



RAWALPINDI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

E-BUSINESS VISION

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Dear Readers!

Today, we are once again transforming and adapting to changing business environment and are strengthening our roles as the voice of business community in Rawalpindi and acknowledging the value of our members.

The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) is positioned to become the voice of Pakistan in the global marketplace. We have access to over thousands of networking events a year, business opportunity Conferences, B2B meetings, legal and HR advice, a range of exclusive or discounted business services and a Members Lounge that provides free meeting space.

The current economic condition of Pakistan due to COVID-19 demands a vibrant role of the business community to help the fellow citizens to come out of this financial quagmire and I believe with collective wisdom and efforts we can provide a concrete base to our country run on a successive path. The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry is YOUR Chamber. Get involved. Together we are more effective in achieving goals of the Chamber, to support, promote and protect your business. I assure you that RCCI will facilitate you altogether and we can become a leading source of economic development.

Muhammad Nasir Mirza
President RCCI

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PINK RIBBON BREAST CANCER AWARENESS SESSION

RCCI organized Pink Ribbon Breast Cancer Awareness Session for raising awareness about the disease on October 26, 2020. The event was attended by Chief Guest Ms. Saima Hamid, VC Fatima Jinnah Women University, Guests of Honor, Ms. Noor Azida Azmi Spouse of Malaysian High Commissioner, Ms. Zahida Parveen Principal Government Viqar-un-Nisa Post Graduate College for Women Rawalpindi, Ms. Shamim Aftab Member Provincial Assembly, Oncologist Dr. Uzma Qasim from Shifa International, Breast Cancer Survivors, Ms. Rukhsana Faiz & Ms. Sarah Wasif. Group Leader Mr. Sohail Altaf, President RCCI Mohammad Nasir Mirza and Vice President Shahraiz Ashraf Malik also graced the event with their presence. Our sponsors

for the event were Himmel Pharmaceuticals Pvt Ltd, Shifa Foundation, Pink Lady and Al-Hamd Distributors. The event was well participated by various educational institutes including Capital University of Science and Technology, PMAS Agriculture University, Punjab College Morgah, The Millennium University and College and volunteers from Shifa Foundation.

The session started with the recitation of Holy Quran and was followed by a short informative video on how to fight breast cancer. Ms. Rukhsana Faizin spired the audience with memoir regarding her ongoing fight with breast cancer. Ms. Sara Wasif also shared her tale of successfully defeating breast cancer. Dr. Uzma Qasim, was also invited at the session who is a well-

known name in the field of oncology. She guided the women on ways to early detect the breast cancer through a video presentation. She also addressed the queries of audience regarding the disease. Ms. Shamim Aftab, Member Provincial Assembly lauded the efforts of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and industry for taking on such initiatives which aim at maximizing welfare of the masses. The Chief Guest of the event was Ms. Saima Hamid who appreciated RCCI for recognizing its social responsibility and arranging such sessions. The Group Leader, Sohail Altaf, also shared his thoughts about this noble cause. The event concluded with the vote of thanks by President RCCI Mohammad Nasir Mirza which was followed by Shield Distribution.







RCCI URGES FOR POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC STABILITY



An interactive session with a delegation of the Economic Journalists Forum (EJF) was held at the Chamber House. The President of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) Mohammad Nasir Mirza on this occasion said that the government should provide a conducive environment for the development of the country's economy, end the uncertainty. He urged government to move forward with consensus and resolved issues amicably for political stability. The business community in Corona has been the most affected.

Special stimulus packages should be announced for all sectors and also urged government to lower cost of production. Additional funds should be released for development projects, he added.

Former president and group leader and well-known industrialist Sohail Altaf said that the current political temperature has increased the uncertainty which is detrimental to the country's economy.

He also recounted the recent meeting of a group of industrialists with the Prime Minister of Pakistan Imran Khan in which they shared feedback on issues facing the business community, inflation, development projects, FBR tax system and the current political situation. He said that it was brought to the notice of the Prime Minister that no mega project of any kind has been launched for the city of Rawalpindi in the last two years. I told the Prime Minister that the Ring Road project is an important project which also includes economic zones. With the

establishment of industrial zones, Rawalpindi could become a hub for commercial activities. The Prime Minister should take personal interest and complete it on priority basis.

On the occasion, Azhar Jatoi, President of the Economic Forum, said that the purpose of the forum was to enhance engagement with the business community and to advance the suggestions of stakeholders for the development of the country's economy so that the government could effectively formulate policy making. Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf, Vice President Shahraiz A Malik, executive members, Chairman regional trade Khurshid Berlas, EJF members, among others, were also present on the occasion.



