

RAWALPINDI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2024



SPICE SIZZLE & CELEBRATIONS



PINDI FOOD FEST

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DECEMBER 2024

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PRESIDENT Usman Shaukat



Over the past few months, the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has remained steadfast in addressing critical challenges, fostering collaborations, and spearheading initiatives that align with our shared vision of sustainable economic growth, effective policy advocacy, and strengthened regional cooperation. Key Highlights • Successfully hosted a record-breaking event at Ayub Park, attracting over 400,000 attendees while promoting traditional cuisines and supporting SMEs, particularly women entrepreneurs. • Partnered with

Pakistan America Business Forum (PABF) to enhance trade relations with the U.S., focusing on investment opportunities, trade barriers, and bilateral economic growth. • Advocated for significant improvements in Pakistan's pharmaceutical sector, aiming to boost exports and streamline regulatory processes. • Urged the Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) to expedite approvals for the Rawalpindi Ring Road SEZ to foster industrial development and bolster exports. • Strengthened partnerships by hosting networking dinners and signing

MoUs with institutions like PGMA, Tinypreneurs, and RIMS Hospital, alongside advancing academia-industry collaborations. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our Executive Committee, the dedicated RCCI team, and all stakeholders for their unwavering efforts and support. Together, we will continue to pave the way for a resilient, thriving, and prosperous business community in Rawalpindi and beyond.



Revive PAKISTAN

National Spirit

Confidence

Economy

**Rawalpindi Chamber of
Commerce & Industry**



Meeting on Bank Road issue

Participants expressed serious reservations over the restriction of vehicle access on Bank Road.

A meeting of Anjuman Tajran Rawalpindi and Cantt representatives was held at the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) to address concerns regarding the closure of vehicle entry on Bank Road and the construction of a walking street. The meeting was presided over by RCCI President Usman Shaukat alongside Group Leader Sohail Altaf.

Prominent attendees included Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, former presidents Asad Mashhadi and Saqib Rafique, Vice President of FPCCI Tariq Jadoon, President of Small Chamber Sardar Saqib, President of Anjuman Tajran Punjab and Rawalpindi Shahid Ghafoor Paracha, and President of Anjuman Tajran Cantt Sheikh Hafeez. Other notable participants included Zafar Qadri, Mushtaq Khan, Munir Baig Mirza (Singapore Plaza), Latif Yousafzai, Sheikh Zeeshan (Zarkoon), Imran Kayani, Executive Member Wasim Minhas, and Chamber members Munir Butt, Hassan Mustafa, and Raja Ali.

During the meeting, participants expressed serious reservations over the restriction of vehicle access on Bank Road. They highlighted that the closure has led to a significant decline in customer visits, particularly affecting women and elderly shoppers, who face difficulty walking long distances from Singapore Plaza to Gakhar Plaza.

It was emphasized that the situation demands immediate attention to prevent it from escalating into strikes and protests. The attendees urged for a collaborative resolution to address the concerns of both shopkeepers and customers, warning that continued inaction might result in the closure of businesses, leading to economic losses for both the business community and the government through reduced tax revenues.

RCCI President Usman Shaukat and Group Leader Sohail Altaf informed the participants that an RCCI delegation had previously met with Station Commander Brigadier Ahmed Nawaz to discuss these concerns. During the meeting, it was suggested that if the business community cooperates by relocating staff vehicles to designated parking areas, sufficient space could be made available for customers to park and shop conveniently. The Station Commander assured that under such cooperation, the walking street plan could be reviewed. The RCCI leadership reaffirmed their commitment to resolving the issue through dialogue and consultation to ensure a business-friendly environment on Bank Road.



