



WORD FROM PRESIDENT



With the formal inauguration of American Business Forum on May 21, 2009, we are all set to actively pursue our objectives and goals. As you know we have a strong support from the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad and the Consulate in Lahore. It is now up to us to leverage this support in the optimum way possible. In this regard, I have held meetings since the inauguration with both the Embassy and with USAID to explore avenues of promoting further U.S. investment in Pakistan.

The main idea behind the formation of ABF was to have a platform where we could promote our business interests and could respond to issues common to all of us. This platform has now been created and we all need to work together to make ABF a dynamic and an effective entity. We need to decide priorities and discuss and devise a detailed action plan to address each priority. We should be clear about our targets, both qualitative and quantitative, and be clear about the strategy to be used to achieve these targets.

I call upon all members to take an active interest in ABF proceedings. Let us exchange ideas and thoughts frequently. Let us do collectively what we cannot do individually – at least not to the same extent. Our holistic goal must remain to make ABF a strong and credible spokesperson for U.S. businesses in Pakistan. A voice that nobody can ignore, and an entity that makes a difference.

Sincerely,

Rizwan U. Khan
President

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ABF INAUGURATION | May 21, 2009



The groundbreaking event of American Business Forum was held on May 21, 2009 at Pearl Continental Lahore. US Ambassador to Pakistan, Anne W. Patterson, graced the Inauguration of the Forum with her kind presence. This prestigious event was also attended by CEOs of ABF Member companies along with their Directors & Senior Executives. ABF invitees included Federal Minister for Investment Senator Waqar Ahmed, Chief Minister Punjab representative Sardar Zulfiqar Ali Khosa, Advisor to Chief Minister Pervaiz Malik, Bryan D Hunt, Principal Officer to US Consulate in Lahore, Federal and Provincial Secretaries and other dignitaries. Huge media presence covered this exclusive event.



The program started with the recitation of Holy Quran by Mr. Mahmood Ahmad, Honorary Secretary General ABF, followed by a welcome note by MC of the event, Mr. Salim Ghauri, Senior Vice President ABF. Rizwan U. Khan, the first president of ABF welcomed the Chief Guest with a brief introduction of the Forum, its mission and vision. He then highlighted the extensive and historical ties between U.S. origin businesses and Pakistan. He pointed out that U.S. by itself takes up 25 percent of Pakistan's total exports. Further he said that U.S. businesses in Pakistan have made substantial contribution over several decades to the Pakistan economy, in terms of investment, contribution to the national exchequer in the form of taxes and duties, creation of direct and indirect employment, transfer of technology, human resource capacity building, growth impetus to vendor industries and even as being a catalyst for other foreign direct investment. He also called upon the government of Pakistan to effectively address the various problems being faced by U.S. businesses in Pakistan, with violations of intellectual property rights being one of the biggest threats to both existing business and to future investment.

In his speech, Mr. Waqar Ahmad Khan, Federal Minister for Investment congratulated members of ABF and assured the gathering that he will facilitate businesses in their endeavors. Sardar Zulfiqar Ali Khosa on behalf of Chief Minister welcomed

the formation of ABF and pledged Punjab Government support to ABF in every possible manner.

U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Anne W. Patterson, in her address said that the establishment of ABF is a positive signal and we welcome this initiative. Talking about the launch of the Forum, she added that it is a positive step that over 30 US companies which are members of ABF are contributing towards the economy of the country and that ABF can

play an important and effective role in strengthening relations between Pakistan and US. The Ambassador said that Pakistan is an attractive destination for investment despite multiple challenges and problems. Highlighting this point further, she added that U.S. itself has made direct investment of 103 billion dollars in Pakistan during 2007-8, U.S. was Pakistan largest partner and was purchaser of 25 percent overall exports of Pakistan.

She told Pakistan would acquire capability of 3000-megawatt power generation in the next 12 months with the cooperation of US. Speaking on the IDPs issue she indicated that U.S. would contribute 110 million dollars for IDPs. Further, U.S. would provide all possible assistance to help resolve the problems facing Pakistan including Swat and Malakand.

Speeches were followed by certificate distribution ceremony in which members were awarded membership certificates by the Chief Guest. As a token of thanks, H.E. Anne W. Patterson, H.E. Bryan Hunt and H.E. Zulfiqar Khosa were presented mementos by the Executive Committee of American Business Forum. This was followed by an appetizing lunch which was enjoyed by the guests.

