

BUILDING A STRONG TOMORROW TOGETHER:

Stepping into the New Millennium

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2000

TAMIL INTERNET COMMUNITY 2000: The Tamil Internet 2000 Conference was held on 22nd-24th July 2000. SICCI Chairman Mr. N. B. Doshi who was appointed Chairman of Finance in the Singapore Organising Committee reported that the event was a success with its Conference, Community Hub and exhibitions of hardware and software products, and was attended by over 35,000 people. The Chamber had sponsored \$5,000 for the event and received much publicity as a supporter in the media and events coverage.

MR. I. K. GUJRAL, FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA: The former Prime Minister of India I. K. Gujral met prominent Indian businessmen during his visit to Singapore. The Chamber organised a tea reception on 8th September at the Chamber. 26 Board Directors and members attended the reception where discussions were held on matters pertaining to trade and investment between Singapore and India.

MR. O. P. CHAUTALA, CHIEF MINISTER OF HARYANA: The High Commission of India in Singapore organised a Presentation on "Opportunities in Haryana" and Dinner for the Chief Minister of Haryana. Mr. O P. Chautala and a high-powered business delegation met prominent Indian Businessmen in Singapore on 9th October 2000. The Chief Minister and Senior Officials of the Government made a presentation on Haryana. The Chamber had coordinated the attendance of the over 70 members at the presentation.

H.E. MR. KRISHNAM RAJU, MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA: H.E. Mr. Krishnam Raju, Minister of State for External Affairs of India visited the Chamber on 3rd November 2000 and met with members on problems and prospects of business relations with India. The meeting was held at the Chamber and chaired by Mr. N. B. Doshi, Chairman of SICCI.

MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, CONCEPT PLAN

REVIEW: As part of a review plan to provide input on the Plan for Land Allocation and Future Use for Singapore to sustain a population of 5.5 million, 2 Focus Groups were appointed. Executive Director Mr. George Abraham was nominated by the Ministry of National Development to the Focus Group on Land Allocation. The Group submitted its reports to the government in December 2000.

7TH MEETING OF ASEAN SMALL & MEDIUM ENTERPRISE (SME)

AGENCIES WORKING GROUP (28TH - 29TH AUG 2000): The 7th ASEAN SME Agencies Working Group was held from 28th- 29th August 2000 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The issues considered in the meeting included the following:

- Promotion of ASEAN indigenous SME businesses;
- Publication of ASEAN SME policies and best practices;
- Promotion of Internet medium for ASEAN SME Networking and Business Opportunities

This was a meeting of representatives of the ASEAN governments where the private sector was invited for the first time. The meeting was attended by Executive Director Mr. George Abraham who was invited as Chairman of the ASEAN Chambers of Commerce and Industry Task Force on SMEs.

2001

SICCI DELEGATION TO INDIA IN AUGUST 2001:

BANGALORE 12TH-14TH AUGUST 2001

The concept for an Asia Pacific Enterprise Summit 2001 (APES 2001) was conceived by our Chamber and the Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FKCCI) which hosted the event. The Chamber organised a delegation to Bangalore.

- 9 participants including Chairman Mr. Nitin B. Doshi, Hon Treasurer Mr. Vijay Iyengar, Immediate Past Vice-Chairman Mr. M. Rajaram, Director Mr. Bharat K. Raj and Executive Director Mr. George Abraham, one representative from the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore (IDA) and two TDB representatives also joined the delegation.

- The participants attended the Asia Pacific Enterprise Summit which was supported by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FKCCI), the Asia Pacific Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (APICCI) and the Government of Karnataka. Vietnam, Malaysia and Myanmar also participated.

- The Vice President of India, Mr. Krishna Kant was the Guest-of-Honour at the inaugural session on 12th August. Other dignitaries included the Chief Minister of Karnataka, Ministers, Senior IAS officers and representatives of regional Chambers of Commerce & Industry. Mr. N. B. Doshi, Chairman, SICCI and President, APICCI spoke at the Inaugural Session.