RCCI'S 3rd EDITION

PINDI FOOD FEST 2024



The three-day food festival, “Pindi Food Fest 2024” organized by the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), concluded with great success at Ayub Park, attracting a record-breaking crowd and widespread appreciation from the public and the business community. The event drew a remarkable attendance of over 400,000 people in just three days, setting a new milestone in the history of RCCI. Citizens, families, and food enthusiasts thronged the festival to enjoy a diverse array of cuisines, cultural activities, and entertainment. The festival was graced by the presence of ambassadors from Morocco, Yemen, South Korea, Hungary, Indonesia, and Uzbekistan,

who toured various food stalls alongside RCCI President Usman Shaukat. Their participation highlighted the event's international appeal and its contribution to cultural exchange. President RCCI, Usman Shaukat, emphasized the festival's aim of promoting traditional and regional cuisines, introducing new flavors, and providing entrepreneurs with a platform to showcase their culinary ventures. He stated: “The food festival was an opportunity to promote SMEs, particularly women entrepreneurs, and highlight the richness of Pakistan's culinary diversity. The response was overwhelming, with thousands attending the event and enjoying the

vibrant atmosphere.” More than seventy Food Stalls were placed featuring flavors from Kashmir, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, and Punjab, as well as international cuisines. Special opportunities were provided to female business owners in the food industry to showcase and launch their brands aiming to promote Women Entrepreneurs, he added. Live Cooking Demos: Renowned chefs conducted live cooking sessions, sharing tips and engaging with the audience. Entertainment: Musical evenings featuring local artists and famous singers, along with a kids' carnival, added a festive touch to the event. Community Engagement: Families enjoyed a socially enriching experience, celebrating Pakistan's cultural and culinary heritage. President RCCI extended gratitude to the people of Rawalpindi, the business community, and the Ayub Park administration for their invaluable cooperation in organizing the successful event. The food festival not only showcased the vibrancy of Pakistan's culinary scene but also reaffirmed RCCI's commitment to fostering SME growth and strengthening community bonds through unique initiatives.







RCCI & PABF Organise the 5th Edition of Pak-America Business Summit

The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), in collaboration with the Pak America Business Forum (PABF), organized the 5th Pak-America Business Summit at a local hotel in Islamabad.

RCCI President Usman Shaukat in his keynote address emphasized the vast potential for increased trade and investment, urging stronger collaboration to achieve mutual economic goals. He said that the major purpose of the summit was to provide an opportunity to exchange the views and identify the hurdles in trade ties between the two business communities. Also, enhance cooperation with key organizations and sector specific information sharing in both countries to ensure cohesive and coordinated strategies in promoting U.S. private sector interests in Pakistan, he added. Coordinator on Climate Change

Romina Khurshid Alam who was the chief guest on the occasion, described Pakistan and the U.S. as “best friends and trading partners,” calling for continued cooperation in environmental and business initiatives. U.S. Chargé d’Affaires Natalie Baker highlighted that the United States is Pakistan’s largest export market, accounting for approximately 16% of Pakistan’s total exports annually. She said, “Over 80 U.S. firms in Pakistan directly employ 120,000 Pakistanis and indirectly provide livelihoods for over 1 million workers. Our teams actively connect American and Pakistani businesses, fostering stronger trade and economic ties.” Chairman PABF Waqar Khan stated the forum’s mission is to enhance trade relations and create new opportunities for Pakistani and American businesses. President PABF Anwar Azam assured

full support for Pakistani businesses aiming to expand into the U.S. market, reiterating the forum’s role as a key enabler.

Sohail Altaf, former RCCI President, stressed the importance of facilitating business delegation exchanges through the U.S. Embassy to unlock Pakistan’s export potential to the United States.

The event was attended by senior RCCI leadership, including Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Fahad Barlas, former RCCI presidents Kashif Shabbir and Dr. Shimail Daud, Executive Committee members, women entrepreneurs, and representatives from TDAP.

The event served as a dynamic platform to explore opportunities for bilateral trade, investment, and economic collaboration between Pakistan and the United States.



High Commissioner of Rwanda Visits RCCI, Urges Business Community to Leverage EODB and Trade Opportunities in Rwanda

H.E. Fatou Harerimana, the High Commissioner of Rwanda, paid her maiden visit to the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI). The visit aimed to foster bilateral trade relations and encourage the business community to explore trade and investment opportunities in Rwanda.

