

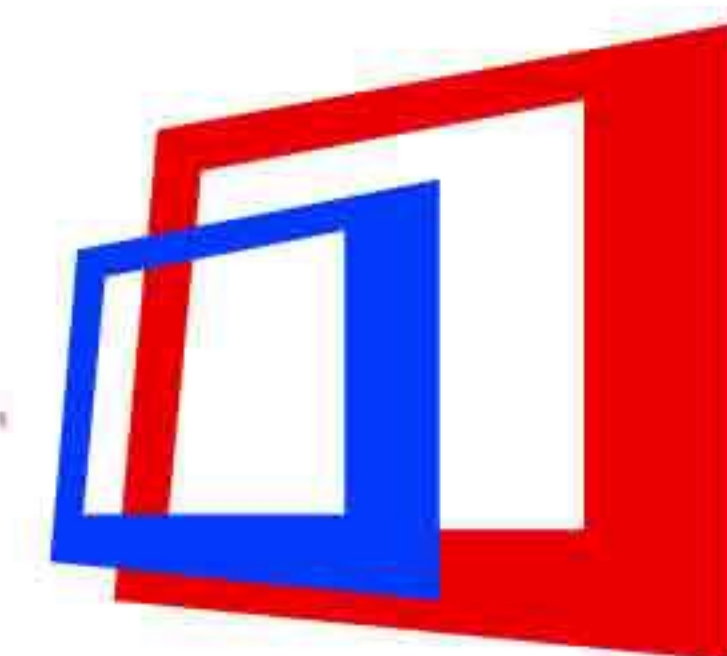
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Newsletter

September 2015

Pakistan

Progressing in Tough Times



AMERICAN
BUSINESS
FORUM

ABF'S BOARD OF GOVERNORS (2013-16)



Rizwan Ullah Khan
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Senior Vice President



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Member Board of Governors



Imran Butt
Member Board of Governors



Salim Ghauri
Immediate Past President
(Ex. Officio Board Member)

Words from The President



When we look back on 2015 a few years from now, I am sure we will conclude that the year 2015 was a major turning point in the nation's history. This is the year which has almost unobtrusively started the process of positive change, and is paving the way for Pakistan's long-term growth.

One of the most significant developments this year for society at large, and for us in the corporate sector, has been the vastly improved law and order situation, with the authorities coming down hard on extremists and other anti-social elements. Security issues have for long been a cause of major concern for us, forestalling aggressive investment in the country and even causing flight of domestic capital. The much improved security situation means that all business sectors, and investors, both local and international, get motivated to do more and take up the vast opportunities this land offers.

Another major development on the economic front has been the recent announcement by the government of the Pak-China Economic Corridor. While on the face of it, the major benefits of this project may accrue to Chinese companies, the fact remains that the project will contribute significantly to overall GDP growth and this in turn will create numerous opportunities for all others too, including for American companies. It is really up to us to be vigilant and be ready to leverage the growth opportunities for our own businesses that any rapidly growing economy offers.

The Iran nuclear deal also means that Pakistan stands to benefit in terms of enhanced trade with its neighbor. This again will have benefits for all businesses in Pakistan, as a primary benefit that Pakistan itself is expected to reap is a convenient supply of natural gas, which will go a long way to alleviate the severe energy shortage that Pakistan has been facing for many years now. Indeed, the energy crisis has been hitting our businesses hard as we all know, and a much improved energy supply will surely improve our own financials, besides giving a much needed impetus to overall economic growth of the country.

Even as the business climate gets set to improve through all these important developments, we need to energize ourselves and be prepared well in advance to meet new demand for all goods and services that will surely be forthcoming. Yes, many other challenges will still be there, but I believe it is the presence of challenges that keeps us invigorated and alert. As an association of American businesses poised to take advantage of new opportunities that will be coming by, we need to ensure that our internal communication and cooperation remains strong, through sharing of information, mutual consultation and joint action to protect our interests.

Let us not forget that Pakistan remains one of the largest markets in the world today, and with a young population forming the majority in the country, growth of our businesses is assured if we are able and ready to move ahead aggressively when the tide turns. And it has started turning already!

Sincerely,

Rizwan U. Khan
President
American Business Forum

ABF EVENTS

ABF'S GALA DINNER – FEATURING COKE STUDIO GIGS

ABF's Gala Dinner Featuring Coke Studio Gigs was held on February 7, 2015 at Fairways, Royal Palm Golf & Country Club Lahore. U.S Consul General Lahore, Mr. Zachary Harkenrider graced his presence at the dinner.