GENERAL BODY MEETING

Second General Body Meeting was held on June 5, 2009 at Defence Club, Lahore. Senior Vice President ABF, Mr. Salim Ghauri welcomed the members with opening remarks. The main agenda of the meeting was to discuss the mode of payment for IDPs support. Other important things like membership review and election of new Executive Committee member were also discussed. Valuable suggestions were proposed in order to make the future meetings more effective.



ELECTION OF NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

Mr. Babur Rafiq from Levi's has been transferred from Pakistan; as such he has resigned from ExComm membership. Since there was a vacancy, the name of Mr. Vaseem Anvar of EchoWest was proposed by Mr. Salim Ghauri of NetSol Technologies and seconded by Mr. Sheikh Ajaz of Becton Dickinson as a replacement to Mr. Babur Rafiq. Hence Mr. Vaseem Anvar was unanimously elected as a new Executive Committee member.

DINNER WITH US DELEGATION

ABF hosted a dinner honoring a visiting US delegation led by Senator Thomas Carper (D-DE), Senate Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs Committee. Also attending were Senator Mark Udall (D-CO), Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator Kay Hagan (D-NC), Senate Armed Services Committee and Senator Mark Begich (D-AK), Senate Armed Services Committee.



The visitors were highly impressed by the event and the presence of a significant number of ABF members. They appreciated the initiative taken by ABF to represent the interests of its member companies. ABF members made an excellent use of this opportunity to apprise the delegation of their concerns and problems. The visiting senators assured the members of their support.



Mr. Rizwan Ullah Khan, President ABF Speaks To GEO TV

Mr. Rizwan U. Khan, Country Manager Coca-Cola Export Corporation, while talking to GEO TV expressed his views regarding the Internally Displaced People of Swat and Mardan. He told the media that his company has pledged a total of Rs. 20 million for IDPs. Apart from that they are donating a water filtration plant to Mir Khalil ur Rehman Foundation for the affectees.

Being a part of corporate sector himself, Mr. Rizwan said that our philosophy is that companies should be an integral part of the community in which they are operating. Corporate sector has the required expertise and the resources so they should take the lead and donate generously. He further told the media that American Business Forum member companies are quite keen in helping the IDPs and are working with different NGOs in this regard. He emphasized and urged companies, individuals and even children to unify and realize what tough times our nation is going through.

Elaborating on the strategy which Coca-Cola has adopted, he said that they will contribute in three main steps. First one would be the immediate help in form of medicines, clean drinking water and food. Next focus would be on education and in this regard they will be working with Care Foundation and other institutions associated with education. Last but not the least their focus would be to facilitate the rehabilitation of people when they return to their native homes.



CONTRIBUTION FOR INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE-IDPS

Members of American Business Forum have contributed generously towards the largest humanitarian and displacement crisis of Pakistan which has forced many people to flee from their homes in search of a safe shelter for their family. Members continue to participate in the relief efforts and to accumulate funds to help our brethren in distress.

To date, ABF member companies have pledged to contribute more than Rs. 40 million. ABF will continue to help, support and contribute in every possible manner.

EXCOM MEETING WITH USAID



USAID Delegation met the members of the Executive Committee of ABF at Coca-Cola's office on June 1, 2009. The delegation included Mark Meassick (USAID Program Officer), Katie McDonald (Associate Mission Director for Health and Democracy, USAID Islamabad), Sajjad Moghul (Economic Growth Officer, USAID Lahore), Azza el-Abd (Deputy Director, USAID Islamabad), Saeed Siddiqi (Democracy Officer, USAID Islamabad), and Matthew Lowe (Political - Economic Section Chief, U.S. Consulate Lahore).

The purpose of the meeting was to strengthen the aid and make it more visible and at the same time more transparent. Idea is to have a public-private partnership dialogue where

monitoring process of USAID program is handled in a more professional manner and the end desired results to be obtained. Commission plans to have this ongoing dialogue with ABF to ensure that all challenges are being properly advocated.

MEDIA CLIPPINGS

US to invest billions in Pakistan: envoy

LAHORE: Investors from the United States are interested in investing in Pakistan and the American Business Forum (ABF) will help improve business opportunities in Pakistan and strengthen the country's economy, US Ambassador to Pakistan Anne W Patterson said at the launching ceremony of ABF on Thursday.

She said the US would give \$1.5 billion for the war against terrorism. She expressed the hope that the ABF will proactively promote growth of trade, commerce and intellectual property rights.

'US investors keen to invest in Pakistan'

LAHORE: US Ambassador Anne W Patterson, Bryan D Ward and others sit on stage at the inaugural ceremony of American Business Forum - Staff Press.