RCCI President Usman Shaukat warmly welcomed the High Commissioner and presented an overview of the Chamber's initiatives and contributions to promoting trade. He also shared key insights into the existing trade data between Pakistan and Rwanda, highlighting key sectors such as pharmaceuticals, agriculture, machinery, textiles, and tourism as promising areas for collaboration. "The current bilateral trade volume is negligible, and there is a need to

significantly enhance trade relations through strategic partnerships and joint ventures," he emphasized.

In her remarks, H.E. Fatou Harerimana commended RCCI's efforts in fostering trade activities and underscored Rwanda's business-friendly environment, particularly its Ease of Doing Business (EODB) policies. She emphasized the need for enhanced economic ties, stating, "Pakistan and Rwanda share friendly relations based on mutual respect and growing economic cooperation. The private sectors of both countries must play an instrumental role in expanding these relations further."

The High Commissioner also highlighted the opportunities available in Rwanda for Pakistani investors and businesses, inviting them to explore joint ventures and investment

possibilities.

Accompanying the High Commissioner were Mutuyimana Charlotte, Executive Assistant to the High Commissioner, and Maryam Zafar, Mission Receptionist. The visit concluded on a positive note, with both parties reaffirming their commitment to strengthening economic collaboration and exploring new opportunities for growth and prosperity.

The event was attended by Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Fahad Barlas, Group Leader Sohail Altaf, members of the Executive Committee, women entrepreneurs, and other distinguished RCCI members. Group Leader Sohail Altaf participated in presenting a memento to the High Commissioner to mark the occasion.



CEO DRAP ASIM RAUF VISITS RAWALPINDI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The CEO of the Drug Regulatory Authority of Pakistan (DRAP), Mr. Asim Rauf, visited the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) and participated in a meeting of the Standing Committee on Pharmaceuticals. During the meeting, Mr. Rauf emphasized that ensuring the availability of quality medicines remains a top priority for the government. He highlighted efforts to streamline the processes for licensing and registration, making them more efficient and business-friendly to unlock the true potential of Pakistan's pharmaceutical sector and drive export growth. The meeting, presided over by RCCI President Mr.

Usman Shaukat, also included Mr. Umar Farooq, Chairman of the Standing Committee on Pharmaceuticals. The committee members expressed their appreciation for DRAP's proactive role in supporting the pharmaceutical industry and modernizing the regulatory framework. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Usman Shaukat stated, "The pharmaceutical sector holds immense potential to expand Pakistan's exports. With a significant pharma cluster located in the Rawalpindi region, there is substantial demand for Pakistani medicines in Central Asia and Africa. Simplifying the processes for

licensing, registration, and certification will be key to harnessing this potential." The meeting was attended by notable figures, including Group Leader Mr. Sohail Altaf, Senior Vice President Mr. Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Mr. Fahad Barlas, Executive Committee members, and other distinguished members of the chamber. The participants discussed strategies to enhance collaboration between DRAP and the pharmaceutical industry, address existing challenges, and capitalize on export opportunities to contribute to the national economy.

RCCI Delegation Meets National Coordinator SIFC Lt. Gen. Sarfaraz Ahmed



A high-level delegation from the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), led by President Mr. Usman Shaukat, had a meeting with National Coordinator Special Investment Facilitation Council (SIFC) Lt. Gen. at General Headquarters Rawalpindi Sarfaraz Ahmed at GHQ. The delegation included Group Leader Mr. Sohail Altaf, former Presidents Dr. Hassan Soroush, Manzar Khurshid Sheikh, Asad Mashadi (Chairman, Rawalpindi Ring Road Economic Zone Committee), Zahid Latif Khan (Chairman, Islamabad Stock Exchange REIT), Nadeem Rauf, and Saqib Rafiq. The meeting focused on critical development and economic issues, including progress on Rawalpindi Ring Road Project, Special Economic Zone (SEZ) around the Ring Road, Rawat Industrial Estate Development, Pharma Export Council, Tax System Reforms, Impact of Bank Road Conversion into walking street, Expo Center for Twin Cities and