MEETING WITH EDO FINANCE & PLANNING

ABF members met with Mr. Tariq Manzoor Chandio, Executive District Officer (EDO) Finance & Planning at Town Hall, City Distt. Govt. Lahore. ABF delegation included Mr. Mahmood Ahmad Vice President & Chairman Finance Committee ABF, Mr. Omar K. Sheikh Honorary Secretary General ABF, Mr. Younus Kamran Member Board of Governors ABF, Mr. Adnan Sheikh and Mr. M. Safdar Butt. The matters related to Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Investment Opportunities were discussed in the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

The membership committee meeting of American Business Forum was held on 8th May, 2015 at Expeditors International Office. Mr. Afsar Mahmood Chairman Membership Committee Chaired the meeting. Mr. Mahmood Ahmad and Mr. Omar K. Sheikh also attended the meeting.



ABF'S MEETING WITH RESEARCH SOCIETY OF INTERNATIONAL LAW (RSIL)

ABF's meeting with the officials of Research Society of International Law (RSIL) was held on 23rd May, 2015 at The Coca-Cola Office, Lahore. The matters related to current IPR law of Pakistan were discussed. The President ABF, Mr. Rizwan Ullah Khan, Mr. Mahmood Ahmad Vice President & Chairman Finance Committee, Mr. Omar K. Sheikh Honorary Secretary General, Mr. Ibrahim Qureshi, Mrs. Ayesha M. Hamid and Mr. Aamir M. Mirza attended the meeting. RSIL officials included Mr. Ahmer Bilal Sufi Founder RSIL and Former Law Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Ali Sultan Executive Director, Mr. Moghees Uddin Khan Research Fellow and Ms. Maira Sheikh Research Fellow.



MEETING WITH HONOURABLE GOVERNOR OF THE PUNJAB

American Business Forum delegation called on the Honorable Governor of the Punjab Malik Muhammad Rafique Rajwana on 12th June 2015 at the Governor House Lahore. The President ABF Mr. Rizwan Ullah Khan briefed the honourable Governor about the objectives of ABF and scope of its activities during the meeting. He also mentioned that ABF has been playing active role for rehabilitation of Pakistanis facing natural calamities like earthquake and floods. The Governor Punjab appreciated ABF's initiatives and contribution of multinationals in Pakistan economy. The matters related to Intellectual Property Rights, Ease of Doing Business in Pakistan and Investment opportunities in Pakistan were discussed in the meeting. ABF delegation consisted of the President Mr. Rizwan Ullah Khan, Mr. Afsar Mahmood Senior Vice President, Mr. Mahmood Ahmad Vice President & Chairman Finance Committee, Mr. Omar K. Sheikh Honorary Secretary General, Mr. Younus Kamran Member Board of Governors ABF and Dr. James Tebbe.



PAKISTAN CUSTOM WEBOC ORIENTATION & TRAINING

American Business Forum arranged Pakistan's Custom WEBOC Orientation & Training for the Members and their staff on July 13, 2015 At The Coca-Cola Export Corporation Office, Lahore. This event was a great success since a full capacity crowd attended this event. The basic purpose of the workshop was to create awareness and to understand how Customs Bills of Entry can be filed and how to better understand the Customs Procedures relating to Imports and Exports.



44TH EXCOM & THE MEETING OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS

ABF's 44th Executive Committee Meeting & the Meeting of Board of Governors was held on July 7, 2015 at The Coca-Cola Office Lahore. The President Mr. Rizwan Ullah Khan, Mr. Mahmood Ahmad Vice President & Chairman Finance Committee, Mr. Omar K. Sheikh Honorary Secretary General and Mr. Imran Butt Member Board of Governors ABF attended the meeting.



ABF'S ONE DAY LEADERSHIP SKILLS TRAINING

American Business Forum arranged One Day Leadership Skills Training for senior managers on August 8, 2015 at Dome, Royal Palm Golf & Country Club Lahore. Mr. Naseem Zafar Iqbal CEO Training Impact briefed about the functioning of Training Impact. The presentation and videos regarding Leadership was presented to the participants. Two briefed activities in this regard were performed. 5 Groups were made by the trainer. The Groups made their presentation to all accordingly. Mr. Omar K. Sheikh Honorary Secretary General ABF shared his thought with the participants. The token of appreciation from Training Impact was presented to the participants who were actively participated in the activities. The Certificates with Group photo was presented at the end.



45TH EXCOM & THE MEETING OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS

ABF's 45th Executive Committee Meeting & the Meeting of Board of Governors was held on September 3, 2015 at Expeditors International Office. The President ABF Mr. Rizwan Ullah Khan, Mr. Afsar Mahmood Senior Vice President, Mr. Jahanzeb Q. Khan Vice President, Mr. Mahmood Ahmad Vice President & Chairman Finance Committee, Mr. Omar K. Sheikh Honorary Secretary General, and Mr. Younus Kamran Member Board of Governors ABF attended the meeting.



CURRENT ABF MEMBERS



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