TRIVANDRUM, KERALA STATE, 15TH-16TH AUGUST:

- 5 delegates including the IDA representatives participated in the mission to Kerala.

- On the evening of the 15th, the Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation (KSIDC),organised a meeting with over 20 leading industrialists of Kerala followed by Dinner.

On the 16th, the delegation visited the Technopark and Indian/Foreign companies located in the Technopark. This was followed by a visit to KSIDC for a meeting with their Chairman and Managing Director.

- The delegation then visited the Government Secretariat and held meetings with the Trade and Industry Minister Mr. Kunhali Kutty, the Ports & Cooperative Minister Mr. C. Raghavan and the Chief Minister, Mr. A. K. Anthony.

- The Chief Minister briefed the delegation on the various measures taken by his government to improve business climate in Kerala. An MOU was signed between SICCI and KSIDC in the presence of the Chief Minister where our Chamber will help to promote investment projects in Kerala State.

SRI LANKA: A Fresh Look at Enhanced Opportunities- Trade and Investment Seminar on 11th May 2001: Sri Lanka High Commission in association with SICCI and the Singapore-Sri Lanka Business Association organised the above seminar on 11th May 2001 at Mandarin Hotel. Chairman, Mr. Nitin B. Doshi addressed the delegation which comprised Mrs. Shehara de Silva, Deputy Director General (Promotion), Board of Investment, Sri Lanka, Mr. Dileepa Wijesundera, Deputy Director, Bureau of Infrastructure Investment (BII), Sri Lanka, Mr. L. S. G. Tillekaratne, Additional Director General, Sri Lanka Export Development Board, Mr. Renton de Alwis, Chairman, Ceylon Tourist Board.

LUNCH MEETING WITH H. E. YASHWANT SINHA, MINISTER OF FINANCE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, 14TH MAY 2001: The Chamber organised a lunch meeting in honour of H. E. Yashwant Sinha, Minister of Finance, Government of India on 14th May 2001 at the Pan Pacific, Singapore. The Minister was accompanied by Mr. G. S. Dutt, Joint Secretary and Mr. Bharat Vyas, Private Secretary to Finance Minister. H. E. P. P. Shukla, High Commissioner of India in Singapore was also present. Chairman Mr. Nitin B. Doshi gave the welcome address and the Minister spoke candidly to the audience on the State of the Indian economy.

A total of 106 participants attended the lunch meeting.

MEETING WITH H. E. MR. MURASOLI MARAN, MINISTER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, 15TH OCTOBER 2001: H. E. Mr. Murasoli Maran, Minister of Commerce & Industry, Government of India met 10 members of the Board, Trade Advisory Panel and Advisor of the Chamber at a private meeting on 15th October 2001 at the Shangri-La Hotel Singapore. The discussions included Import and Export Policy matters, issues relating to persons of Indian origin (PIOs), and issues relating to travel to India.

The Honourable Minister also launched the Chamber's latest publication and CO-Rom to coincide with India Week 2001 in Singapore entitled 'Doing Business with India'.



H. E. MR. MURASOLI MARAN LAUNCHING THE CHAMBER PUBLICATION TITLED 'DOING BUSINESS WITH INDIA'. L TO R: H. E. MR. P. P. SHUKLA (HIGH COMMISSIONER OF INDIA TO SINGAPORE); H. E. MR. MURASOLI MARAN; MR. NITIN B. DOSHI (CHAIRMAN OF SICCI).

2002

MEETING WITH THE MALAYSIAN INDIAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (MIBA), 7TH JULY 2002: SICCI organised a 45-member trade delegation to meet 40 members of the Malaysian Indian Business Association (MIBA) in Johor Bahru, Malaysia. The delegation also included members of The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE) Singapore Chapter who networked with members of both SICCI and MIBA. Presentations on investment climate and the Port of Tanjung Pelapas (PTP) provided insight on investment incentives and opportunities available in Malaysia.

