



RAWALPINDI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

# E-BUSINESS VISION

MARCH 2021



# SPEAKERS AT RCCI VITF URGE TO REVIVE SAARC



potential which needs exploration in the better interest of all member nations, he added.

RCCI chief said that regional cooperation has the potential to produce significant gains across all countries of South Asia. Intra-regional trade now stands at just one-third of its potential with \$23 billion annually.

The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) organized Virtual International Trade Forum (Chapter SAARC). The purpose of the trade forum was to make the business community aware of trade and export opportunities in SAARC countries.

The forum was attended by President Mohammad Nasir Mirza, Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf, Vice President Shahraiz A Malik, Chairman regional trade Khurshid Berlas, Zubair Malik, Executive member SAARC Chamber, Ahsan Ali Mangi, President Pak-Afghan Chamber Zubair Motiwala, Deputy Secretary Ministry of Commerce Fahad Raza, Ms. Assma Kamal, Trade and Investment Attache Sri Lanka, Suleman Khan, Trade and Investment Attache Bangladesh and Asif Khan, Trade and Investment Counsellor Afghanistan.

President RCCI Nasir Mirza in his welcome address said that the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) was founded in 1985 with the aim of promoting socio-economic development within the member states but unfortunately the member countries could not materialized the true potential of this forum

SAARC region with its significant economic power, vast natural resources, and dynamic workforce, has a huge development

Zubair Motiwala, Chairman Pakistan Afghanistan Joint Chamber of Commerce & Industry (PAJCCI), acknowledged initiatives of RCCI for organizing the SAARC trade forum and raising the voice of the business community with respect to regional trade.

He said SAARC should not be played in the hands of one country and the member countries should synergies their efforts for promoting trade ties excluding India.

Commercial Secretary Dhaka, Salman Khan said that there is a huge potential to increase bilateral trade between Pakistan and Bangladesh, adding that Business Visas relaxation tariff barriers and flight issues has been raised at the Government levels.

Ms. Assma Kamal, Trade and Investment Attache Sri Lanka said that the recent visit of Prime Minister Imran Khan to Sri Lanka has put a positive image and two countries have agreed to further strengthen bilateral relations in diverse areas, including trade, and tourism through enhanced connectivity.

The SAARC region is composed of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives. Though it is home to around a quarter of the world's population, the region accounts for just under seven per cent of the world's GDP.

## COMMISSIONER PESSI VISITS RCCI, ANNOUNCED HELP DESK AT CHAMBER

Punjab Employees Social Security Institution (PESSI) Commissioner Syed Bilal Haider along with his team visited the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI).

Director Raza Ahmed, President Chamber Muhammad Nasir Mirza, Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf, former President Saboor Malik, executive committee members and chamber members were also present on the occasion.

The Commissioner briefed the business community and chamber members in detail on the important steps taken by PESSI regarding registration and welfare of workers.

The Commissioner PESSI announced the formation of an advisory council in which the business community would be represented so that they could be taken on board for policy making and measures on the welfare and registration of workers.

A help desk will be set up in the Chamber of Commerce for the convenience of the members. An amnesty scheme is also being introduced in which factory owners will be given a 50 per cent discount. Inspectors will not raid any factory in the future. An online payment system has been set up. Self-assessment and registration will be inspected once in five years. Fourteen different types of facilities and services are being provided to the workers. Death grant has been increased to 600,000 and marriage grant to 300,000.

The referral systems for medical treatment being eliminated.

Scholarships will be paid directly into the account. Certificates and events will be held to encourage employers who deposit more and regularly. The Commissioner appreciated the rainwater harvesting and recharge system installed by the Rawalpindi Chamber and also agreed to replicate the same at PESSI building in Rawalpindi.

He appreciated the efforts of the Chamber for the promotion of business activities. On this occasion, the President of the Chamber Nasir Mirza briefed the Commissioner on the ongoing activities of the Chamber. He said that Rawalpindi Institute of Cardiology should be included in the panel of PESSI. He welcomed the announcement of the amnesty scheme and said that the chamber would extend all possible support to the awareness campaign in this regard.





# RCCI Celebrated INTERNATIONAL WOMEN DAY

The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) celebrated International Women Day in the Chamber House with a theme, “one can be anyone”, to mark the Day.