Revival of Construction Sector and promotion of Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) in Pakistan. The delegation emphasized the urgent need for approval and development of a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) around the Ring Road. Despite the allocation of 4,000 acres for this zone, they stressed the importance of expediting the approval process and providing special incentives to attract investment. The delegation also highlighted challenges faced by over 450 operational factories in the estate, which includes Pakistan's third-largest pharmaceutical cluster. They urged the immediate construction of a 2-kilometer connectivity road to enable the development of 800 additional vacant plots, fostering industrial growth and creating job opportunities. RCCI proposed the creation of a Pharma Export Council under the Ministry of Commerce to boost pharmaceutical exports and enhance the industry's global competitiveness. Furthermore, the

chamber suggested leveraging its extensive business networks to assist the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) in addressing systemic inefficiencies, expanding the tax net, and enhancing revenue collection. The delegation discussed concerns from local businesses regarding the conversion of Bank Road in Saddar into a walking street, proposing a balanced solution that accommodates all stakeholders. Immediate approval for an Expo Center was requested to promote trade and investment in Rawalpindi and Islamabad. The delegation emphasized the need for a strong construction package, given the critical role of over 40 related industries in economic development. They also presented suggestions to promote Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs). Lt. Gen. Sarfaraz Ahmed assured RCCI of full cooperation and support in resolving these critical issues and advancing the proposed development projects.

RCCI Celebrates World Cities Day

Commissioner, RPO Rawalpindi graced the occasion with their presence



The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) hosted a ceremony to mark World Cities Day, emphasizing sustainable urban development, environmental stewardship, and investment-friendly initiatives. The event saw active participation from Commissioner Rawalpindi Aamir Khattak, RPO Babar Sarfraz, DG RDA Kinza Murtaza, CEO Sweet Homes Zamurad Khan and other esteemed dignitaries.

The celebration aimed to address urbanization challenges, collective efforts and foster cooperation to promote sustainable urban development. While urban migration presents opportunities, it also brings forth complex challenges that require collaborative and innovative solutions. In his address, Commissioner Rawalpindi Aamir Khattak highlighted the provincial government's commitment to city development. He announced plans to present a detailed briefing on urban planning and ongoing development projects at the RCCI on

Monday. Commissioner Khattak commended RCCI's initiatives under the Revive Pakistan Initiative, particularly the proposal to transform Rashid Minhas Road into Pakistan's first green road. The project includes: Rainwater conservation and recharge system, Conversion of streetlights to solar energy and Comprehensive plantation drives.

The Commissioner assured full support from the district administration to ensure the project's success and reiterated the government's determination to make Rawalpindi a green, environment-friendly, and investment-attractive city.

President RCCI, Usman Shaukat, also addressed the audience, emphasizing the importance of proactive urban planning to meet the needs of Rawalpindi's growing population. He highlighted RCCI's objectives, which include policy advocacy, ease of doing business, and fostering a safe environment for trade and commerce. He expressed gratitude to the

Commissioner, RPO, DG RDA, Director AIC Ijaz Qamar Kiani, Zamrud Khan of Pakistan Sweet Homes, and other distinguished guests for their participation and support.

He reiterated RCCI's commitment to branding and building a positive image of Rawalpindi and Pakistan, ensuring a better future for its residents. Group Leader Sohail Altaf in his address emphasized the need for a united approach, urging government officials, district administrators, and business leaders to collaborate in achieving shared goals.

Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Fahad Barlas, Former Presidents, Executive Committee Members, Women Chamber President Ms Quratulein, representatives from the trade association, Chairman of the event Waqas Mahmood, Vice Chairman Martin Parvez, and a large number of members were also present on the occasion.



