonment Board Affairs" attended the meeting to present tribute to the national hero. Senior Vice President SCCI, Vice President SCCI and Chairman Committee welcomed the guest and participants. They appreciated the guest to share his achievements throughout his career. It was mentioned that Mr. Sami Ullah Khan was one of the top hockey players and from the family of top hockey players of Pakistan. Mr. Sami Ullah had played pivotal role to give international fame of Pakistan in this game. Performance of Mr. Sami Ullah had been shared as he played total 165 Matches and scored 66 goals in the ground; it was highlighted the performance and achievements in World Cups, Champion Trophy and

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES OF SIALKOT CHAMBER

Asian Trophy with Mr. Sami Ullah's remarkable performance. It was elaborated the unbeatable performance of that player in semifinal match of the World Cup (1975) and he had a name tag "The Flying Horse" due to his speed.

Mr. Sami Ullah Khan thanked the Office Bearers and Chairman Committee to organize such an admiring event in his grace. He appreciated the achievement of the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & Industry in Exports and Economic Growth. He said that existing players should be trained physically and technically to learn the games' tactics; therefore, they could perform well. He shared his experience of play hockey as a player as well as the captain. He appreciated the policies of playing and selecting the talented players. He elaborated his experience with Mr. Shehnaz Sheikh and Mr. Anjum Rashid as a team member. He stressed that hard work & consistency would make a player able to win any task

with grace; he emphasized that players and management should make efforts with confidence and dedication to give boost to the game. He applauded the efforts of Sialkot's Industry to promote the Hockey as he mentioned the names of Mr. Anwar Khawaja (Late), Mr. Khawar Anwar Khawaja and Mr. Aftab Iqbal for their massive support and encouragement to the Hockey Players.

MEETING WITH MS. AMBREEN AHMED TARAR, COLLECTOR, COLLECTORATE OF CUSTOMS, SIALKOT



Mian Imran Akbar, President, welcomed Ms. Ambreen Ahmed Tarar, Collector, Collectorate of Customs, Sialkot, distinguished guests on November 4, 2021. He expressed gratitude to the honorable Collector of Customs for facilitation in the establishment of "Customs Help Desk" at SCCI and said that members would be highly benefitted from this facility. He drew attention of the honorable

Collector to the certain issues of the business community of Sialkot.

Ms. Ambreen Ahmed Tarar, Collector, Collectorate of Customs, Sialkot, thanked the President and the members for their warm welcome. She said that her visit to Sialkot Chamber had been intended to directly interact with the business community regarding issues faced by them and to find an effective solution. She informed that "Custom Help Desk" had been established at Sialkot Chamber on the request of the President and its inauguration would be instrumental in extending maximum facilitation to the exporters. Question/Answer Session was held and members discussed their quarries regarding policy of the Government to allow Commercial Warehousing in Sialkot Export Processing Zone, UoM in WeBOC, Custom duties, rebate SRO etc.

MEETING OF THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON TMA & EXCISE



A meeting of the Departmental Committee on TM & Excise was held on November 05, 2021 under the chairmanship of Rana Nadeem Ahmed. The following issues related to TMA Sialkot and Excise were discussed in the meeting:-

- Encroachments and illegal parking across the city have created traffic problems that need to be addressed urgently.
- Members face difficulties in getting approval of residential, commercial and factory maps.
- There should be a joint session of the Injman-e-Tajran, TMA, Sialkot Chamber and other stakeholders to clear the encroachments across the city.
- Situation created by ETO Sialkot due to door-to-door survey for acquisition of PT-I.
- Traffic Week should be organized to create awareness

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES OF SIALKOT CHAMBER

among the people regarding traffic issues.

- A Facilitation Desk should be established in Sialkot Chamber to resolve TMA related issues.
- Awareness among the people regarding cleanliness in the city so that they do not throw their household and factory rubbish on the roads instead of dumping it in a proper place.
- 9 Heavy vehicles such as Trucks, Dumpers, Container and Tractor Trolleys should be banned from entering the city during office and school hours.

The Chairman Committee concluded the meeting and assured to make efforts to resolve the said issues raised by the Committee Members collectively.

MEETING WITH DR. ASIF MAHMOOD JAH, FEDERAL TAX OMBUDSMAN



On 8th November, 2021, Mian Imran Akbar, President, welcomed Dr. Asif Mahmood Jah, Federal Tax Ombudsman, Officers of the Customs and Inland Revenue Departments, representatives of Sialkot Tax Bar Association and members of Sialkot Chamber. He expressed gratitude to the Honorable Federal Tax Ombudsman for establishing regional office at Sialkot in the premises of Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry for facilitation to the Taxpayers.

He said that Sialkot was the hub of export-oriented industry and business people of Sialkot had always been vigilant in fulfilling their genuine tax liability. He briefed the guests about industrial set up and various products being produced in Sialkot. He mentioned various achievements of the business community in terms of compliance

to corporate social responsibility and presented the documentary to exhibit the progressive approach and

vision of the Sialkot entrepreneurship. During his address, he highlighted the following issues of the business community;

- Pendency of Appeal Effect and Deferred Cases
- Returned Goods u/s 22 of the Custom Act 1969 not to be treated as Import
- Inordinate delay in clearance of pending Duty Drawback claims of One Custom
- Abolition of Sind Infrastructure Development Cess
- Permission for filing of joint complaint on a common issue of the Taxpayers

Dr. Asif Mahmood Jah expressed gratitude to the President and the Executive Committee for inviting him to Sialkot Chamber to discuss tax issues of the business community and conduct an awareness session for information of the taxpayers. He said that before proceeding to discuss tax issues, he would like to conduct an introductory session regarding working and scope of the Office of the Federal Tax Ombudsman. He requested Dr. Sarfraz Ahmed Warraich to proceed with his presentation. He expressed gratitude to Dr. Asif Mahmood Jah for sparing his precious time to visit Sialkot Chamber to have discussion with members on matters of mutual interest. He requested the honorable guest to share his views on the highlighted issues.

CAKE CUTTING CEREMONY ON "IQBAL DAY"



On November 09, 2021, on the occasion of Birth Day (Iqbal Day) of Hazrat Allama Muhammad Iqbal, the Poet of the East and Thinker of Pakistan, a celebration had been arranged at his Birth Place "Iqbal Manzil" by the Departmental Committee on Farooq-i-Iqbaliyat of SCCI. Syed Shehzada Ahmed Iqbal (Chairman Committee),

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES OF SIALKOT CHAMBER

Sheikh Zohaib Rafiq Sethi (SVP, SCCI), Mr. Qasim Malik (VP, SCCI) and Executive Committee Members participated in the event.

The ceremony was formally inaugurated with the recitation of Holy Quran. Senior Vice President paid tributes to Allama Muhammad Iqbal for his efforts to awaken the Muslims and to adorn a dream of freedom in their eyes. Addressing the media and the audience, he said that Iqbal's ideas & thoughts have been forgotten in Pakistan today. He expressed his love & devotion for Allama Iqbal and told by the general trend to organize various celebrations on Iqbal Day every year.

He said that if we want to strengthen the foundations of the country and make the economy prosperous then we would have to work on the ideology given by Iqbal. Everyone has a responsibility to make the country strong and prosperous, especially every person belonging to the city of Iqbal.

VISIT OF FLT. LT. MR. TAHIR FAROOQ, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER SIALKOT



Ft. Lt. Mr. Tahir Farooq, Deputy Commissioner Sialkot visited Sialkot Chamber on November 09, 2021 and shared following developments of the city. The Deputy Commissioner shared the progress on mega development projects being executed under the PICIIP program in the city. He shared that the project got delayed due to slackness of the Contractor for which necessary warning had been issued. The DC mentioned that project would be completed on priority basis to provide relief to the citizens. He informed that construction of Pasrur road was pending/stopped due to some hurdles. He shared that upgradation/renovation of Jinnah Stadium had been

started. He also shared that Beautification and upgradation work of Ramtalai and Sheikh Moula Baksh Talab had been initiated in which state of the art sports facilities would be provided for general public. He informed that first phase of the project of construction of Aiman Abad road had been completed. Moreover, construction of 7.5 KM of Aiman Abad Road in Second Phase had been approved and tender would soon be issued. It would be connected with motorway in the upcoming phases.

Mian Imran Akbar, President Sialkot Chamber welcomed Deputy Commissioner Sialkot at Sialkot Chamber and he said that the Supreme Court of Pakistan had banned the unregistered motorcycle-rickshaws; In this regard, he requested the Deputy Commissioner for implementation of the decision in letter and spirit. The President shared that the labor from South Punjab was observed to be leaving the factories and engaging in other; the issue had led to increase in encroachment on roads and shortage of labor in factories. He further asked about the status of construction of overhead bridge of Defence Road. Whereas, Mr. Qaisar Iqbal Baryar shared that significant work on cargo container terminal from Wazirabad to Karachi had been done and requested cooperation of the District Government in this project. The Deputy Commissioner assured his full support for the completion of Ring Road and other projects/matters which were discussed in the meeting. He also assured that all necessary measures would be implemented to resolve the issues highlighted by the President Sialkot Chamber.