PTI Senator Fozia Arshad was the chief guest of the ceremony, while President RCCI Mohammad Nasir Mirza, Group leader Sohail Altaf, Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf, Vice President Shahraiz A Malik, Chairperson Competition Commission of Pakistan (CCP), Ms Rahat Kaunain, Ms Musrat Misbah, Ms Hassan Bano, Convener RCCI Women Entrepreneur Committee Ms. Noreen Ghaffar, members' executive committee and large number of women members of RCCI were also there to mark Women Day.

Speaking on the occasion Chief Guest Senator Fozia Arshad said that the PTI Government is committed to ensure a secure and enabling environment for women to play their rightful role in our national economy and country's development.

She said our struggle is to provide equal opportunity and a platform for women to excel in their field and women to take part at every table where decisions take place.

She lauded the role of RCCI for organising such tremendous

events and said that Chamber's approach towards women empowerment can be beneficial for those women who want to start their businesses.

Speaking on the Occasion President RCCI Mohammad Nasir Mirza said that no nation can make progress without the progress of women. Rawalpindi Chamber always welcomed women to participate in Chamber's activities to bring change in businesses. RCCI established an incubation centre for business women to provide an equipped place for women to display their products and hold meetings to promote their businesses.

Group Leader Sohail Altaf said that women playing an active role in nation building added that the country's economy can only flourish once we have an active participation of women.

Convener Noreen Ghaffar gave a detailed presentation on RCCI key initiatives and events for providing opportunity and platform for women entrepreneurs.

Chairperson CCP Ms Rahat Kaunain, Business Women, Ms Musrat Misbah, and Chief of Party, USAID PREIA Ms Hassan Bano also shared their success stories.





# Digital Transformation Conference Vision 2025



The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) organized Digital Transformation Conference Vision 2025 aimed to highlight the key challenges faced by the industry to transform traditional solutions to digital platforms. The conference also provided an opportunity to discuss industrial automation trends Worldwide, automation requirements for existing industry, Digitalization and export competitiveness and digitalization requirements for small and cottage industries of the country and impact on employment opportunities.

President RCCI, Mohammad Nasir Mirza, Group Leader Sohail Altaf, Former Presidents, Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf, Vice President Shahraiz A Malik, executive committee members and a large number of members attended the conference.

Federal Minister of Science and Technology, Fawad Chaudhry, who joined the conference via video link, said that the Government is working on a comprehensive policy to address two major challenges to bring digitization or digital revolution in the country. The IT ministry has been given strong direction to bring stable internet connection and spread the internet across the country. 5G technology will bring a revolution and several sectors including the medical sector.

The Minister appreciated RCCI for organizing the conference and assured full support and assistance in this regard. He suggested RCCI to closely collaborate with universities as strong industry academia linkages can

improve the national economy as we saw many examples around the world.

The Minister highlighted Government's recent initiatives for digital transformation and added that now stents and ventilators are being produced in the country. The Government has introduced the most lucrative electric vehicles auto policy.

Member IT, Syed Junaid Imam, highlighted ministry's key steps towards knowledge economy.

President, RCCI Mohammad Nasir Mirza, in his welcome address, said that with the use of digitalization and automation, companies will be able to deliver their orders on time and at the same time be able to maintain quantity and quality standards in compliance with the international standards. Further help to increase exports of the country and reduce dependence on the import of goods and services. Digital technologies are a vital tool for social development and economic magnification and growth to compete the world.

Group leader, Sohail Altaf, in his address said that there is a need to fill the communication gap between the ministry and the business community.

Chairman Conference, Abdul Basit Malik, in his address said that the major aim of this conference was to discuss issues of the business community with relevant ministers and government authorities.









# RCCI ORGANIZES INVESTMENT CONFERENCE ON RAILWAYS LAND

Federal Minister for Railways Azam Khan Swati while addressing a conference on investment in Railways Land organized by Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) through video link said that unfortunately Railways has been in disrepute for the last 70 years.

I want to send a message to all developers and investors to invest with security in railways land. The investment will be under a public-private partnership. You will have the full support of my team, he added.

The legal process in this regard will be completed by April 30. He lauded RCCI for making this conference possible. The Railway Minister further said that we all have to lift the railways together. There is no place for a corrupt officer in the railways. Professional officers are a source of pride for me. This is an important opportunity for the business community to take advantage of this

opportunity and start thinking for joint ventures on railway land. Hafeez ullah Khan, DG Land & Property, gave a detailed presentation on the traditional method of leasing railway land and the initiatives taken under the new program, Public Private Partnership.

