

WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT



The American Business Forum has come a long way and has helped us in providing a platform for business expansion, advocating for foreign direct investment and other issues. Some of the targets we set have been achieved due to our collective efforts and hard work and the rest are in the pipeline.

In the past 06 months, ABF has made a name that is known to most people now. ABF has had the pleasure to meet and lobby with many dignitaries through the US Consulate. Just to name a few, Hilary Clinton (Secretary of State of the United States), Anne W. Patterson (United States Ambassador to Pakistan), Mr. William Wommich, Regional Security Officer (RSO) and many others have graced their presence and taken time out to discuss issues pertaining to the companies under ABF. Close ties have also been formed with US AID in that we hope to guide them in matters of philanthropic works and them to help us in CSR work. To better assist our members, we also appointed Mr. Ahmad Pervaiz Malik and Mr. Mustafa Ramday as honorary legal counsels.

I would like to thank all the members of ABF for taking time out of their busy schedules and continuously supporting and providing feedback to this umbrella organization. However, there is still a lot of work that has to be done and this will not be possible without all your dedicated efforts. Let us prioritize ourselves into making ABF an entity that can bring about a change locally while changing the perception of Pakistan globally.

Sincerely,

RIZWAN U. KHAN

President

Newsletter

(July 2009 to December 2009)

Farewell Lunch for Bryan D Hunt hosted by Expeditors on 22nd July 2009

A Farewell Lunch was arranged in honor of Bryan D Hunt at Lahore Gymkhana Club on 22nd of July, 2009. President American Business Forum, Mr. Rizwan Ullah Khan appreciated Bryan's continece support to ABF during his stay in Lahore and hope that he will continue the same wherever he is posted. Mr. Bryan D Hunt expressed his gratitude and praised the role of ABF for the excellent work done by it. He also assured that he will continue to support ABF in the future.



3rd General Body meeting organized at the Rising Sun Institution on 12th August 2009

The Third General Body Meeting was arranged by Mr. Mahmood Ahmed Honorary Secretary General on 12th August 2009 at Rising Sun Institute. In the Meeting President ABF, Mr. Rizwan Ullah Khan acknowledged the donations by the members for the IDPs cause. He also added that Coca-Cola has donated Rs. 3 million for the same cause. Mr. Rizwan thanked the members for their kind donations of Rs. 6 million to the Punjab Government fund.



To focus on the issues facing the members, it was suggested by the Executive Committee that companies be divided into following sectors:

- I. Food, Agriculture, Beverage and Livestock
- II. Health Care, Pharmaceutical and General Services
- III. Energy, Construction, Engineering and Environment
- IV. Manufacturing, Distribution, Retail and IT.

It was suggested by the President that each member should share his contacts list of the important Government officials with the others. This would help every member in solving their problems more efficiently. Those who have already established credentials should come forward and take the lead.

Mr. Ibrahim Qureshi informed the members that for Budget 2009-2010 proposals were sent to the concerned ministries through Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Federation of Pakistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry. But since proposals were sent by only very few companies, it was not a comprehensive effort. He further added that in the future the members of ABF should work in a more systematic manner for which we would require feedback from all members in shape of their concerns with Federal and Provincial Government.

A presentation regarding **USAID** on going programs was made by Mr. Sajjad. He suggested the members to become their partner in these development fields. He further mentioned that after the **mobilization phase**, their targets would be more specific which would be addressed with the help of Provincial Government.

President ABF, Mr. Rizwan Ullah Khan introduced **Dr. Rao Tawwab Khan** who initiated the monumental project of school for special children with the help and support of his wife. He appreciated the efforts of the entire team who have helped in making this project successful and magnanimous. This was followed by Mr. Tawwab's presentation that focused on the services Rising Sun is offering and shared a few of their success stories. After the presentation, Mr. Rizwan requested the members to sponsor at least one child which costs the institute Rs. 5000 per month for a period of one year. He himself announced the sponsorship of 10 children for a year, while Echo West and Hardees sponsored 5 children and other also pledged to contribute.

Farewell Dinner with Mathew Lowe

A Farewell dinner was arranged in honor of Mathew Lowe at Food Club on 14th September, 2009. He expressed that ABF is providing good services for American Business Communities and that he will promote ABF wherever he is posted.



4th Executive Committee Meeting took place at The Coca-Cola Export Corporation on 22nd October, 2009

The Executive Committee Meeting was held at The Coca-Cola Export Corporation office on 22nd October, 2009. In the Meeting, it was decided that each company's membership will be reviewed again and the companies which are placed under the incorrect category will be contacted by Mr. Mahmood Ahmad. Associate Members which actually fall under Founder shall be given an option to change their category, while for the Founder Members who actually belong to Associate class shall be politely explained that only companies which are either US based or are a franchisee can become a Founder Member.



Meeting with Carmela Conroy on 11th November, 2009

Lunch was arranged by Excom members of ABF at Cosa Nostra for Mr. Paul A. Brinkley (Deputy under Secretary of Defense) and Ms. Carmela Conroy (Principal Officer, US Consulate). Amongst those present were Mr. Matt Scheoffling, Mr. Mark Palermo, Mr. Saleem Mandviwala and other dignitaries.

Topics under discussion were that of modernization of business practices, economic revitalization and acceleration of stability efforts.



4th General Body Meeting organized by Hardees on 24th December 2009

The 4th General Body Meeting was hosted by Hardees on 24th December, 2009 at Hardees (MDS Foods) M.M. Alam Road Lahore. The Agenda of the meeting was to discuss the security of the members of ABF. For this purpose, Mr. Rizwan Ullah Khan arranged the meeting with Chief Minister, Advisor to Chief Minister and Vice Chairman Punjab, Mr. Pir Saad Ahsanuddin and another meeting was held through efforts of Mr. Ibrahim Qureshi with Home Secretary and relevant security



agencies. A Presentation by Mr. **William Wommich, Regional Security Officer (RSO)** briefed about the security situation and adoptive measures for future. He said he may create a security forum of ABF members and security officers of the companies may share information.



Mr. Rizwan U Khan President proposed that **Mr. Mustafa Ramday** and **Mr. Ahmad Pervaiz Malik** should be ABF'S **Honorary Legal Counsels**. It was unanimously approved by General Body.

Mr. Rizwan Ullah Khan said that they have been approached by Punjab government to help IDP's of South Waziristan for help. He urged the members to contribute generously. If any member is individually doing something for them he

should share with ABF. It was decided that Mr. Fahad Qadir, Ms Maryam Salman and Mr. Kamran Abid Durrani will be appointed as Honorary Coordinators for ABF.

High-tea Organized at the Governors House in honor of Hilary Clinton.

American Business Forum's Office Bearers were invited at the Governor House to meet U.S Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton. Mr. Rizwan Ullah Khan, Mr. Ibrahim Qureshi and Mr. Vaseem Anvar attended the meeting with Hilary Clinton. A wide range of issues from bilateral trade to foreign direct investment were discussed.