MEETING OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON LIBRARY & PUBLICATION



A meeting of the Departmental Committee on Library and

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES OF SIALKOT CHAMBER

Publication was held on November 11, 2021 at SCCI. Mr. Daud Ahmed Chattha, Chairman Committee presided over the meeting in order to discuss the matters regarding the printing, distribution and charges/rates of Chamber Bulletin on monthly basis, and upgrading of Chamber Library. With the mutual consideration in the light of the suggestions and opinions offered by the members, it was recommended that the publication and timely delivery of the Bulletin would be ensured; furthermore, the website must have a "subdomain" for the digital library. It was also suggested by the house that senior students & teachers of Universities and Colleges would be invited to write on various topics for the Chamber Bulletin.

Regarding the material of Bulletin, it was discussed that Prof. Safdar Sandal, Former Executive Committee Member would also write articles on various topics to publish; whereas, the SCCI's R&D Department would also provide research reports on key topics including major International Trade Changes, Changing Marketing Trends, Trade Fairs, Modern Technology, Import-Export Inquiries, Production Techniques and other important topics, on monthly basis. Furthermore, the environment of Library would be improved by eliminating the noise factors for making it more convenient place to study.

MEETING OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION/PHA



A Meeting of Departmental Committee on Environmental Protection/PHA was held at SCCI on November 11th, 2021, wherein discussion was made to devise a holistic and comprehensive strategy and working plan of the Departmental Committee. The Meeting was moderated by Chairman Committee, and other participants gave

their input about the future working plan and making it easy for members of Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry to understand Environment Protection laws and compliances. Whereas, it was suggested that Committee should arrange a series of seminars of Environment Protection Department and related topics for general awareness of the SCCI members to comply with the requirements of the Government Department and identify the steps to apply NOC from Environment Protection Department. It was suggested that a Delegation (Comprising members from SCCI and Environment Protection Department) would visit the Company to identify best Environment Friendly practices and to make a documentary on them, to depict the practices as an example for others. Chairman Committee discussed that a member/focal person from Sialkot Waste Management Company should be added in the Committee.

Mr. Muhammad Atif Project Director Sialkot Tannery Zone suggested that sector-wise Seminar(s) should be arranged of Environment Protection Department for members of SCCI to guide them the steps to get NOC and to comply with the rules. He also requested that a list of students of Environment Department of Universities from Sialkot city should be shared to offer them internship in Industry of Sialkot. After deliberation and discussion, it was decided that a series of seminars for awareness of members would be arranged in coming future, a documentary would be prepared and cost would be worked to determine the installation of Air Quality Meter to be displayed in different locations of Sialkot city.

MEETING OF THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON CYBER CRIME



Mr. Omar Khalid, Chairman Committee welcomed the

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES OF SIALKOT CHAMBER

participants for joining the session on Cyber Crime on November 11, 2021. Chairman Committee briefed the participants about the objectives of the committee which was to spread the awareness and knowledge among members of this Chamber for their safeguard against cyber-attacks and necessary precautionary measures against Cyber threats. He shared his plan of action for the year and points for general awareness of the member(s) such as “Man in the Middle attack”, “Phishing/Vishing attacks” and “Penetration testing”.

Mr. Aneel Sarfraz, Senior Vice Chairman briefed the house about Man in the Middle attack in which most of the attackers enticed the victim to open an attachment which compromised their security. He suggested that member(s) should track the IP of the email before opening to make sure that the sender was their valid customer. Moreover, member(s) should dedicate a computer for business communication and office dealing and should avoid working on the computer(s) on which they browse social media and had installed third party software, he added. Mr. Qasim Malik, Vice President SCCI endorsed the points and suggested that a person from FIA should be opted as Member of the Committee on Cyber Crime. The Committee was not an ordinary Committee, future belonged to the IT World and the Chairman could opt more member if he felt any need, the young minds from various universities in the field of Computer/Information Technology should also be considered as a member of the Committee, he added.

After a detail discussion, it was decided that young Minds from Academia should be opted as member of the committee, a list of authentic cyber security experts/companies should be gathered for member(s) willing to avail their premium services and precautionary page regarding cyber security would be added in fortnightly bulletin of SCCI. It was also decided that Mr. Aneel Sarfraz, SVC would work on IT tracking and brief the member(s) about it and Mr. Moti Laal would work on G-Suite and brief the member(s) about it.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SME/TRAINING AND YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

Meeting of Departmental Committee on SME/Training and Young Entrepreneurs held on November 13, 2021. Mr. Fizan Akbar, Chairman presided the meeting and shared

the plan & topics of seminars and training sessions of the year 2021-22. He stated that training for newcomers to learn Business Ethics and Exhibiting skills of Trade Exhibition. He added that Committee would request President SCCI to write letters to the Embassies, Institutes and Minister, capacity building departments (USAID, UKAID, NPO, TUSDEC and SMEDA) to get details of Capacity Building programs they were offering for the SMEs. He also stressed that the Committee would engage Universities of Sialkot to sign MOU to design capacity building Courses for SME under the supervision of President SCCI. He said that series of seminars for capacity building of the members would conduct during the year 2021-22.



Members appreciated the vision of the Chairman and ensured their support to materialize the plans for the year. Ms. Rabia Armaghan briefed about the upcoming event “Lift Pakistan” and requested that a group of Delegation should visit the event for awareness. Mr. Nadeem Ahmed also proposed that Chairman Committee should arrange a meeting with Mr. Muhammad Usman Dar, SAPM, Youth Affairs to get a special from Ehsas Program for the SME.

MEETING OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS/HEALTH/PERSONAL CARE & ALLIED INDUSTRIES

Mr. Zeeshan Tariq, Chairman Committee welcomed the Committee Members in the 1st meeting of the tenure 2021-22 on November 12, 2021. He shared the agenda of the meeting and his aim to work for the betterment of overall industry with the cooperation of Committee. He discussed about the requirements and features of the Medical Devices Regulations (MDR) as it was a new & complicated law imposed on Surgical Sector, but people should not try to escape or avoid its implication. Everyone

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES OF SIALKOT CHAMBER

must have to implement the MDR who want to survive in the national as well as in international market for the long-run. He told about working of a member to prepare a booklet for the general awareness about MDR's requirements. He furthermore, suggested that a volunteer panel should be trained and would be available for giving consultancy services to the Sialkot Surgical Industry. Regarding the Industry-Academia Linkages, he endorsed the suggestions by the members that industry should be focused to collaborate with the Universities for process improvement and innovation.

The Committee discussed about the shortage of quality material and the bottlenecks faced in imports of the materials. It was suggested that there should be a monitoring authority for the local steel manufacturers (mostly in Gujranwala) to check their quality & uniformity in materials; so that, industry could get the uniform quality materials with consistent standards locally. It was also explained that skilled workforce could be produced only through the on-job skill trainings within the factory premises; he gave the example of the garments industry as they hired most of their labor from the south Punjab and providing them the accommodation and training for the permanent jobs. He recommended that surgical sector could replicate the said pattern in industry to avoid the labor issues.

MEETING OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON GARRISON HQ/CANTONMENT BOARD AFFAIRS



Sheikh Zahid Hameed, Chairman Committee welcomed the Committee Members in the meeting on November 15, 2021 and told about his discussion with Mian Naeem Javaid (Former President of SCCI) regarding property & construction related taxation on the residents of the

Cantonment Area of City; therefore, it was decided to call a meeting for addressing the issue on a broader perspective. "We are the regular tax payers of the Government, nothing else but we as the respectable citizen must deserve the respect from Cantonment Management; therefore, the misbehavior by the Cantonment Management should be stopped" he emphasized. He presented and elaborated the official letter on "Property Tax Assessment System in Cantonments" by the Ministry of Defense, Government of Pakistan, in which it was stated that Property tax of all buildings whether residential or commercial strictly in accordance to the spirit of Cantt. Act 1942 and bye-laws made thereunder. He further elaborated the "Section 64" of the Act regarding the formulas of assessment of different types of building within the Cantonment Area. He also shared the cost of property construction per square feet and emphasized to reduce the cost up to a certain level.

Mian Naeem Javaid, Former President SCCI and other committee members discussed the said matter for their possible solutions. "There are two basic types of taxes including property tax and water tax, but there is another tax charged by the Cantonment Management under the heading of Conservation Tax, which is never changed anywhere in the world and it is an extra burden on the taxpayers; whereas, there is no particular facilitation against this taxation" they discussed. They emphasized that matter regarding taxation on the residents of Cantonment Area should be addressed but with legal consultation/advice from a senior lawyer; so that, Committee's direction to address the said matter would be on right track and results oriented in a proper way. Mian Imran Akbar, President SCCI endorsed all the points discussed by the members and acknowledged the suggestion by them to tackle the problems; he also said that Committee should work on the matter of "Water & Property Taxation and Assessments" with the consultation of Mr. Javed Iqbal, Advocate and should chalked out the strategy for future plans.