Networking Dinner

Hosted by RCCI President
Mr. Usman Shaukat



RCCI President Mr. Usman Shaukat hosted a prestigious Networking Dinner in honor of Group Leader Mr. Sohail Altaf and Former Presidents of RCCI at his residence. The event brought together an esteemed gathering of business leaders, diplomats, and prominent personalities. Mr. Usman Shaukat, accompanied by Senior Vice President (SVP) Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President (VP) Fahad Barlas, and members of the RCCI Executive Committee, warmly welcomed the distinguished guests. Among the honored attendees were Group Leader Sohail Altaf, Former RCCI Presidents, Member of National Assembly (MNA) Hanif Abbasi, Member of Provincial Assembly (MPA) Zia Ullah Shah, DRAP CEO Mr. Asim Rauf, CEO of The Centaurus Group Sardar Yasir Ilyas

Khan, Patron-in-Chief of Pakistan Sweet Homes Zamurad Khan, EO Islamabad President Mr. Afan Aziz and CEO of Roots International Schools Waleed Mushtaq. The event was further graced by members of the diplomatic corps, including Russian Ambassador H.E. Albert P. Khorev, Uzbek Ambassador H.E. Alisher Tukhtayev, Yemeni Ambassador H.E. Mohammed Motaher Alashabi, Bosnian Ambassador H.E. Emin Cohodarevic, Azerbaijani Ambassador H.E. Mr. Khazar Farhadov, Fatou Harerimana, the High Commissioner of Rwanda, Consul General of South Korea and Mr. Rahmat Hindiarta Kusuma, Charge d'Affaires of Indonesia. Representatives from various trade associations, Vice President of FPCCI Tariq Jadoon, Rawalpindi Chamber of

Small Traders and Small / Industries (RCSTSI) President Sardar Saqib, Women Chamber President, and distinguished RCCI members, were also present. The primary objective of the Networking Dinner was to foster stronger ties among stakeholders, deliberate on prevailing economic challenges, and discuss viable strategies for sustainable economic growth. Additionally, the gathering aimed to engage the diplomatic community to explore opportunities for enhancing exports, diversifying trade, and attracting Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) into Pakistan. The evening concluded with a renewed commitment towards collaborative efforts for economic progress and international cooperation.



RCCI Celebrates Quaid's 148th Birth Anniversary



A cake-cutting ceremony to commemorate the 148th birth anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah and Christmas was held at the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI). The event celebrated the vision and leadership of the Father of the Nation while fostering unity and inclusivity.

Mushaal Hussein Malik, wife of veteran Kashmiri jailed leader Yasin Malik, graced the occasion as the chief guest. In her speech, Mushaal Malik expressed her gratitude to RCCI for the invitation and highlighted the significance of the day. She stated, "Today is a very important day for us. It marks the birthday of Quaid-e-Azam. The breath in a free country is a result of Quaid-e-Azam's tireless efforts.

RCCI President Usman Shaukat emphasized the importance of adhering to Quaid's motto of Unity, Faith, and Discipline. He stated, "The objective of inheriting a prosperous Pakistan for future generations can only be achieved by following

Quaid's principles. The business community, youth, and RCCI members must adopt attributes such as honesty, hard work, perseverance, and dedication to ensure progress and prosperity."

Group Leader Sohail Altaf underscored the importance of inclusivity and harmony, saying, "As Muslims, it is our duty to take care of all people. This country belongs to everyone equally, and the Christian community is playing a significant role in its development."

The ceremony was attended by Senior Vice President RCCI Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Fahad Barlas, former presidents, Executive Committee members, representatives from trade associations, and distinguished RCCI members. The event concluded with a renewed commitment to uphold the values and vision of Quaid-e-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah and work towards a united and prosperous Pakistan.

RCCI delegation led by Usman Shaukat Visits Azerbaijan Embassy to Offer Condolences



The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) President Usman Shaukat along with Executive Committee members, visited the Azerbaijan Embassy in Islamabad to express heartfelt condolences over the tragic crash of an Azerbaijani airliner near Aktau, Kazakhstan, which claimed numerous lives. During his meeting with Azerbaijan's Ambassador, Khazar Farhadov, President Usman Shaukat conveyed deep sorrow on behalf of RCCI and prayed for eternal peace for the departed souls. He also extended prayers for strength and patience for the bereaved families and wished a swift recovery for the injured. The RCCI stands in solidarity with the people of Azerbaijan during this moment of profound grief and loss.

One-day training program on digital literacy tailored specifically for artisans and women entrepreneurs



The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), in collaboration with Punjab Small Industries Corporation (PSIC) and the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority (SMEDA), successfully organized a one-day training program on digital literacy tailored specifically for artisans and women entrepreneurs.