PAKISTANI TRADERS ASK TO EXPLORE AFRICAN MARKETS



Pakistan's High Commissioner in Nairobi Kenya, Ms. Saqlain Syeda has said that there is an opportunity for Pakistani traders and exporters to take advantage of the business opportunities available in Kenya. The promising areas of cooperation and exports sectors like pharmaceuticals, rice, IT services and other sectors could be increased. Bilateral exchange of delegates at the Chamber of Commerce level need to be strengthened as travel restrictions and social distance due to the Corona epidemic have affected contacts between the business community.

The President of the Kenya National Chamber (KNCCI) Richard Ngatia said that his country exports tea and coffee to Pakistan. The trade volume between the two countries is close to 800 million, which could be increased. KNCCI played a crucial role in the development of economic and trade relations, serve as nucleus in the pyramid of economic diplomacy and act as a driving force in providing direction to the future bilateral trade and commercial ties between our two countries, he added.

Chamber President Nasir Mirza said that

Kenya is a gateway for African countries. The purpose of the Africa Business Forum, organized by the Chamber, was to explore new markets. He said that awareness about the commercial access of Pakistani products in different countries could also be increased through virtual trade forums.

Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) should be made at the chamber level so that stakeholders can be directly consulted to resolve issues faced by exporters. Representatives of chambers across the country, Islamabad Chamber, Lahore Chamber, Sarhad Chamber, Sialkot Chamber and Gujarat Chamber also expressed their views on the promotion of bilateral trade. The KNCCI was represented by Ms. Fatima A EL Maawy, 2nd Vice President, Mr. Omar Sadik Mohamed Dahiye, National Director, Mr. Mungai Mushere, Director and number of office holders.

Group Leader Sohail Altaf, Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf, Vice President Shahraiz A Malik, Chairman Regional Trade Khurshid Barlas and members of the executive Committee were also present.



RCCI Delegation Calls on Turkmenistan Envoy



A delegation led by Nasir Mirza, President, Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), called on Atadjan Movlamov, Ambassador of Turkmenistan to Pakistan and discussed ways to enhance bilateral trade relations at the Chamber of Commerce level, increase bilateral trade and exchange of delegations.

The delegation included Vice President Shahraiz A Malik, Chairman Regional Trade Khurshid Barlas and Executive Member Fahad Barlas.

Talking to the delegation, Ambassador Atdjan Mulamov said that Turkmenistan and Pakistan have deep and friendly relations. The Ambassador said that Turkmenistan desired to increase trade ties with Pakistan. Bilateral trade volume was very low and needed to be increased, he added. Pakistan could take advantage of trade opportunities to increase cooperation in agricultural

machinery and pharmaceuticals, he said. The envoy lauded RCCI efforts in promoting regional trade.

RCCI President Nasir Mirza briefed the Ambassador on the ongoing activities of the Rawalpindi Chamber and said that the Central Asian countries are big markets and there is a need to explore for joint ventures.

He said there was also a need for exploring new trade avenues, business opportunities between Pakistan and Central Asia and Turkmenistan is one of the key countries. Pakistani traders should explore Turkmenistan for trade opportunities and added that promoting regional trade could determine Pakistan's economic direction. Bilateral trade in services, banking, tourism, Halal food and agriculture can be enhanced. He also invited the Ambassador to the Chamber.

RCCI CONDEMNS PUBLICATION OF BLASPHEMOUS CARTOONS

The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has condemned the fresh publication of cartoons of Prophet Muhammad (Peace be upon him), by a French satirical weekly. RCCI President Mohammad Nasir Mirza in a statement said that such incidents in Europe including republication of blasphemous sketches by Charlie Hebdo have stirred anger in the Islamic world.

He said that in any civilized society, it is unthinkable to insult the honor of the prophets. The business

community will never tolerate insults to the Holy Prophet (Peace be upon him) under the guise of freedom of expression. He demanded the government of Pakistan to take the strong stance in this regard at the governmental level.

Group leader Sohail Altaf said that the publication of blasphemous sketches has hurt the feelings of billions of Muslims around the world. The business community strongly condemns the reprinting of the sketches in a French magazine and calls for a UN and OIC meeting on this important issue.



RCCI DELEGATION VISITS DEPO FOR CLOSE COOPERATION IN EXHIBITIONS



A delegation led by President Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) Mohamamd Nasir Mirza called on Director General Defense Export Promotion Organization (DEPO) Major General Tahir Gulzar Malik. Director Coordination Brigadier Syed Ali Ammar Haider was also present on the occasion. Director DEPO, Major General Tahir Gulzar Malik briefed the delegation on defense related products and services.