MEETING OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON WAPDA / SUI GAS

Meeting of the Departmental Committee on WAPDA / Sui Gas was held on November 16, 2021 at SCCI. Mr. Mian Muhammad Anwar, Chairman Committee presided over

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES OF SIALKOT CHAMBER

the meeting. After Introductory Session the Chairman briefed that he had been visited the office of the General Manager SNGPL, Sialkot; Mr. Sohail Akram informed him that Government of Pakistan banned on issuing new connections due to energy crises. He further informed about the role of Committee for installation of separate line of sui gas for supply of gas to Sialkot Cantt. The Chairman said that Chief Executive Officer, GEPCO, Gujranwala, the S.E GEPCO, Sialkot and the General Manager SNGPL, Sialkot assured him all possible cooperation with the Sialkot Chamber for resolution of issues of the members of Sialkot Chamber.



He also briefed about the number case/complaints of the members of Sialkot and Sialkot Tannery Zone Electrification issues resolved by the WAPDA Committee under his supervision / Chairmanship during the year 2020-2021. He said that he visited the office of Chief Executive Officer GEPCO, Gujranwala along-with the Management of Tannery Zone Guarantee (Pvt) Ltd, Sialkot to issues related to Tannery Zone. He further informed that he also represents the Tannery Zone Guarantee Ltd as its stakeholder. Chairman Committee concluded the meeting and assured his fullest support regarding the issues/complaints of the members related to GEPCO and Sui Gas Departments.

DE-BRIEFING MEETING ON TURKEY & UKRAINE DELEGATIONS

On 16th November 2021, a meeting was called by Mr. Qasim Malik, Chairman Departmental Committee on Fair and Exhibition/Delegation to take a briefing on SCCI Trade Delegations to Turkey (TDAP Subsidized) and Ukraine (Self-financed). During the debriefing of Ukraine

Delegation Mr. Khuram Aslam, Leader of Delegation/Former Senior Vice President, shared that the execution dates of the Delegation were 20th October to 24th October 2021. He mentioned that during the visit key meetings was held with the Minister for Commerce and Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He further added that the Staff of Embassy and the Ambassador had done an excellent working and arranged business to business meetings with Ukrainian counterparts. He also mentioned that the Ambassador of Pakistan in Ukraine was also working on Single Country Exhibition for product of Industry of Sialkot. He added that Ukraine was a good market for Pakistan and further efforts and exchange of Trade Delegation can increase the scope of exports of Pakistan to Ukraine.



After that meeting, another de-briefing on Turkey Delegation was also given by Mr. Khuram Aslam, Leader of Delegation/Former Senior Vice President, wherein, he briefed that the execution dates of the Delegation were from November 1st to 4th 2021. He mentioned that Mr. Bilal Khan Pasha, Consul General, arranged multiple Business to Business meetings for the Delegates including MUSIAD, President Beauty Association and Media Persons of Istanbul, Turkey European Turkish Businessmen Association Istanbul Turkey and Istanbul Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He said that unfortunately, the budget asked by Consul General of Pakistan, Istanbul was not provided and less funded was approved by TDAP/Ministry of Commerce, Government of Pakistan.

MEETING OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SPORTS ACTIVITIES

A meeting of the Departmental Committee on Sports

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES OF SIALKOT CHAMBER

Activities was held on November 19, 2021 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Asif Ali, Chairman Committee. After Introductory Session the Chairman briefed the Agenda Point of the Meeting i.e., Friendly Cricket Match with British High Commission, Islamabad. The Chairman Committee said that the Committee planned a Cricket Match between Sialkot Chamber and British High Commission, which required approval from the Executive Committee. He said that match would be played at Islamabad due to security issues.



The Chairman Committee informed that the Match would be hosted by Sialkot Chamber of Commerce & industry, therefore, all the expenses like Ground Charges, Trophies, Medals and Lunch etc. would be paid from Chamber's funds. The other expenses like travel, hotel etc., would be on self-finance basis which would be charged from the players/participants who desired to play or accompany with the team' as per the Previous Practice.

After thorough discussion, the Committee approved to play a Cricket Match with British High commission in December 2021. As concerned to the approval of the expenses of the event, the Committee formed a Sub-Committee for preparation a feasibility report of the expenses which would be shared with committee Members. After that, it would be submitted to Executive Committee for final approval.

MEETING OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON FAIR & EXHIBITION/DELEGATION

On November 19, 2021, Mr. Qasim Malik, Chairman welcomed the members of the committee and the meeting was started with an introduction of members of the Departmental Committee. Chairman Committee

assured the members of the Departmental Committee that every member would be taken on board during the formation of the Delegations. He shared that SCCI had written a letter to TDAP for subsidized Trade Delegation to different countries. He said that few Self-Finance Trade Delegation were also in the plan to South American Countries, Egypt, Morocco, Kuwait, and Portugal. He also mentioned that once the Delegation were approved, the Department Committee would decide to devise a special quota for Women Entrepreneurs of SCCI.



Mr. Umair Nisar, Deputy Secretary R&D briefed about the criteria of selecting Delegates of Self Finance Delegation. Whereas, members shared their remarks and reviews about the said matter.

MEETING HELD WITH MS. KATHLEEN GIBILISCO POLITICAL & ECONOMIC SECTION CHIEF CONSULATE GENERAL OF THE USA, LAHORE



On 23rd November 2021, a meeting was held with Ms. Kathleen Gibilisco Political & Economic Section Chief, US Consulate Lahore, wherein Sh. Zohaib Rafique, Senior Vice President, while giving his welcoming remarks to the

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES OF SIALKOT CHAMBER

guest, highlight key issues including delay in appointments of US visas and stressed to avail the potential of trade and joint ventures between both countries. Senior Vice President, SCCI elaborated the facilities Government of Pakistan was giving to the export-oriented units and the role of Chamber in playing the role of facilitator in getting the relief for the industry. He also added that on the visit of Prime Minister of Pakistan to Sialkot, he had announced an Industrial Zone and a Technology University for Sialkot which would play an important role in bringing the product diversification and avenues of joint ventures with foreign counterparts. During the meeting Mr. Qasim Malik, Vice President, also present and shared their view on how the trade between two countries could get better through sharing information and technologies.

Ms. Kathleen Gibilisco Political & Economic Section Chief, US Consulate Lahore, introduced herself and the experience she had while representing the United State of America as a diplomat. She inquired about the impact of Covid-19 on the exports and economy of Pakistan. During the meeting Khawaja Khawaja, Former President SCCI urged that US should become the collaborating partner of Government of Pakistan for improving infrastructure of the cities of Pakistan. Khawaja Masud Akhtar (SI) Former President SCCI also said that US business should consider Pakistan as prospect collaborating partner for multiple avenues of businesses.

objective to work for the overall growth of the industry as well as to resolve the issues faced by the industry. He invited the input from all the members regarding the issues they faced in the market and their suggestions to work on them; he added that committee members should share their experiences and cooperation of all were required to producing fruitful results. He discussed regarding the establishment of "Material Testing Lab" for the sports industry of Sialkot and also shared his experience of visiting National Textile University (NTU), Faisalabad. He described his findings & ideas, he grabbed during the visit. He shared that NTU LAB had many facilities to check the materials and their features but had no authentication/accreditation to provide certifications. Committee Members shared their detail introduction and congratulated the Chairman to take the charge of the committee for the tenure 2021-22. Members had discussed the industry related issues e.g., Raw-Materials and its prices, source of materials, monopoly of Commercial Importers, Imports Substitution etc. Chairman Committee thanked the member for such a significant discussion and sharing their views and acknowledged the suggestions & recommendations given by the worthy Committee Members.

MEETING OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SPORTS WEARS / BAGS



Mr. Muhammad Umair Mir, Chairman Committee welcomed the Committee Members in the meeting on November 23, 2021 and shared the significance of Sialkot Exports Industry and especially talked about the Sportswear & Bags' Sector. Committee had a main

MEETING OF THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS



Mrs. Nadia Qaiser, Chairperson Committee welcomed the Committee Members in the 1st meeting of the tenure 2021-22 on November 26, 2021; she introduced the Committee leadership as well as about the new Office Bearers of SCCI. She elaborated the working of Sialkot Chamber through its departmental Committees & project committees. She explained about the committees, their

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES OF SIALKOT CHAMBER

Chairmen, Scope and working of Committees; she encouraged the female members to get in touch with Chamber and participate in SCCI's activities, meetings, seminar and other events through its Departmental Committees. She applauded Dr. Mariam Nouman, President WCCIS, former Committee Chairperson and Former Executive Committee Member of SCCI and acknowledged her efforts & services for the women entrepreneurs of the city.

Dr. Mariam Nouman, President WCCIS welcomed the members and talked about the Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Sialkot and she gave her services as the founder President of the Chamber. She shared her experience to join Trade Delegation to Turkey along with other members of SCCI and said that such activities enhance the exposure as well as the recognition of Pakistani Business Community on international level. She encouraged all the members to involve SCCI's activities as well as to take the registration of Women Chamber as well. She said that the women should associate with a platform to strengthen their presence, their businesses, their exposure as well as their voices to address their issues on a macro level. She encouraged members to get registered with WCCIS at the earliest. Whereas, Ms. Madiha Faisal, Vice President WCCIS appreciated the services of Sialkot Chamber for the women and assured that SCCI & Women Chamber of Commerce & Industry would make collective efforts to address the issues faced by Women Business Community and to maximize the facilities in order to enhance women entrepreneurship with their empowerment.