INDIA-ASEAN BUSINESS SUMMIT, 16TH-19TH OCTOBER 2002: The India-ASEAN Business Summit was organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) from 16th-19th October in New Delhi and Hyderabad. A business delegation from Singapore coordinated by SICCI with support from Singapore Business Federation and International Enterprise Singapore consisted of 25 participants from 18 companies and headed by Chairman Mr. Shabbir. H. Hassanbhai. The delegation was led by Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry and Education, Mr. Tharman Shanmugaratnam.

THE INDIAN PRIME MINISTER H. E. MR. ATAL BEHARI VAJPAYEE visited Singapore from 7th-9th April 2002. A Business Forum with both the Prime Ministers of Singapore and India was organised on 8th April 2002 by the SICCI; Indian High Commission; Singapore Confederation of Industries (SCI); Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCCI); Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). The Forum was attended by 600 participants including 160 members of the Chamber.

LAUNCH OF WOMEN'S INDIAN NETWORK (WIN), 23RD DECEMBER 2002: The launch of the Women Indian Network (WIN) Entrepreneurs and Professionals was held at the OCBC Executive Club. The main objectives of the subcommittee are to encourage Indian businesswomen and professionals to come forward in their own right and also bring more value in terms representation. The Chairperson for this Sub-Committee was Mrs. Leena Pinsler.

SPRING SINGAPORE

The Launching of SME First Stop and the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between SICCI and Spring Singapore for the establishment of the SME First Stop Call Centre was held on 15th June 2002. The Guest-of-Honour was Mr. Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry and Education.

SME First Stop serves as a convenient first point of contact for local enterprises which require assistance to upgrade their business, including government development assistance scheme programme (GDAPS) and provides value added services to local enterprises seeking information and facilitation on business and operations upgrading. Over 100 participants attended the Ceremony.

2003

MIBA'S RETURN VISIT WITH GOVERNMENT OF JOHOR STATE

OFFICIALS ON 27TH JAN 2003 was led by Mr. Y.B. Salikon Bin Sarpin, Johor State Minister for Small and Medium Enterprises, State Executive Councillor, Industrial Development for SMI, Science and Technology. A meeting was held at the Pan Pacific Hotel for members of Chamber and TiE to meet the delegates. After welcome remarks by Mr. Shabbir Hassanbhai, Chairman, SICCI, an opening address delivered by Mr. Y.B. Salikon Bin Sarpin. This was followed by brief presentations by officials from the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (MIDA), Johore Corporation, Port of Tanjung Pelepas (PTP) and Johore State Economic Planning Unit and by the private sector conditions, incentives and projects available in IT and Education Sector in the State Johore. This was followed by a lively Q & A session and one to one meetings. Feedback indicated that it was a useful and productive session.

In April 2003, Mr. George Abraham retired as Executive Director of the Chamber after 23 years. He was succeeded by Mr. Predeep Menon.

CONFEDERATION OF INDIAN INDUSTRY (CII): During the year the chamber signed an MOU with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) which has a network of more than 50,000 businesses with offices in 13 countries.

BENGAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY (BCCI): At the invitation of the West Bengal Chief Minister, H.E. Mr. Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee, a SICCI team led by Chairman, Mr. Shabbir H Hassanbhai, made a business trip to Calcutta from 7th-9th September 2003, after the Second India-ASEAN Summit in Mumbai. The highlight of the SICCI Calcutta Mission was the signing of an MoU agreement between SICCI and the BCCI.

DIASPORA BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS (DBA): An MoU was signed between SICCI and the Diaspora Business Associations (DBA) on 10th January 2004. The objective is to connect the business hubs within the diaspora and confer competitive advantages to both Diaspora and India in the global market. FICCI shall serve as a 'Secretariat' for this cooperation.