The training aimed to equip participants with essential digital skills, enabling them to leverage digital tools and platforms for business growth, marketing, and improved operational efficiency. The program covered topics such as e-commerce platforms, social

media marketing, digital payment systems, and the importance of maintaining an online presence.

Speaking at the event, RCCI President Usman Shaukat emphasized the significance of digital literacy in empowering women entrepreneurs and artisans, allowing them to compete effectively in both local and international markets. He highlighted RCCI's commitment to supporting small businesses and fostering a culture of innovation and technological adoption.

Representatives from PSIC and SMEDA also addressed the participants, underscoring the

importance of digital skills in today's fast-paced business environment. They reaffirmed their commitment to providing continued support and resources for artisans and women entrepreneurs.

The program was well-received by participants, who expressed gratitude for the opportunity to gain valuable insights and practical knowledge. RCCI, PSIC, and SMEDA plan to organize similar initiatives in the future to further enhance the digital capabilities of small business owners and entrepreneurs.

Tinypreneurs Signs MoU with RCCI



A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed and exchanged between RCCI President Usman Shaukat and Tinypreneurs CEO Mariah Suleman to foster collaboration and mutual growth. The ceremony was attended by Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, EC Member Ms Falak Anjum, Akhtar Amin, former VP Fayyaz Qureshi along with other distinguished members. This partnership marks a significant step towards empowering entrepreneurship and driving innovation.

RCCI Signs MoU with PGMA



A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) and the Pakistan Gemstone and Minerals Association (PGMA) to strengthen collaboration in promoting the gemstone and mineral sector through exhibitions, foreign delegations, and policy development. The MoU was signed by RCCI President Usman Shaukat and PGMA Chairman Zia Ullah Shah. The ceremony was graced by Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Former VP Fayyaz Queeshi, EC Member Akhtar Amin, and other distinguished attendees. This partnership aims to unlock new opportunities for growth and innovation in the gemstone and mineral industry.

RCCI and FJWU Collaborate for a Greener Future



RCCI President Mr. Usman Shaukat, along with Mr. Talat Awan (Former Vice President RCCI/ Chairman Climate Change) and Mr. Irfan Manan Khan (Secretary General RCCI), visited Fatima Jinnah Women University (FJWU) to invite the esteemed Vice Chancellor to join the 1st Green Road of Pakistan initiative, set to launch on January 1, 2025. Together, RCCI and FJWU are paving the way for a greener, cleaner, and more sustainable future for Rawalpindi and beyond!

Visit of Chinese Delegation



A six-member Chinese delegation, led by Wang Xiangbing, Chairman of the Belt and Road International United Group, visited the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI). The delegation held discussions with RCCI President Usman Shaukat, Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Fahad Barlas, and members of the executive committee. During the meeting, both sides emphasized the importance of strengthening bilateral cooperation and exploring opportunities in various sectors. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed to formalize this commitment and promote collaboration in key areas of mutual interest. The delegation included prominent representatives: Mr. Lin Liading, Yecheng Chamber President Liu Jiading, General Manager of Kashgar Huada Construction Engineering Co., Ltd. Jiang Xinhua, Chairman of Yecheng Kerry Steel Structure Co., Ltd. Zhu Chuanbin, General Manager of Yecheng Changda Wood Industry Co., Ltd. Zhu Houhao, Deputy General Manager of Yecheng Changda Wood Industry Co., Ltd. Chen Zhiyi, Assistant to the Chairman of the Belt and Road International United Group. The visit marked a significant step in fostering economic and trade ties between the two sides, with a shared vision of mutual growth and development.

RCCI SESSION ON ISLAMIC BANKING



RCCI, in collaboration with the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), successfully hosted an insightful session on Islamic Banking. Renowned expert Mufti Fawad Ali enlightened participants on the principles, practices, and immense potential of Islamic Banking. President RCCI, Mr. Usman Shaukat, along with RCCI Senior Vice President Mr. Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Mr. Fahad Barlas, Executive Committee Members, Chief Manager Mr. Ansar Iftikhar Butt and representatives from the business community and SBP were also attended the session. Business community members actively engaged in discussions, exploring how Sharia-compliant banking can drive sustainable growth and financial inclusion.