Office Bearers and other Chairpersons of the Committees also shared their comments; Mrs. Nadia Qaiser, Chairperson Committee thanked and acknowledged the view, feedback, recommendations & suggestions for the better working and assured her fullest support to fulfill the committee's objectives.

VISIT OF MR. UMAR SAEED MALIK, DISTRICT POLICE OFFICER (DPO), SIALKOT

Mian Imran Akbar, President Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry warmly welcomed the Honorable guest Mr. Umar Saeed Malik, District Police Officer, Sialkot, DSPs of all Circles of Sialkot on November 19, 2021 and thanked them for visiting Sialkot Chamber. The President informed that Sialkot Chamber has formed the

Departmental Committee on Crime Watch and Traffic Management under the Chairmanship of Mr. Nasir Saleem Mirza. He also briefed the functioning of the Departmental Committee and said that Police Department may send cases/disputes complaints related to business community to Sialkot Chamber for resolution before registering FIR. In the meeting, He also briefed the DPO about industrial set up, various products being produced at Sialkot and the active role of Sialkot Chamber in completing development projects under self-help basis, like Sialkot Dry port Trust, City Package Programme, Sialkot International Airport, Sialkot Export Processing Zone, Sialkot Tannery Zone, Child labor elimination Programme, Sialkot Business & Commerce Centre, AIRSIAL etc.



Mr. Umar Saeed Malik, DPO Sialkot thanked the President for his warm welcome and told that he had been working in the Police Department since 2004 on different Posts; he worked two years in KPK and 12 years in Punjab. While working as SSP civil line, Lahore he had experienced to work with Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry. He appreciated the several successful projects of Sialkot Chamber established under self-help basis. Furthermore, the DPO said that he wishes to improve the system and it is possible with the help of civil society and this Chamber. He assured that he would remain in-touch with the Chamber to discuss day to day issues. He emphasized that civil society should visit the Police Stations with confidence and without hesitation in case of need. He also endorsed the two proposals of Sialkot Chamber regarding Traffic Management System and project of Safe City. He further suggested that a joint Committee may be formed in order to launch joint operation on the said project. It was also

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES OF SIALKOT CHAMBER

included in his Programme to establish Women Harassment cell. He said that he would always remain available to hear valuable suggestions / recommendations from SCCI to improve law and order situation and for enhancing the relations between Sialkot Chamber and Police Department, Sialkot.

VISIT OF MR. KHALID JAVED, CHAIRMAN/ DIRECTOR GENERAL, PAKISTAN POST



Mian Imran Akbar, President Sialkot Chamber welcomed Mr. Khalid Javed, Chairman/Director General, Pakistan Post for visiting the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry on November 20, 2021. He shared that the export-oriented City of Sialkot represents an industrial setup, producing specialized products that were supplied to top brands and buyers all over the world due to which the city is earning US \$ 2.2 Billion annually to play an instrumental role in strengthening the national economy. He informed about the exceptional work of Sialkot Chamber in the Social Sector Development & Welfare of the people. He also informed that AIRSIAL has been initiated to provide quality air travel services to the people. Similarly, the project of Sialkot Medical City has also been initiated to provide quality healthcare to the people.

President SCCI said that Pakistan Post was not only playing an instrumental role in delivering the mail to the people especially businessmen but also providing services of Saving Bank, Tax Collection, and Postal Insurance. Moreover, the delivery network of Pakistan Post was established and more stable than all other courier companies operating in Pakistan. He also said that Pakistan Post had adopted Modern Technologies and revolutionary steps to ensure speedy communication. He said that Businessmen of Sialkot deliver small consignment through Pakistan Post but some problems

had to face i.e., timely Delivery, Tracking and lost parcels for which Members had to face financial loss. He requested for rationalization of High Charges of Express Mail Service (EMS) and necessary measures should be taken for tracking the Consignment/parcel. He discussed the several issues and matters regarding industry's concerns.

Mr. Fayaz Gul, In-charge, GPO Sialkot thanked and shared about the 4 major categories of international mail; he said that charges of international freight could also be calculated on the website of Pakistan Post. He assured that he would monitor the export consignments which would be sent through GPO Sialkot and assured to resolve the problems of Business Community on priority. Pakistan Post had launched EMS Plus Service with the partnership of some courier companies which was fast, reliable/economical, and offered end to end tracking facility to the esteemed customers of Pakistan Post. He discussed the points shared by business community as well as told about their services & facilities offered in detail.

MEETING OF THE DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON EVENT MANAGEMENT AND LIAISON



Meeting of the Departmental Committee on Event Management and Liaison was held on November 24, 2021 at SCCI under the leadership of Mian Khalil Ahmed, Chairman Committee. The Chairman thanked the members and described the agenda point of the Meeting. He mentioned that after the successful organization of 'Best Achievement Award in 2015', it would be a plan to organize such awards on a regular basis to encourage the industry of Sialkot but due to other reasons including COVID-19. He mentioned that such awards would be planned to conduct in 2022 on the basis of export performance of the year 2020-21. He said that the

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES OF SIALKOT CHAMBER

industries selected for the "Best Achievement Award" include: Sports Goods, Sports Wear, Surgical Instruments, Dental Instruments, Beauty & Manicure Pedicure Instruments, Leather Goods & Garments, Leather Glosses, Musicals, Fire Fighting Uniforms, Martial Arts Uniforms, Shows Industry, whose exports have more than doubled in the last three years.

The Chairman Committee formed a Sub-Committee headed by Mian Mohsin Gul and comprising of Mr. Amir Majeed Sheikh, Mr. Muhammad Ejaz Ghauree, Mr. Shoaib Imtiaz, Mr. Ahmed Imtiaz Khan and Mr. Qaiser Ikram Dhodi to finalize the arrangements of the award at the earliest. At the end of the meeting, the committee members emphasized that the Awards was considered as a good step towards encouraging the exporters of Sialkot and offered their suggestions for better organization and assured their full cooperation.

ONLINE AWARENESS SESSION ON STATE BANK OF PAKISTAN'S (SBP) RE-FINANCE SCHEMES

On November 25, 2021, a webinar was arranged on the Re-finance Schemes of State Bank of Pakistan, wherein Kashif Shahzad-Deputy Chief Manager-SBP BSC Sialkot, said that the webinar was coordinated enhance the awareness of the Re-finance Schemes of SBP. Mr. Zohaib Rafique Sethi, Senior Vice President, welcomed the team of State Bank of Pakistan, BSC Sialkot at Sialkot Chamber and said that the session would enhance the understanding of members and will help in resolving the issues of those who were being refused by the Commercial Banks. He also added that SBP should keep an eye on the Commercial Banks who didn't support the exporters despite fulfilling the criteria.

Mr. Safian Taseer-Assistant Director-SBP BSC Sialkot, explained the Refinance Schemes initiated by State Bank of Pakistan for SMEs sector of Pakistan. He further elaborated that scheme which give the provision to import machinery for exports purposes. Mr. Taseer said that depending on the export performance of an exporter and upon the complete of first scheme, the percentage of interest can be decreased by the Commercial Bank(s) (as per the lending criteria). The session was followed by questions and answers session between the team of State Bank of Pakistan and members of SCCI. It was also proposed by the Chair to designate a focal person from State Bank of Pakistan BSC Sialkot to visit SCCI once a

week to educate the members about the refinance schemes offered by SBP, which was welcomed by SBP. Kashif Shahzad-Deputy Chief Manager-SBP BSC Sialkot said that he would forward the suggestion of SCCI to Head Office for consideration.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON MARTIAL ARTS/MMA/FITNESS & GLOVES INDUSTRY



Meeting of the Departmental Committee on Martial Arts/MMA/Fitness & Gloves Industry held on November 30, 2021. Mr. Junaid Shahid, Chairman welcomed the members in the 1st meeting of the tenure 2021-22 and thanked them. He shared his introduction and assured his fullest support to address the industrial issues for their resolution. The Chairman explained the SOPs of all Departmental Committees of SCCI issued by the President SCCI. He shared about the labor issues and emphasized that a mechanism should be developed to maintain record of the laborers and their financial liabilities in order to avoid the chances of frauds.

Members endorsed the point raised by the Chairman and also elaborated the blackmailing by the laborers; they stressed that it should be stopped on a macro level to control the unjust attitude of laborers. He said that such issues disturbed a business and international trade was also get affected. It was also discussed about the shortage of skilled labor in industry and the lack of training facilities/institutes in Sialkot to provide trainings for their capacity building by polishing their skills. It was emphasized that industry was direly required efficient training institutions to generate new lot of skilled labor for the industry; furthermore, new people should be engaged through training organizations as well as by providing on-job trainings to the newcomers.

Mr. Muhammad Umer Mir (Senior Vice Chairman), Mr. Muhammad Sarwar (Vice Chairman), Mr. Zohaib Rafique

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES OF SIALKOT CHAMBER

Sethi (Senior Vice President, SCCI) and other committee members discussed about the matters related to cluster development to import material collectively, through establishing a material bank. It was discussed to hire the laborers from the south Punjab, giving them the trainings and facilities to sustain then in long-run. Whereas, it was emphasized that systems and human resource should be well-equipped with the sufficient as well as required knowledge in order to avoid the malpractices. It was stressed by the members that swift action should be taken on that matter by the Sialkot Industry with complete paper work to claim the high rates of rebate.