He said that the depot has achieved a lot in the last 20 years in the export of defense equipment and services. The IDEAS Defense Exhibition is being held every year with the participation of companies, defense analysts, delegates and top experts from abroad. The IDEAS platform has enhanced information and interactions with defense innovation, new technologies, future defense equipment and services. He lauded the efforts of the Rawalpindi Chamber in promoting trade activities and organizing exhibitions. He

said that DEPO has been participating in RCCI International Rawal Expo every year.

Rawalpindi Chamber President Nasir Mirza said that Pakistan is self-sufficient in defense capability. Now Pakistan has also earned a good reputation in the export of defense parts, arms, training aircraft, and military equipment. He said that exhibitions play an important role in the economic self-reliance and export of any country. He also gave a briefing on the ongoing activities of the Chamber. The delegation included Vice President Shahraiz A Malik and members of the executive Committee.



RCCI inks MOU with Pakistan Southern Africa Trade Federation

The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Pakistan South Africa Trade Federation (PSATF) aiming to boost trade, increase exports and networking between Pakistan and South Africa.

The document was signed by Chamber President Muhammad Nasir Mirza and Pakistan South Africa PSATF Chairman Muhammad Rafique Memon.

The signing ceremony was held on a virtual platform while Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf, Vice President Shahraiz Malik, members of the executive committee, Chairman Regional Trade Khursheed Barlas and other chamber members were also present on the occasion while TDAP Director Zulfiqar Langa, PSATF's Saleem Shakur and Zulfiqar Abbasi participated through virtual platform.

President Nasir Mirza said that the Chamber has always strived to enhance trade relations with African

countries. Under the Africa Trade Forum and the government's Look Africa policy, our focus was to explore new markets. The MoU will strengthen the Chamber's Charter, he added.

Trade and Investment Attache Humaira Israr said that

all kinds of assistance was being provided to exporters to promote trade. The diplomatic mission is working hard to remove obstacles related to banking channels and NOCs. She welcomed Chamber's suggestions and efforts to promote trade and improve networking.

PSATF Chairman Muhammad Rafique Memon said that the Chamber of Commerce and the Federation would work together for the

exchange of delegations and organizing exhibitions.

Deputy Director TDAP Zulfiqar Langa welcomed the MoU and said that his organization has been working more actively than before. New marketing methods are being adopted so that Pakistani products can be better introduced in South Africa.





RCCI KICKS OFF PLANTATION DRIVE UNDER MY GREEN PAKISTAN

The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) in collaboration with Dean of Diplomatic Corps has kicked off its Plantation Drive under My Green Pakistan at Gulistan e Fatima Park Islamabad here on Thursday. The event was attended by Federal Minister for Narcotics Control Muhammad Azam Sawati, Senator Faisal Javed Khan, Dean of Diplomatic Corps H.E. Mr. Atadjan Movlamov and various ambassadors and high commissioners along with top executives of RCCI.

Addressing the ceremony, Atadjan Movlamov said that diplomatic community is ready to support PM Imran Khan Clean and Green initiative and already participating in different activities in fight against climate change. The Ambassador said that climate change has badly affected different countries and added that his embassy will support RCCI efforts in promoting advocacy drive on tree plantation and rain water harvesting.

Federal Minister for Narcotics Control Muhammad Azam Sawati lauded RCCI efforts for the national cause and said that Pakistan is among top ten countries where glaciers are melting with fast speed and causing climate change. The climate change is directly linked with economy of any country and we must all act now. We should promote these activities and work as a team to achieve one goal, i.e. Clean and Green Pakistan.

RCCI President Nasir Mirza apprised the participants on current and future activities of the chamber. He said that RCCI now has become the first Green Chamber of Pakistan by installing rain water harvesting and recharge system and solar panels at chamber building. He added that prime objective of this event was to promote green culture among the community.

Group leader RCCI Sohail Altaf said that it's our collective responsibility to secure the future of our generations by promoting tree plantation and green initiatives.

Later chief guest along with ambassadors planted

trees in the park to mark the Green Pakistan Drive under the auspices of RCCI.

Usman Shoukat CEO Bio-labs who was the sponsor of the event said that Bio-Labs under its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Project has renovated Gulistan-e-Fatima Park, one of the oldest public recreational spots in the heart of Islamabad. Former Presidents RCCI, Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf, Vice President Shahraiz A Malik, Chairman Regional Trade Khurshid Berlas, executive committee and a large number of civil society attended the ceremony.