2ND INDIA-ASEAN BUSINESS SUMMIT 2003, NEW DELHI &

MUMBAI, 3RD-6TH SEPTEMBER 2003: The 2nd India-ASEAN Business Summit was organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). A business delegation from Singapore coordinated by SICCI with support from SBF, IE Singapore, Singapore Chinese & Malay Chambers, SICCI, ASME and SMA attended the Summit. The business mission was led by SICCI advisor Mr. Sat Pal Khattar and Chairman Mr. Shabbir H. Hassanbhai and accompanied by Minister of State for Trade & Industry and Senior Minister of State for National Development, Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan and Chamber & SBF officials.

BUSINESS SESSION ON SRI LANKA, 29TH AUGUST 2003:

The Chamber in conjunction with the Sri Lankan High Commission and Singapore-Sri Lanka Business Association (SSLBA) hosted a 'Business Session on Sri Lanka' on 29th August 2003 at the OCBC Centre Executive Club. Guests of Honour for the evening were Mr. Ravi Karunanayake, Minister of Commerce & Consumer Affairs and Mr. Arjunna Mahendran, Chairman of Sri Lanka Board of Investment (BOI).

2004

(see Appendix XI)

SICCI'S "DINNER RECEPTION AND BOOK LAUNCH", 14TH

JANUARY 2004: SICCI members and guests were invited to a Dinner Reception on 14th Jan 2004 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel to celebrate the New Year as well as to renew ties and strengthen their network.

The Guest-of-Honour for the evening was Mr. Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Acting Minister for Education, who was also joined by various Ambassadors, distinguished personalities and captains of industry. The reception found overwhelming response with over 250 members and guests attending.

The evening was further accentuated with the launching of the SICCI publication, "Singapore Indian Entrepreneurs: Dreams to Reality". This book highlights thirty-seven Singapore Indian entrepreneurs who have worked tirelessly to realize their dreams.

SICCI'S 63RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, HELD ON FRIDAY,

6TH APRIL 2004: The Chamber's 63'd AG was held at 5:00pm on 6th April 2004, at the Pan Pacific Hotel. More than fifty SICCI ordinary members attended the event which witnessed the installation of the 2004-2006 Board of Directors under the stewardship of Chairman Mr. M. Rajaram.

WOMEN'S INDIAN NETWORK (WIN): The Women's Indian Network (WIN) is a new, youthful and dynamic networking organisation launched on 23rd December 2002 and promoted by the Chamber. It is a wing of SICCI, which seeks to promote entrepreneurship and professional development of its members and aspiring Indian women entrepreneurs. WIN is committed to promote the interests of business and professional ethnic Indian women in Singapore. Providing support and encouragement to help women perform at their optimal capability is one of the core interests of WIN.

INDIA CALLING 2004: The economic and trade relationship between Singapore and India has been expanding rapidly. In the last year alone, Singapore's direct investment in India was USD 48 million and bilateral trade in the last decade grew rapidly reaching \$7.9 billion in 2003. India's credentials as a cost competitive emerging market, ideal for business is slowly being recognised by developed countries like Singapore. The "India Calling 2004" Asia Pacific Business Summit organized by the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SICCI) and Indian Merchants' Chamber (IMC), held at the Grand Hyatt In Singapore from 8th-10th July 2004, was thus a step towards further reinforcing this mutually beneficial relationship.



THE PROFILED ENTREPRENEURS WITH THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SICCI CHAIRMAN.



L TO R: DISTINGUISHED PERSONAGES, MR. M. K. CHANRAI, MR. THORMAN SHANMUGARATNAM AND MR. SHABBIR HASSANBHAI.