VISIT OF 32ND MID-CAREER MANAGEMENT COURSE FROM NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT, ISLAMABAD



Sheikh Zohaib Rafique Sethi, Senior Vice President welcomed a group of 32nd mid-career management course from National Institute of Management Islamabad on December 01, 2021 at Sialkot Chamber. He hoped that moving forward the officers would put their best in the functioning of the Government Machinery and would serve for the betterment of the people and the Country. He stressed that Government must take all necessary measures for improving law & order and security situation to ensure steady growth in private sector investment and to attract higher levels of foreign direct investment. He said that advance courses and training in management were important for the trainees to move up to higher levels of responsibilities. He shared the details about the history, industry and exports of Sialkot and briefed about the active role of Sialkot Chamber of Commerce in completing development projects on self-help basis. Discussion was held on the subjects including challenges in exports, Branding, innovation, labor, role of CPEC,

partnership/collaboration of local companies, participation of women, social work and environmental protection etc. Head of Delegation thanked the Sialkot Chamber for providing them an opportunity for a healthy interaction and discussion. He appreciated the dynamic people of Sialkot and role of business community in contributing not only to export but also to the society. He said that linkages between Government Departments and private sector were necessary in terms of formation of business-friendly policies to strengthen the economy.

VISIT OF H.E. MR. PHILIPPE BRONCHAIN, AMBASSADOR OF BELGIUM TO PAKISTAN



Mr. Zohaib Rafique Sethi, Senior Vice President, welcomed H.E. Mr. Philippe Bronchain, Ambassador of Belgium to Pakistan, and Mr. Abid Hussain Trade Commissioner to Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry on 2nd December 2021; he said that Pakistan and Belgium had been enjoying a good bilateral relation, under GS Plus status with a trade volume over 891 million USD per annum. Mr. Sethi mentioned industry of Sialkot had the unique capacity adopt product diversification and majority of renowned manufacturer cum exporters were exporting Personal Protective Equipment, including Face Masks, Shields, Overalls, Gloves, and other equipment that were being utilized to combat patients of Coronavirus. He further sought that Embassy should support SCCI in getting the Joint Ventures, Exchange of Trade Delegations, and arranging Single Country Exhibition.

Mr. Abid Hussain, Trade Commissioner of Belgium to Pakistan, acknowledged the uniqueness and entrepreneurial spirit of Industry of Sialkot. He mentioned that Belgium carried a unique importance for country

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES OF SIALKOT CHAMBER

which were exporting goods to the Europe countries, as the countries had zero tax agreements and had routes for trades. He mentioned that Belgium was a member of European Union, which was famous for Hi-tech machineries, Service Industry, Diamond, Carpets, Glass, Eggs, Vehicles and Sugar. Mr. Hussain said that Embassy of Belgium can play the role in organizing B2B meetings with local trade bodies within Belgium. H.E. Mr. Philippe Bronchain, Ambassador of Belgium to Pakistan, acknowledged the achievements of Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry and said that Belgium and Pakistan were enjoying good relationships. The envoy added Belgium was considered the center of Europe and students from Pakistan were coming to Belgium. Mr. Ambassador added that Belgium was considered suitable Country for investors.

Mr. Qasim Malik, Vice President, said that Industry of Sialkot was looking forward to having Joint Ventures with Belgium counters in Sialkot Industrial Zone, for import substitution. The session was followed by Question-and-Answer session from the audience regarding, exchange of Trade Delegation, possibility of arranging Single Country Exhibition, and transfer of technologies and services from Belgium to Pakistan.

VISIT OF H.E. SARDAR SUTAN MEHMOOD, PRESIDENT AJ&K



H.E. Sardar Sultan Mehmood, President Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K) along with Hafiz Hamid Raza, Religious Affairs Minister AJ&K, Ch. Perwaiz Ahmed Warraich, Advisor to PM AJ&K, Muhammad Riaz, Deputy Speaker AJ&K and Ch. Maqbool Ahmed, Advisor to Prime Minister AJ&K visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry on December 02, 2021 and warmly welcomed by

Sh. Zohaib Rafique Sethi, Senior Vice President, Mr. Qasim Malik, Vice President and prominent business and political personalities of Sialkot. Sh. Zohaib Rafique Sethi introduced the guests about the profile of Sialkot City and the exporting goods and said that the business community had jointly contributed toward the establishment and development of State-of-the-Art Airport, AirSial, Dry port, Seerat Study Center, Sialkot City Package, Khud Kiffalat Rozgar Trust, the beautiful building of Sialkot Chamber and Sialkot Business and Commerce Center. Moreover, the projects of Sialkot Export Processing Zone, Al-Shifa Hospital and Sialkot Tannery Zone were also in the pipeline, he added.

H.E. Sardar Sultan Mehmood thanked the SCCI and Sialkot Business Community for their warm welcome and shared that the Azad Jammu & Kashmir (AJ&K) was the liberated part of the former State of Jammu & Kashmir and was a land of wonders blessed with unparalleled natural scenic beauty with breath taking scenery, high mountains blanketed, lush green grass, the meandering water channels and the snowcapped peaks. He said that AJ&K was a favorite tourist attraction for people from various parts of the world. He told about the natural beauty, diverse cultural heritage, handicrafts of the region, etc. He elaborated that Mirpur Industrial Zone was also a part of CPEC Industrial Cooperation/Special Economic Zones (SEZs) projects; he encouraged the business community of Sialkot to invest in the Mirpur Industrial Zone.

SOLIDARITY MEETING ON THE INCIDENT OF MURDER OF MR. PRIYANTHA DIYAWADANA



A solidarity meeting on the incident of heartbreaking incident regarding the death of Mr. Priyantha Diyawadana, a Sri Lankan citizen working in Pakistan had

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES OF SIALKOT CHAMBER

called on December 04, 2021. Business community of Sialkot and SCCI strongly condemned the barbaric act of violence at a private factory of Sialkot that led to the tragic death of Mr. Priyantha Diyawadana, a Sri Lankan citizen working in Pakistan. The Senior Vice President of SCCI urged the Government and all the law enforcement authorities to crack down on all the perpetrators and inciters and bring them to a befitting justice. He said that December 03, 2021 would go down as a dark day in the history of Sialkot which was recognized as the city of roaming ambassadors having quality traits of tolerance and acceptance. He further stated that there was no place for radicalism and violence in the society and that persons involved in such nefarious act did not belong to a religion, caste or creed.

Dr. Nouman Idrees Butt, Former President SCCI said that the business community of Sialkot should think of ways to avoid any such mishaps in the future as well as to make efforts to change the mindsets. Mr. Agha Bilal, Mr. Zain Shabir, Mr. Malik Ashraf, Mr. Khawar Anwar Khawaja, Mr. Babar Iqbal, Mr. Fazal Jilani, Mian Riaz, Khawaja Masood Akhtar, Mr. Mian Khalil, Malik Zulfiqar, Mr. Qasim Malik and many other members shared their condolence and suggestion. It was decided that a delegation from Sialkot Chamber would visit the Sri Lankan High Commission Office, Local Administration should be taken on board and Ulema should be invited to describe the topic of Toheene Rasalat.

Tahir Farooq, Deputy Commissioner, Sialkot to SCCI on December 06, 2021. He said that it was important for the common person to know about the quality of Air, in which they were surviving. He said that the seminar was also conducted to create awareness among the stakeholders of the Sialkot Industry to minimize the factors that were polluting the atmosphere and were key factors of SMOG. He acknowledged the support of WWF Sialkot for providing Air Quality Meters to SCCI and said that SCCI had also planned to place more Air Quality Meters within Sialkot City and displaying the readings for citizens of Sialkot.

Mr. Tahir Farooq, Deputy Commissioner, Sialkot appreciated the initiative of Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry for taking important step. He added that such initiatives were important to educate the society about the green steps to be taken to prevent hazardous effects of SMOG and climate changes. He also said that the District Government was making efforts to establish green points across the city. Whereas, Mr. Adeel Yonus, Representative, WWF Sialkot gave presentation on SMOG and also briefed about the working of Air Quality Meter and acceptable ranges that were not hazardous to health. Dr. Maryam Nouman, President, Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Sialkot: Suggested that the Government of Punjab should also initiate the awareness of Kitchen Gardening and recommended establishing Day care centers to support the working Women of Sialkot.

AWARENESS SESSION ON "SMOG AND INAUGURATION OF AIR QUALITY METER"



Syed Athesham Mazhar, Chairman, Departmental Committee on Environmental Protection/PHA welcomed all the participants of the seminar and Chief Guest Mr.

MEETING OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON FAROUGH-E-IQBALIYAT



A meeting of the Departmental Committee on Farough-e-Iqbaliyat was held on December 7, 2021 at SCCI. Syed

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES OF SIALKOT CHAMBER

Shahzada Ibn Ahmad Iqbal, Chairman Committee presided over the meeting. The Chairman Committee said that, due to COVID-19 in the country, there was no special events could be organized this year. "The situation is getting better and this year the committee will try to do as much work as possible in the city of Iqbal with reference to "Fiqr-e-Iqbal"- Today's meeting has also been held with a view to formulating future course of action" he said. He said that Various programs would be organized in Schools, Colleges and Universities across Sialkot to highlight Fiqr Iqbal. He said that CEO Education and DCO Sialkot should also be taken on board for organizing programs related to Fiqr-e-Iqbal. Chairman said that Sialkot's Educational Institutions should be attributed to Allama Iqbal's parents. After the suggestions and opinions of the committee members, the Chairman of the Committee said that this year we will try our best to hold regular meetings of the Committee and arrange various events to promote Fiqr-e-Iqbal at School and College level with reference to Allama Iqbal.