Earlier in his address, RCCI President Mohammad Nasir Mirza said that the aim of the conference was to provide a platform for investors to get maximum information on investing opportunities in railway land. He said that Railways is an important sector in Pakistan's economy. Group leader Sohail Altaf said the railways would have to work to boost investor confidence. Steps will have to be taken to attract local and foreign investors.

Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf, former presidents, members of the executive committee, chairman regional trade Khurshid Barlas, officials from Pakistan Railways and investors attended the conference.





# RCCI inks MOU with Beijing Huahe International



The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Beijing Huahe International Business Consulting Co. Ltd aiming to strengthen mutual understanding between the trade and investment circles of China and Pakistan, further expand cooperation between Chinese and Pakistani entrepreneurs and promoting the trade and investment cooperation.

The document was signed by RCCI President Mohammad Nasir Mirza and Liu Chuanwu, President, Beijing Huahe International Business Consulting Co. The signing ceremony was held on a virtual platform while Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf, Vice President Shahraiz A Malik and members of the executive

committee, were also present on the occasion.

President M. Nasir Mirza said that the Chamber has always strived to enhance trade relations with China. He said that RCCI desires to further strengthen and diversify the existing bilateral trade relations to the mutual benefit of the two organizations. RCCI president said both the entities need to promote high level contacts and visits, which would further cement bilateral trade relations.

President Liu Chuanwu, also assured full assistance and cooperation to facilitate both entities for the exchange of delegations and organizing exhibitions and business opportunity conferences.

## RCCI delegation Visit to Pakistani Consulate and Istanbul Chamber of Commerce

The delegation led by President of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) Mohammad Nasir Mirza visited Pakistan Consulate General in Istanbul and met Consul General Bilal Khan Pasha during his visit to Turkey. Consul General Bilal Khan Pasha welcomed the Rawalpindi Chamber delegation and said that Pakistan and Turkey have deep and historic ties. Mutual trade relations have further strengthened it. The Chamber of Commerce has an important role to play in promoting trade relations between the two countries. He assured the delegation of all possible cooperation and assistance from the Consulate.

The delegation of Rawalpindi Chamber also visited the

Istanbul Chamber of Commerce. The delegation was received by Vice President Dr. Israfil Kuralay. He discussed with the delegation the ongoing trade cooperation between Pakistan and Turkey, joint ventures and exchange of delegations at the Chamber of Commerce level. On this occasion, President Nasir Mirza invited the Vice President to visit Pakistan. And invited them to participate in various programs and events organized by the Chamber, which they accepted. On the occasion, Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf also briefed the Vice President on bilateral cooperation in various fields, especially in the field of electronics products, cables, construction and tourism.



# Nepal Ambassador visits RCCI, urges for direct flights to promote bilateral trade

Ambassador of Nepal Tapas Adhikari, has stressed that Pakistan International Airline (PIA) should explore the possibility of starting direct flights between Islamabad and Kathmandu that would help in promoting two-way trade between the two countries. Both the countries enjoying cordial relationship and with resumption of flights this will further strengthen the close trade ties between the two countries.

The ambassador made these remarks during his visit to the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) here on Monday.

RCCI President, Mohammad Nasir Mirza, Senior Vice President Osman Ashraf, Vice President Shahraiz A Malik and members of the executive committee were also present on the occasion.

He said that trade promotion exchange of delegation would help both countries to improve the bilateral trade ties. He said that Pakistan and Nepal have great scope to enhance cooperation in tourism sector as both countries possessed highest peaks in the world.

Both countries are an important members of SAARC and stressed that Pakistani business community should visit Nepal while he would also try to bring a delegation of Nepalese businessmen to Pakistan for promoting business linkages between both countries.

Speaking at the occasion, RCCI President Mohammad Nasir Mirza gave a short summary on RCCI current and ongoing programs. Tourism, Pharmaceutical and IT are key sectors where possible joint ventures can be made.

Pakistan and Nepal should focus on developing strong business linkages between their private sectors in order to explore all untapped areas of bilateral trade and economic relations as the current volume of trade was far less than the actual potential of both countries.

He informed that RCCI has been organizing “Made in Pakistan” exhibition in Nepal and expressed hope that once we get out of COVID-19 we will resume the expo.







Standing Committee Meeting on Education



Training on Marketing and Advertisement Tools for SME's by SMEDA





# INNOVATIVE ENERGY SOLUTIONS



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