Mr. Raymond Lim Siang Keat, Minister of State, Ministry of Trade & Industry and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Singapore, inaugurated the Summit. Though his erudite speech, he urged Indian companies to exploit Singapore's 4Cs- Capital, Connectivity, Capability and Comfort. A key highlight of the conference was the Global Business Leaders' Colloquium chaired by Mrs. Indu Jain, the Chairperson of the Times of India Group and which featured global luminaries such as Mr. S. P. Hinduja, the Chairman of IndusInd International federation & Hinduja group, UK and also Dr; N. Harilela, Chairman, Harilela Group, Hong Kong amongst others. The Colloquium focused on both the ways in which India is now attracting foreign investments as well as its FDI strategies vis-a-vis the other Asian economic juggernaut, China.

Over 600 delegates and guests from various countries attended the summit's concurrent business sessions covering 22 economic sectors and areas-of-interest, including IT & Telecommunication, Biotech, Banking & Finance Services, Education, Tourism, Infrastructure and Legal Services. Mr. Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Acting Minister for Education, Singapore gave an inspiring speech about the future growth opportunities between India and Singapore at the Gala Dinner hosted by IndusInd Bank.



GLOBAL BUSINESS LEADERS AT THE INAUGURATION: L TO R: MR. STEPHEN LEE, MR. SURESH KOTHAK, DR. L. M. SINGHVI, SRI SRI RAVI SHANKAR; MR. RAVI BANGAR; MINISTER MR. RAYMOND LIM, MR. RAJARAM , MR. P. HINDUJA. MR. NANIK RUPANI, DR. N. HAILELA AND MR. CHANDRA DAS.



SICCI VICE CHAIRMAN MR. VIJAY IYENGAR (3RD FROM L) CHAIRING THE BUSINESS SESSION ON 'AGRO AND FOOD PROCESSING' WITH SPEAKERS (L-R) DR. NACHIKET MOR; MR. VASHI PURSWANI, MR. SAM MARSHALL, MR. JOSEPH MASSEY AND MR. G. S. SRIVASTAVA.



3RD INDIA-ASEAN BUSINESS SUMMIT, L TO R: MESSRS CEDRIC CHAN (CEO, SBF), MR. PREDEEP MENON (EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; SICCI), H. E. ONG KENG YONG (SEC-GEN ASEAN, MR. RAJARAM (CHAIRMAN, SICCI).

3RD INDIA-ASEAN BUSINESS SUMMIT, NEW DELHI, CHENNAI & BANGALORE, 18TH-24TH OCTOBER 2004: Under the auspices of SBF, SICCI organised and led the Singapore business delegation for this Summit. Led by the Minister for Trade & Industry, Mr. Lim Hng Kiang, the Singapore delegation comprised of 30 members from the business community covering both MNCs and SMEs, and was supported by MTI, IE Singapore, 'sister' Chambers as well as the Singapore High Commission in India.

The business delegation was led by SICCI Chairman, Mr. M Rajaram. Covering six days and three cities, the Summit was a productive one for the Singapore delegates as their itinerary included pre and post Summit programmes, specially arranged for the Singapore delegation. Highlights of mission include a meeting with Mr. Dayanidhi Maran, Indian Minister for IT and Telecommunications; business matchmaking sessions that witnessed the Singapore delegates network with more than 100 Indian companies; a meeting with Mr. P. G. R. Scindia, Minister for Trade & Industry of Karnataka State; visits to the Ranbaxy R&D Centre in Gurgaon and the International Technology Park in Bangalore.

From about 2003/2004 on, the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) underwent a period of revitalization. In previous years, the

Chamber had faced various major challenges, some of which were unprecedented. The most critical of those challenges were, firstly, the SARS crisis with its various, far-reaching, implications. One significant corollary of the crisis was an economic downturn that affected Singapore as a nation and, specifically, members of business and trade organisation such as the Chamber. Secondly, the founding of a number of new business organisations with overlapping agendas and objectives, leading to increased competition amongst those corporations.

Indeed, today the Chamber distinguishes itself as one of Singapore's leading commercial institutions. The vibrancy that characterises SICCI is reflected in a persistently rising membership and a large number of events and initiatives throughout any year. At the same time, the Chamber continues to expand its network of international alliances and partnerships, which underlines its status and continuously high aspirations.