Question/Answer Session was held and discussion was held on the issues faced by the business community of Sialkot, impact of devaluation of Pak Rupees on the Industry of Sialkot, elimination of Child labour through CLEP program, current marketing strategies, Defense Industry related products, establishment of material testing lab in Sialkot etc. The Head of Delegation thanked for warm welcome at Sialkot Chamber and appreciated the dynamic people of Sialkot and role of business community of Sialkot in completing projects on self-help basis.

WORKSHOP ON REX REGISTRATION SYSTEM BY TDAP



Mr. Kamal Shahryar welcomed the members of Sialkot Chamber for their kind participation and interest in European GSP Scheme and GSP Plus status granted to Pakistan on December 09, 2021. He shared that Pakistan was a beneficiary for the GSP Schemes of the European Union (EU), Switzerland, Norway, Turkey, UK, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Russia, Belarus, and Kazakhstan. Accordingly, import of GSP-eligible products into these countries from Pakistan would enjoy preferential tariffs (i.e., reduced or zero import duties). He encouraged the exporters of Sialkot to make themselves well aware of the terms and conditions for the aforesaid GSP schemes to derive optimal benefit from the concessionary import duties applicable to their products while exporting to these countries. During the presentation Mr. Kamal Shahryar shared with the participants that Pakistan completely switched over to the REX system on December 31, 2017; Effective January 1, 2018 TDAP stopped issuing Certificate of Origin/ Form-A for exports to the EU (27 countries), Switzerland, Norway

VISIT OF 32ND MID-CAREER MANAGEMENT COURSE FROM NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT, LAHORE



Sheikh Zohaib Rafique Sethi, President welcomed a group of 32nd Mid-Career Management Course from National Institute of Management Lahore on December 08, 2021 at Sialkot Chamber. He hoped that moving forward the officers would put their best in the functioning of the Government Machinery and would serve for the betterment of the people and the Country. He also briefed about the active role of Sialkot Chamber of Commerce in completing development projects on self-help basis.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES OF SIALKOT CHAMBER

and UK. Currently only REX-Registered exporters were authorized to issue “Statement on Origin” for their export consignments destined for EU, Switzerland, and Norway. He discussed that Registration under REX would remain open and the TDAP would continue to register exporters into the REX System, around 9,000 exporters had already been registered under REX till September 2021. Accordingly, all exporters to the EU, Switzerland, Norway and Turkey who were not yet registered were advised to get their entities registered under the REX system. He shared about the guiding documents were available on TDAP Website and also shared links about the “Pre-application Form” for registration to REX system, exporter’s data displayed on EU website, REX system information displayed on official EU website etc. Mr. Kamal Shehryar explained the eligibility requirements for registration and Step by Step procedure to become Registered Exporter under REX. Furthermore, he elaborated the mechanism for necessary adjustment of REX Registration Data and making out Statement on Origin.

- Seminars
- Organize a “Kul Pakistan Mehfil-e-Mushaira” and Natia Mushaira in Rabi-ul-Awal.
 - Organize a Qirat Competition in SCCI
 - Awards for Personalities who belonging from different schools of thought (Sialkot's Best Doctors, Teachers, Students, Social and Welfare Workers, etc.)
 - Inter-School, College and University Speech competition
 - August 14 Independence Day Celebrations
 - Arranging programs on the occasion of Defense Day 6th September, Pakistan Day 23rd March, Iqbal and Quid Day.
 - Installation of Boxes in Factories for Proper Preservation of Sacred Papers and Appeal to the Government for Appropriate Measures in this regard.
- In the end of the meeting, all the Committee Members assured the Chairman of the Committee of their full support and cooperation.

SEMINAR OF DIGITAL PULP ON E-COMMERCE IN PAKISTAN- OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES



On December 10, 2021, Mr. Zohaib Rafique Sethi, Senior Vice President, SCCI Chaired a seminar on “E-Commerce in Pakistan- Opportunities and Challenges”. He welcomed the members of SCCI and team of Digital Pulp to Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Mr. Saif Ur Rehman, Director Marketing, Digital Pulp thanked Senior Vice President for the welcome and briefed about the company services e.g., Web/Ecommerce Platform Design and Development, Search Engine Optimization, Social Media Marketing, PPC Advertising, Content Marketing, Amazon/Alibaba/eBay Marketing Services, and Video Production & Product Shoot. He added that his company was eager to promote the products of Sialkot through their services. He further explained the impact of E-Commerce

MEETING OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS



Meeting of the Departmental Committee on Religious & Cultural Affairs was held on December 9, 2021 at SCCI. Mian Mohsin Gull, Chairman Committee presided over the meeting and shared the agenda point of the meeting, said that the details of the program that our committee was planning to conduct this year are as follows:-

- Arranging seminars on important topics such as "Harmony, Tolerance and Intolerance".
- Organizing Cultural and Creative Industry Incubation

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES OF SIALKOT CHAMBER

on World and benefits of transforming the business to E-Commerce platforms.

Mr. Zohaib Rafique Sethi, Senior Vice President, SCCI said that Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry was coordinating with local and national level companies to arrange informative sessions which would enhance the understanding of the SMEs about E-Commerce. He said that SCCI had many success stories who were doing successful business on Amazon, AliBaba, and E-bay.

condemned the brutal act happened in the factory and was united, the same way they were after APS Incident. Whereas, Mian Mohsan Gull, Chairman, Departmental Committee on Religious and Cultural Affairs said that Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry would conduct awareness seminar under Religious Harmony Committee and will try to spread the teachings of Islam and to lessen the misconceptions regarding Islam and blasphemy act.

VISIT OF MOLLANA TAHIR ASHRAFI, CHAIRMAN OF THE PAKISTAN ULEMA COUNCIL (PUC)



Mollana Tahir Ashrafi, Chairman of the Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) and the Muttahida Ulema Board visited the Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry on December 16, 2021 to meet the business community of Sialkot. While chairing the session Mr. Qasim Malik, Vice President SCCI, said that Islam was the religion of peace and tolerance, and the any act of violence should be condemned as it was dividing the nation. He also praised Government of Pakistan for taking considerable measures of unforce the violence acts in the Country and to probe the culprits to justice. He mentioned that Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry was forming a Religious Harmony Committee which would conducts awareness seminars in the Chamber to teach the Factory workers about the teaching of Islam.

Mollana Tahir Ashrafi, Chairman of the Pakistan Ulema Council (PUC) and the Muttahida Ulema Board praised the achievement of Sialkot Chamber of Commerce and Industry and said that from last six month no case of blasphemy was filled, and the incident of Sialkot was criminal act of violence and intolerance. He further proposed that SCCI should conduct the "Islamic Conference in Sialkot". He added that the incident had portrayed a wrong image of Islam as well as Pakistan. Mollana further mentioned that the Nation has

JOINT MEETING OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEES ON TMA & EXCISE AND CRIME WATCH & TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT



A Joint Meeting of Sialkot Chamber's Departmental Committees on TMA and Excise and Crime Watch and Traffic Management was held on December 17, 2021 at Sialkot Chamber. The meeting was chaired by President Sialkot Chamber, Mian Imran Akbar. Mr. Omar Farooq Mayer, Advisor for Party Affairs Punjab, Mr. Rana Nadeem Tariq, DS City Sialkot, Mr. Muhammad Aftab Butt, DSP Traffic Sialkot, Mr. Asim Bashir, Excise & Taxation Officer Sialkot and Malik Allah Yaar, Superintendent Regulations TMA Sialkot were attended the meeting.

Addressing the joint session, President SCCI said that the traffic system in Sialkot city has been disrupted due to encroachments and Chung Chi rickshaws. The President said requested all the concerned agencies to make a connection in the ongoing development programs in the city, first complete one road and then dig another, not to tear the whole city apart. Mr. Muhammad Aftab Butt, DSP Traffic, while expressing his views, said that it is our tragedy that people do not like to stop at single traffic, which causes traffic problems. Referring to the ongoing development works in the city, he said that the concerned departments have started digging roads for us without on board, due to which traffic problems are being created.

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES OF SIALKOT CHAMBER

Mr. Asim Bashir, Excise and Taxation Officer, Sialkot said that the entire system of excise and taxation has been computerized. The purpose of the PT-I document is to collect taxes only, with the help of which document, the ownership of the property cannot be changed or transferred.