STATE MINISTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ZARTAJ GUL VISITS RCCI

**“CLEAN PAKISTAN GOAL CAN
ONLY BE ACHIEVED
THROUGH PUBLIC PRIVATE
PARTNERSHIP”**

State Minister for Climate Change Zartaj Gul paid a visit to the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) here on Monday. During her visit she was given briefing on rain water harvesting system. She lauded the RCCI efforts in taking lead in making RCCI first green chamber of Pakistan by adopting rainwater harvesting and recharges system along with installation of Solar Panels for energy conservation.

The other chambers and organizations should follow the same, she added. She assured full support to RCCI for its key initiatives for promoting regional trade and advocating on clean and green Pakistan.

She said that Clean Pakistan goal can only be achieved through public private partnership and chamber of commerce can play a vital role in bridging the gap here..

Later in her address with traders community she said that Pakistan is one of the water stressed country where ground water table has dangerously dropped to lower level. Plastic bag ban was another initiative of her ministry which needs full support of masses and mainly business community.

Pollution is one of the main issues that PTI led federal government aims to tackle through initiatives like the Clean and Green Pakistan. The PTI government has launched many projects including 10 Billion Trees Tsunami project on patron of the Billion Trees Project of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and expanded it across Pakistan.

Earlier President RCCI Mohammad Nasir Mirza in his welcome address said that traders are ready to join Government for its efforts to address the climate change through various steps including tree plantation, ban on plastic bags and use of renewable energy. He said the chamber was implementing the

prime minister's vision of a green Pakistan. Rainwater, through the newly-installed system, can be collected as it has the capacity to recharge 3,000 gallons of groundwater per hour.

He also gave a short briefing on RCCI current activities and ongoing programs.

Group Leader Sohail Altaf said that there is a need to link green initiative with incentives and suggested that tax rebates shall be introduced for adopting rain water harvesting.

Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf, Vice President Shahraiz A Malik, former president Raja Amer Iqbal, members of the executive committee, women members and RCCI members attended the meeting. Ends PR RCCI





YEMEN

AMBASSADOR VISITS RCCI



Yemeni Ambassador to Pakistan H.E. Mohammed Motahar Alashabi visited the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Tuesday.

Group leader and former president Sohail Altaf, Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf, Vice President Shahraiz A Malik, members of the executive committee and chamber members were also present on the occasion. Talking to the President of the Chamber Nasir Mirza, the Ambassador of Yemen, Muhammad Motahar said that Yemen attaches great importance to its relations with Pakistan and there are deep friendly relations between the two countries.

The envoy said mutual trade opportunities can be explored in the tourism and pharmaceutical sectors. He said that this was his first visit to the chamber. He appreciated the role of the Rawalpindi Chamber in promoting trade and business activities. He also accepted the invitation to participate in the Winter Tree Planting drive organized by the Rawalpindi Chamber next week.

On this occasion, the President of the Chamber Nasir Mirza said that the Chamber is ready for any kind of cooperation for the exchange of delegations and holding of bilateral business conferences. Bilateral trade can be promoted in the fields of tourism, education, agriculture, IT and pharmaceuticals. Relations between the two countries need to be enhanced at the level of the Chamber of Commerce. Yemeni investors take advantage of investment opportunities in Pakistan. Ends PRO RCCI





RCCI inks MOU with HVACR



Presenting Chamber Memento to DG Pakistan Army Heritage Foundation



Meeting with Director Labor Ch. Fazal Hussain



INNOVATIVE ENERGY SOLUTIONS



Mr. Ali Rizwan Sandhu

CEO

M/s Innovative Energy Solutions

Office#01, 5th Floor, Plot#07 Taw-Seen Complex,
Civic Centre, Phase4, Bahria Town, ISLAMABAD

Tel/Cell: (051)5411482 | 0300-8504838





Correspondence

Write to us & also write for us !
Feedback at
administration@rcci.org.pk
send your articles to
administration@rcci.org.pk

For Ads

Contact at 111-722-475 | Ext: 133
email: administration@rcci.org.pk
For all your Business Queries, Please
free to contact on 051-8333079
e-mail: rnd@rcci.org.pk

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**Rawalpindi Chamber of
Commerce & Industry**

Chamber House, 39, Mayo Road (Civil Lines) Rawalpindi (Pakistan)
Tel: (+92-51) 111 722 475 | 111 RCCI PK | Fax: (+92-51) 5111 055
Email: rcci@rcci.org.pk | Website: www.rcci.org.pk