The Chamber has also distinguished itself by displaying a high level of corporate social awareness and engagement. It has collaborated with community organisations such as Singapore Indian Development Association (SINDA), Narpani Pearavi, SIET and LISHA to engage in community development projects and, specifically, to aid underprivileged families during festive occasions in the Indian calendar, such as during Deepavali.

2005

A CONTINUOUSLY GROWING MEMBERSHIP

Over the last decade, the Chamber has continuously expanded its membership. In 2005, SICCI's membership base rose to a notable amount of 610 individuals and continued to rise in subsequent years. By 2005 a significant portion of members started to be made up of professionals and female entrepreneurs. The continuing growth of the Chamber over the years is a clear sign of the renewed confidence and trust of Singapore's business community and commerce in SICCI and its services after it managed to successfully overcome the economic challenges of previous years.

Not only has the number of the Chamber's members persistently risen, it has also become much more diverse than at the start of the new millennium. Back then, SICCI's members mainly originated in the trading sector. By 2005, however, more than 40 per cent of the membership base consisted of professionals from the manufacturing and services sectors. This gradual shift has been echoing larger trends in Singapore's economy as a whole. What is more, non-Indian corporations have also gradually risen amongst the Chamber's base. By 2005, they had made up to around 15 per cent.

A RISE IN ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

An institution's growth and progress quite inevitably goes hand in hand with a greater number of obligations and rising expectations of its members and partners. By 2005, the various events and activities organised by the Chamber have increased, while those events and activities supported by the Chamber also grew. Reflecting the rising standing of SICCI and the impact of its initiatives, an increasing number of chambers and related groups and organisations today are providing their support and are participating in all major events and activities of the Chamber.

REVENUE

In 2005, and for the second year in a row, the Chamber's annual revenue exceeded the \$1 million mark. Trade Documentation Services and Membership continue to display a healthy growth-rate; at the same time, the Chamber's revenues became more diverse and thus less reliant on its traditional revenue sectors.

FUTURE PLANS

The EDC would include a desk that gives its sole attention to activities and engagements related to India, the Chamber's traditional key partner in Asia. The Chamber early on recognised the clout and potential of the Indian economy and has put in great effort in assisting its members to understand and penetrate into the Indian market.

The significance of the Chamber's ties with India is emphasised in a statement by His Excellency Mr. S. R Nathan, former President of Singapore. Mr. Nathan said:

"SICCI has played a key role in strengthening economic ties between Singapore and India. It has leveraged on the valuable network in has built up in India over the years for the benefit of Singapore businesses"

Echoing the government's initiative to encourage entrepreneurship amongst Singapore's youth, the Chamber put up a distinct youth section for the nation's young Indian entrepreneurs. SICCI has increasingly adopted the "youth" as one of its key strategic areas and thus has embarked on various initiatives such as partnerships with some of Singapore's leading representatives of tertiary education.

TOWARD INDIA – AND BEYOND!

Most importantly, it had increasingly become key to SICCI's mission to help the Chamber's members penetrating into markets other than India by expanding its missions to other nations.

2006

REVENUE

In 2006, SICCI was able to raise its earnings. Again keeping up with earlier trends, the Chamber successfully widened its revenue streams. While Trade Documentation Services and Membership remained pivotal sources for revenue, reliance on these two streams eased.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

The year 2006 marked a 300 per cent increase in the Chamber's activities and events to assist its members' business interests. Some major initiatives included:

(A) ‘SINGAPORE CALLING – ALL INDIAN BUSINESSES’ (20TH JANUARY 2006)

The Singaporean Academy of Law (SAL) and the Chamber co-organised this seminar which was attended by an overwhelming crowd of 180 people. It was held at the Supreme Court Auditorium and was graced by Justice V. K. Rajah. SICCI Chairman Mr. M. Rajaram gave the closing address for the ½-day seminar which focused on the benefits of using Singapore law for international business.