VISIT OF SHEIKH MOMIN AHMED, GLOBAL PRESIDENT, COMMONWEALTH ENTREPRENEURS CLUB (CEC)



Sh. Zohaib Rafique Sethi, Senior Vice President SCCI extended his gratitude to Sheikh Momin Ahmed, Global President, Commonwealth Entrepreneurs Club (CEC) for his visit to Sialkot Chamber on December 17, 2021 and other participants for joining the session. The Senior Vice President shared that the Commonwealth Entrepreneurs Club (CEC) was a global network of distinguished individuals with impeccable qualifications and experiences. He said that CEC Club was based in London and consisted of thousands of Industrialists and technocrats from Common Wealth Countries with a primary focus on growth and development, facilitates job creation through a joint economic forum., he added. He further highlighted that Education sector, Vocational Training Centers, Public-private Partnership, Skill Development, Technology Transfer, Textile Development and Trade Promotion were the common interest areas in which the business community of Sialkot would like to have liaison with the global business community.

Sh. Momin Ahmed, Global President, Commonwealth Entrepreneurs Club (CEC) stated that Commonwealth Entrepreneurs Club (CEC) was a Unique Organization of 54 Developed & Developing Nations around the Globe which was aligned with the UN's Sustainable Development

Goals – to enable countries and communities to better serve the global market. Its role was to bring together organizations that could leverage their competitive advantages and create successful joint ventures and its primary goal was growth and development. Members shared their views and feedback on the said subject. The Senior Vice President shared that Sialkot Chamber would like to have a series of meeting with CEC after getting detailed and most relevant information from CEC.

MEETING WITH MR. AHMAD KAMAL, COMMISSIONER INLAND REVENUE

A meeting was held with Mr. Ahmad Kamal, Commissioner Inland Revenue on December 21, 2021 at 2:00 pm at RTO Sialkot. Meeting had been called for working for withholding sales tax payable by companies under 11th schedule to the sales tax act, 1990. After holding various meetings and considering proposal of Joint Trade Bodies of Sialkot and proposal based on Departmental Working, sector-wise purchase formula has been agreed upon between Tax Department and Sialkot Chamber to settle the issue of 5% Withholding Sales Tax on Companies against purchases from unregistered persons. On the basis of above understanding, following revised purchases as percentage of exports would be considered for levy of 5% Withholding Sales Tax on Companies;

- For Surgical and Cutlery Industry @ 15% of exports made from July 2019 onwards.
- For Leather Garments and Gloves Industry @ 25% of exports made from July 2019 onwards.
- For Sports Goods @ 25% of exports made from July 2019 onwards.
- For Apparel, Hosiery and Garments @ 27% of exports made from July 2019 onwards.

It has been agreed further that deposit of Withholding Sales Tax by Exporter Companies as per above understanding would be final discharge of liability under the law.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS/HEALTH/PERSONAL CARE & ALLIED INDUSTRIES

Meeting of Departmental Committee on Surgical Instruments/Health/Personal Care & Allied Industries held on December 21, 2021. Mr. Zeeshan Tariq, Chairman Committee welcomed the members and talked about the

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES OF SIALKOT CHAMBER

agenda of the meeting. He shared his experience to visit the University of Sialkot (USKT) and University of Management & Technology, Sialkot (UMT) along with the Committee members and briefly explained the main points discussed with the University faculty e.g., Short skilled-based courses should be designed by the Universities with the collaboration of Industry, internship programs for students by the coordination of SCCI & Universities, providing of trained HR by the Universities to the Surgical Industry for implementation of MDR and development of ERP system etc. Chairman also emphasized to work on MDR for long term and added that an awareness session as well as a training course regarding MDR could be arranged from the platform of SCCI. Furthermore, he said that the accreditation of PNAC was valid in EU Countries; so that, coordination with those departments should be on the priority for MDR Implementation.



He introduced Mr. Jamil and shared that he had been worked on MDR, its regulation and implementation. He shared about the booklet prepared by Mr. Jamil on the helping details on MDR. He further shared that guiding document prepared by Mr. Jamil with the Committee Members to study and clear their views. Mr. Jamil elaborated the content of the document and tests required under MDR implementation. He stressed that people should have the complete knowledge about their own product and its complications, so that they would know the required testing/certifications and other obligations according to their certain products. He assured his fullest support to the industry to work on the Medical Device Regulation (MDR) either with the Universities or with the SCCI/MIDC to save the future of Surgical industry. Members shared their views and overall endorsed the suggestion/recommendations given; the

Chairman concluded the meeting by thanking all as well as with some instructions for future working.

SEMINAR ON "INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS AND TRADEMARK & LOGO REGISTRATION IN PAKISTAN", IN COLLABORATION WITH IPO, PAKISTAN



Mr. Qasim Malik, Vice President SCCI welcomed Ms. Shakra Khurshid, Assistant Controller of Patent, IPO Pakistan for her visit to the SCCI on December 22, 2021 for an awareness session regarding "Intellectual Property Rights and Trademark & Logo Registration in Pakistan." Vice President also thanked all other participants for their participation and interest in the importance of the session. He shared that Intellectual property protection was critical to fostering innovation; without the protection of ideas, businesses and individuals would not reap the full benefits of their inventions and would focus less on research and development. He said that exporters faced unfair competition abroad, whereas buyers faced legal and safety risks from the threat of counterfeit goods entering their supply chains.

IPO Pakistan was an autonomous institution of the Government of Pakistan and was concerned with copyright, trademarks, patents, and other general types of intellectual property regulation. Sialkot-based small businesses were at a particular disadvantage regarding Intellectual Property, as they lacked the knowledge, expertise, or resources necessary to get proper recognition as a brand. The business community of Sialkot had worked for many years as a supplier to many brands but the time had come to create and introduce the world with their brands. Many small businesses of Sialkot might not have overseas personnel and operations as a

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES OF SIALKOT CHAMBER

brand, so they lacked the need to be vigilant globally and the theft of their IP could often go undetected. In addition, small businesses generally did not have the level of access or the resources, such as specialized legal counsel, that might be available to larger companies.

The session would bring the knowledge and resources to help the small and medium businesses to learn about Intellectual Property Rights, Trademark and logo registration and to tackle IP protection and enforcement more effectively. Vice President SCCI suggested that IPO Pakistan should open a counter in the Sialkot Chamber for immediate information and resolution of matters of the members of this Chamber. Moreover, a series of sessions should be arranged in the future for awareness of members of the Sialkot Chamber, he added. He also proposed IPO to speed up their process of liaison with WIPO to get maximum benefits from internationally recognized intellectual property rights.

and Universities and said that event would take place. He said that the registration regarding hackathon would start in December 2021 and Inauguration, demo and results would be announced in January 2022; participants would be able to submit draft of proposal online via e-form provided by SCCI. The transparency would be ensured in the event by Sialkot Chamber, whereas Certificate of Participation would be provided to all the participants; he further said that the top achiever would be given special certificates and the award ceremony would be held in Sialkot Chamber.

University of Management and Technology (UMT), University of Sialkot (USKT) and Government College Women University (GCWU) appreciated the vision of President SCCI, also shared their positive feedback and assured their fullest support in said regard. Mr. Usman Nazir (Theta Solutions) encouraged that such events should happen more frequently to revolutionize the IT industry of Sialkot. Theta Solutions would participate in the SCCI Hackathon 2022 to the best of its ability, he added.

SCCI HACKATHON 2022- ANNUAL SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT COMPETITION



The meeting was led by Mr. Adnan Akbar, Senior Vice Chairman of Departmental Committee on IT Exports; he welcomed the participants for joining the session and shared the vision of Mian Imran Akbar, President SCCI to promote IT Industry of Sialkot. During the presentation on SCCI Hackathon 2022, he shared with the participants that Hackathon would help SCCI to provide centralized platform, help to create a business incubation center, would develop knowledge economy and SCCI would provide platform for international exposure in future and could make database of IT entities in Sialkot. He also talked about the competition among software houses

MEETING OF DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS



A Meeting of Accounts Committee was held on 24th November, 2021 wherein Malik Naseer Ahmed, Chairman Committee, welcomed all the members. Accounts of the Chamber for the month of October, 2021 were reviewed and suggestions for betterment were given for the approval of the Executive Committee.

CAKE CUTTING CEREMONY ON "QUID DAY"

On December 24, 2021, the Departmental Committee for

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES OF SIALKOT CHAMBER

Religious and Cultural Affairs of SCCI organized a "Cake Cutting" Ceremony on the occasion of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah's Birth Day. The Ceremony was presided over by Sheikh Zohaib Rafiq Sethi, SVP and Mr. Qasim Malik, Vice President of SCCI. The Chairman Committee Mian Mohsin Gull thanked and proceeded the meeting.



Addressing the Ceremony Sh. Zohaib Rafiq Sethi said that the only nations that succeed in the world are those which

remember the conducts of their forefathers. He said that with reference to this day, he emphasized that the nation had required a capable leadership to move the country on the path of growth & development. "We need people who feel the pain of the people of this country in their hearts with sincerity and patriotism" he added.

Mr. Qasim Malik, Vice President of the Chamber, while addressing, he said that Pakistan had all the qualities that may require to develop a strong nation. "We need to devote all our energies to the development of our beloved homeland. We must work for the betterment of our homeland, forgetting our differences, to show the world that we are one nation, while demonstrating unity and harmony" he said. In the end of the Ceremony, Chairman Committee Mian Mohsin Gull prayed for the security, development and prosperity of the country and the Nation.