Visit of Acting Deputy Commissioner, Rawalpindi



The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) had the honor of hosting Mr. Nabeel Riaz Sandhu, Acting Deputy Commissioner, Rawalpindi. President RCCI, Mr. Usman Shaukat, along with Group Leader Sohail Altaf, RCCI Senior Vice President Mr. Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Mr. Fahad Barlas, Executive Committee Members, Former Presidents and representatives from the Anjuman e Tajran / business community, expressed their appreciation for the Acting DC's proactive approach. During his visit, he engaged in a productive dialogue with the business community, addressing pressing issues and discussing actionable solutions to foster a more business-friendly environment. This visit reaffirmed RCCI's commitment to bridging the gap between government bodies and the business sector, ensuring a brighter and more prosperous future for Rawalpindi's economy.

Soft launch of the Movenpick Hotel Islamabad

RCCI President Usman Shaukat was invited as a guest of honour at the launch of the Movenpick Hotel Islamabad, an event organized by Centaurus Management and CEO Centaurus, Sardar Yasir Ilyas Khan. The launch ceremony was attended by several dignitaries, including former minister and MNA Hanif Abbasi, Senator Talha Mahmood, former RCCI president Zahid Latif Khan, and other notable figures.

During his address, Usman Shaukat emphasized the importance of having a leading international hotel chain with premium standards in Islamabad and Rawalpindi. He highlighted that the establishment of Movenpick Hotel in Islamabad would significantly contribute to enhancing trade and tourism activities in the twin cities, providing a boost to the local economy and attracting international visitors.

The launch of Movenpick Hotel Islamabad marks a milestone in the city's hospitality sector, promising world-class services and facilities for both business and leisure travelers.



Meeting with Mariah Suleman, CEO of Tinypreneurs

RCCI President Usman Shaukat had a productive meeting with Mariah Suleman, CEO of Tinypreneurs, to explore avenues of mutual cooperation. The discussion focused on collaborative efforts to organize events aimed at promoting kid entrepreneurs and nurturing young talent. Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi was also present during the meeting, further emphasizing RCCI's commitment to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship among the younger generation.

Awareness Session on Maryam Ki Dastak App



Meeting with SAPM on Climate Change

RCCI delegation, led by President Usman Shaukat, had a meeting with Ms. Romina Khurshid Alam, Coordinator to the Prime Minister on Climate Change.

The discussion focused on the RCCI Green Road Initiative, advocacy campaigns, and collaborative efforts to tackle climate challenges through rainwater harvesting, renewable energy by promoting solar and wind energy, tree plantation drives, and strengthened RCCI-Ministry cooperation.



RCCI Signs MoU with Meethi Zindagi



The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), represented by Senior Vice President Mr. Khalid Farooq Qazi, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Meethi Zindagi. Dr. Sana Amjad, Founder and Executive Director of Meethi Zindagi, signed on behalf of the organization. This partnership focuses on raising awareness and implementing initiatives for diabetes management and prevention within the business community of the twin cities.

Former President Mr. Jalil Ahmed Malik and Vice President RCCI Mr. Fahad Barlas were also present at the ceremony.

This MoU underscores RCCI's commitment to promoting health and well-being alongside its efforts to drive economic growth.

Qatar National Day



RCCI has signed an MoU with RIMS Hospital International.

The agreement, signed by Usman Shaukat, RCCI President, and Raja Tahir Khan, CEO of RIMS, aims to enhance healthcare services for RCCI members.

Senior RCCI officials, including the Senior Vice President (RCCI), Mr. Khalid Farooq Qazi, along with Vice President Mr. Fahad Barlas, were also present. The collaboration will focus on providing healthcare benefits, wellness initiatives, and training opportunities for the local business community.



RCCI and Twin City Diagnostic Join Hands for Better Healthcare



The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has partnered with Twin City Diagnostic (TCD) to enhance healthcare access for its members and their families.