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PAKISTAN LEATHER GARMENTS INDUSTRY



By. Sh. Zohaib Rafique Sethi
Senior Vice President

Pakistan's leather sector is in trouble and export earnings of leather and leather products have been on the decline. Exports of the leather sector include tanned leather, leather apparel and clothing, leather footwear and leather shoe upper, and all other leather products including leather bags, wallets, etc.

There are many reasons for the declining exports but some of the most important are:

- The system of collection of animal hides and skins from markets is obsolete and lots of hides and skins go to waste.
- Due to the lack of investment in the leather processing industry, most of the 800-plus tanneries produce low-to-average quality leather and as such the country cannot manufacture and export highly value-added leather products in large quantities. This keeps the average per-unit price of both tanned leather and leather products low.
- Vocational training institutes do not produce a sufficient number of highly skilled workers for the leather industry and the manufacturing units remain dependent on the unskilled and semi-skilled workforce. Similarly, leather fashion and designing institutes are few and they are not producing designers of the most fashionable leather garments and other products in sufficient numbers.
- Leather and leather garment industry of Pakistan is confronted with various challenges to survive in international market such as:
 - Absence of advanced technology, shortage of human power: Absence of high-tech quality products and the shortage of skilled manpower to cater to the needs of the world market. There is a growing need to prepare labor force having capacity to produce leather garments on scientific lines and comply with the demands of international market to compete.
 - High Cost of production: Cost of production is also very high in Pakistan as compared to competitors like China

and India. The high cost of various inputs, especially utilities and taxes make Pakistan's products – finished and unfinished – uncompetitive in international market.

- Environmental Impacts of leather industries in Pakistan: Leather tanning tends to be very polluting as compared to other manufacturing industries. Numerous measures are suggested to take care of the environmental hazard it causes but it is not implemented due to lack of funds. At every unit of output, the level of toxicity is high due to the heavy hides-leather converting process.
- Leather Export Associations of Pakistan There is no specific association that looks after overall leather sector, except for SMEDA, the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Association, which focuses on developing more industries, but has its hands tied due to lack of funds. The most prominent association is PLGMEA (Pakistan Leather Garments Manufacturers and Exporter's Association).

CHALLENGES AND ISSUES

Leather manufacturing sector in Pakistan can also suffer because of massive smuggling of livestock to other countries, shortage of raw material and absence of the organized dairy farming in the country. Moreover, diseases in the livestock in Pakistan can prove a hurdle in the manufacturing and exports of finished products of leather. As a result the live animals are suffering from different diseases that damage the quality of the leather and tarnish the image of products at international level.

The duties on the import of tanneries related machinery need to be further reduced. The machinery made locally is technologically inferior which not only increases the cost of production but restrains from developing at par with the international market.

The problem with Pakistani policymakers is that they never follow up on the results of the policies that are introduced with much fanfare and never implement them in letter and spirit.

The leather industry consists of six sub-sectors namely, tanning, leather, footwear, leather garments, leather gloves, leather shoe uppers, and leather Goods. The Tanning industry plays a vital role in the progress of these sub-sectors by providing the basic material i.e. leather. Today, Pakistanis, are among the leading countries in the production of Leather Garments and Gloves. The leather and leather made-ups industry plays a significant role in the economy of Pakistan

At the time of independence there were only a few

PAKISTAN LEATHER GARMENTS INDUSTRY

tanneries producing sole leather and that too at a very small scale. However, since then this industry has been flourishing. During 1950s, some well-equipped tanneries were set up at Karachi and Lahore, while during 60s and 70s more units were established at Hyderabad Kasur, Sialkot, Multan, Sahiwal and Gujranwala. Starting with the production of pickled and vegetable tanned hides and skins, the tanneries, today, are producing not only wet blue and crust, but also fully finished leather.

CREATIVITY DEFICIT

In these circumstances, much depends on the exporters' creativity and product differentiation, and a key for achieving that necessitates better designing and branding. Currently, the product range offered by Pakistan's leather industry is limited, and is concentrated more upon jackets and gloves. A few companies have come up with new products such as leather furniture and more products in footwear, but there are only a few and the potential for growth is immense.

Several producers of leather products, even in the downstream sector, are content with producing unbranded, low-priced products, and some actually manufacture their products for well-known international brands, without any credit given to their efforts or skills, or to the country, for that matter. Because many producers merely replicate the designs sent by foreign companies, they are not able to benefit from premiums which the foreign companies accrue, and which come from the power of good designing and branding.

CONCERNS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA

While the domestic issues and challenges might be quite a few, the leather industry also has to prove its grit amidst competition from regional players such as China and India. Numerous incentives given to regional competitors by their respective governments, such as duty-drawback rates, have been oft-cited by players in the industry as a source of great grievance. Duty-drawback refers to a system whereby manufacturers of exported goods are refunded the duty paid for importing raw materials used in the manufacturing process by the government.

Take the product portfolio of Pakistan for example; the exports are largely dominated by leather garments and tanned leather, with the former making up over 40 percent of the total leather exports. On the other hand, India has a more diversified portfolio including a high percentage of footwear, made-ups such as wallets, saddlery, etc. besides leather garments which make up

around 13 percent of India's total exports. Such product differentiation can be constructive for establishing a reputable image of the domestic industry amongst international buyers, needless to say, will also help capture a bigger market.

Not much can be expected from the government either. as the still-pending implementation of the trade policy and fiscal constraints speak for themselves. For the leather industry, the tremendous growth potential is the key for success. Even players in the industry, recognize that a lot more can be done. Pray, don't let a sparkling opportunity fall in the face of indolent policy implementation and a lack of vision

CONCLUSION

There is no doubt that the leather industry needs a major pull out from the slums if it is to compete in the international trade scenario and the standards set by the World Trade Organization. It needs to overcome its weaknesses, but it will only be possible once the government realizes the importance of the leather sector to the economy, there is a transparency of funds injected into the sector by the government and brand names need to be introduced on an international scale.

With the introduction of new standards from REACH and Leather Working Group (LWG) it is now mandatory for any business involved in leather products to ensure that necessary compliance has been made right from the start of value chain which seems impossible to implement given the present scenario.

India which once had a total of USD 300 (M) against Pakistan's USD 500 (M) in leather sector has surpassed USD 5 (B) whereas, we are just around USD 1 (B). The huge growth in Indian Leather exports is purely because of proper incentives provided to the industry and facilitation in terms of Infrastructural development, Establishment of Leather Promotion Council, Product Development Centers, Leather Design Institute and most importantly effective Tannery Zones all around India.

Government should, immediate form a high powered Leather Promotion Council and establish 10-15 Tannery Zones in Leather Clusters of Pakistan with all the compliances ensured right from slaughter houses to end product.

“The Government should also encourage the vendors of Leather Industry, including Slaughter Houses, Collection Centers, Tanneries and others to recognize themselves according to latest LWG Standards and provide them with incentives for doing the same”,

نوٹس برائے تجدید رکنیت برائے سال 2022-2023

ایوان ہذا کے تمام ممبران کو بذریعہ نوٹس آگاہ کیا جاتا ہے کہ انکی ممبر شپ کی رکنیت کی مدت 31 مارچ 2022ء سے ختم ہو رہی ہے۔ لہذا تجدید رکنیت برائے سال 2022-23 مورخہ 01 فروری 2022ء سے شروع ہو کر 31 مارچ 2022ء تک جاری رہے گی۔ اس سلسلہ میں تجدید رکنیت کا بل آپ کو پچھلے چیئرمین بلٹن کے ساتھ ارسال کر دیا گیا ہے۔ تجدید رکنیت کیلئے لازمی ہے کہ فیس مقررہ مدت میں بمعہ آخری سال کی انکم ٹیکس ریٹرن فائل کرنے کا ثبوت اور سیلز ٹیکس ریٹرن فائل کرنے کا ثبوت، اگر لاگو ہو، بھی چیئرمین ہذا میں جمع کروانا ہوگا۔ جو ممبر سالانہ فیس جمع کروانے کے باوجود انکم ٹیکس اور سیلز ٹیکس کے گوشوارے جمع کروانے کا ثبوت مہیا نہ کر سکیں گے۔ چیئرمین ہذا کے قوانین کے تحت ان کا نام ووٹرز لسٹ میں شامل نہیں ہوگا اور نہ ہی وہ آئندہ الیکشن میں حصہ لے سکیں گے۔

نوٹ

- (1) کارپوریٹ ممبر سے 600 روپے اور ایسوسی ایٹ ممبر سے 300 روپے بابت ریسیرچ اینڈ ڈویلپمنٹ چارجز وصول کئے جائیں گے۔ اگر آپ نے اس مد میں کچھ رقم متعلقہ ایسوسی ایشن میں جمع کرا چکے ہیں تو ادا شدہ رقم کی رسید کی فوٹو کاپی جمع کروا کر موجودہ رقم سے منہا کروا سکتے ہیں۔
- (2) چیئرمین ہذا کے تحت فرم یا کمپنی کی طرف سے ووٹ ڈالنے کا حق صرف کمپنی یا فرم کے مالک یا نامزد کردہ، حصہ دار یا ڈائریکٹر کو حاصل ہوگا۔

تبدیلی نامزد نمائندہ

نئے قوانین کے تحت ممبر فرم اپنا نامزد نمائندہ الیکشن شیڈول کے اعلان کے تین دن کے اندر تبدیل کر سکتے ہیں۔

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