The MoU was signed by Malik Safeer Ahmed, GM Marketing at TCD, and Mr. Usman Shaukat, President of RCCI. Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Mr. Fahad Barlas were also present. This initiative reflects RCCI's vision of going beyond business development by prioritizing the health and welfare of its members.



Seminar on 10 Years of CPEC

RCCI President Usman Shaukat honored as the keynote speaker at the seminar 10 Years of CPEC: Success, Challenges, and Opportunities.

The event highlighted a decade of progress under CPEC, with immense potential still to be realized. Projects like the newly inaugurated Gwadar International Airport promise to strengthen regional connectivity. Enhanced collaboration in sectors like pharmaceuticals offers a win-win scenario for both Pakistan and China. A productive exchange of ideas for a prosperous future!

RCCI Organize Awareness Session on EZ-Filing

Mr. Usman Shaukat, President of Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), led the session organized in collaboration with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) on EZ-Filing.

Mr. Saeedullah Khan, Registrar, and Mr. Amir Saleem, Additional Registrar, SECP, provided valuable insights into the EZ-Filing system, helping businesses understand its benefits and processes.

Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Mr. Fahad Barlas, Executive Committee members, and other distinguished members were also present.



RCCI Signs MoU with Brain Surgery Hospital

The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has partnered with Brain Surgery Hospital to provide exclusive healthcare benefits to its members, employees, and their families. The MoU was signed by Muhammad Atta-ul-Muniam, Manager HR at Brain Surgery Hospital, and Mr. Usman Shaukat, President of RCCI. Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi and Vice President Mr. Fahad Barlas were also present at the ceremony. This collaboration ensures access to advanced neurosurgical care and reinforces RCCI's commitment to the well-being of the business community.

RCCI Signs MoU with Capital University of Science and Technology (CUST)

The Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) has taken a significant step toward fostering collaboration between academia and the business community by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Capital University of Science and Technology (CUST). The agreement aims to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application, promoting research and innovation to address industry challenges.



RCCI inks MoU with Rawalpindi International Hospital

President Usman Shaukat signed and exchanged the MoU document, marking a new chapter of collaboration

Visit to Riphah University

RCCI President Mr. Usman Shaukat graced the 2nd National Business Conference on Practitioners' Perspective as the keynote speaker. The event, held at Riphah University, was a significant gathering of academics, industry experts, and aspiring business professionals, aiming to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical business insights.



Delegation from Al Khidmat Raazi Hospital Visits RCCI



RCCI Inks MoU with University of Wah

RCCI President Usman Shaukat and UW Vice Chancellor Prof. Dr. Jameel-Un Nabi signed and exchanged MoU documents to strengthen academia-industry collaboration. The event was attended by Senior Vice President Khalid Farooq Qazi, Vice President Fahad Barlas, Executive Committee members, and Prof. Dr. Amjad Hassan, Director ORIC.

Murree Action Committee meeting



3rd RCCI Executive Committee Meeting 2024-26



RAWALPINDI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

GOVERNMENT FACILITATION SERVICES AT CHAMBER



EXECUTIVE BRANCH

- CNIC Processing (Smart Card)
- CRC Processing
- NIMS Certificate
- FRC (Family Registration Certificate)
- CNIC Cancellation



POLICE KHIDMAT MARKAZ

- Character Certificate
- Loss Report
- General Police Verification
- Learner Driving License
- Employee Registration
- Tenants Registration
- Vehicle Verification
- Crime Report
- Women Violence Report
- Copy of FIR



- Financial Assistance
- Pre Feasibility and Research Reports
- Business Guidelines
- Training and Awareness Sessions



EXCISE, TAXATION & NARCOTICS CONTROL DEPARTMENT

- Property Tax
- Professional Tax
- Motor Vehicle Tax



PUNJAB LAND RECORD AUTHORITY

- Land Taxation
- Preparation, Updating and
- Maintenance of Land Records
- Wed-Thur | 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM



**RAWALPINDI CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
WILL KEEP CONTRIBUTING
ITS TIRELESS EFFORTS TO EVOLVE
PAKISTAN'S ECONOMY'**

Thank You!