(B) 3RD ‘SICCI-ISAS GLOBAL BUSINESS LEADERS LECTURE’

In April, SICCI and the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) welcomed H. E. Mr. Kamal Nath, Minister for Commerce and Industry (India) as the Guest Speaker for the third lecture in the Global Business Leaders’ Series. It was a fitting prologue to the “Connecting India – Asia Pacific Business Summit” later the same month. A fourth in the series followed on 23rd June the same year. The distinguished guest was Mr. Dayanidhi Maran, Union Minister for Communications and Information & Technology, India.

(C) ‘CONNECTING INDIA – ASIA PACIFIC BUSINESS SUMMIT’

This 2-day long conference was part of the ‘Celebrating India Week’. It was inaugurated by Mr. Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Singapore’s Minister for Education, and Mr. Kamal Nath, Minister for Commerce and Industry, India. 55 renowned experts gave their insight to 20 areas of economic interest. The Summit also launched the Chamber’s latest publication: the ‘Directory of Indian Companies in Singapore’ (April 2006). At the conference, SICCI signed a Memorandum of Understanding with two leading Indian Chambers, the India-ASEAN-Sri Lanka Chamber of Commerce and the Hindustan Chamber of Commerce.

(D) ‘DESTINATION ANDHRA PRADESH’ BUSINESS CONFERENCE (APRIL 2006)

The conference presented the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh, one of India’s vital business centres, as a promising destination for Singaporean investors.

(E) LAUNCH OF THE SICCI-DBS SINGAPORE INDIAN ENTREPRENEUR AWARD (SIEA) 2006 (6TH JULY 2006)

This award was first launched in 2004 and has become a regular feature in SICCI’s calendar ever since. Its aim is to reward the best Singaporean Indian entrepreneurs. Indeed, the SICCI-DBS SIEA are the only Awards that serve to recognise leading entrepreneurs in Singapore. The award ceremony for SIEA 2006



MR. THARMAN SHANMUGARATNAM IN DISCUSSION WITH MR. SHRI KAMAL NATH, MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, INDIA AT THE 3RD ‘SICCI-ISAS GLOBAL BUSINESS LEADERS LECTURE’.



MR. SHRI DAYANIDHI MURAN SPEAKING AT THE 4TH ‘SICCI-ISAS GLOBAL BUSINESS LEADERS LECTURE’.

was held in conjunction with the 82nd Anniversary celebrations of SICCI on 12th October 2008.

(F) BUSINESS MISSION TO BANGLADESH

From 4th-8th August, the Chamber embarked on a business mission to the Bangladeshi cities of Dhaka and Chittagong. It was headed by SICCI chairman Mr. M. M. Rajaram. The delegation identified pharmaceuticals, infrastructure, IT, and agro-products as the sectors with the greatest potential for investment and bilateral trade between Singapore and Bangladesh.



MR. SAT PAL KHATTAR, CHAIRMAN, NETWORK INDIA AND SICCI ADVISOR SPEAKING AT THE LAUNCH.



OFFICIALS FROM SICCI AND SICCI DURING THEIR JOINT BUSINESS MISSION TO INDIA.

(G) SICCI DEEPAVALI CHARITY DINNER

Together with its women's wing, the Women's Indian Network (WIN), and in collaboration with the Taman Jurong Citizens' Consultative Committee and the South West Community Development Council, SICCI organised a charity event for underprivileged Singaporeans during the festive period (25th November 2006).



MISSION TO MUMBAI, CHENNAI AND PUNE

In May 2006, SICCI, in cooperation with its sister-organisation, the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCCI) for the second time embarked on a business mission to the Indian cities of Mumbai, Chennai and Pune. And clearly indicating that while India remains a key business destination, other countries in Asia and elsewhere have increasingly shifted into the Chamber's focus.

The 52 member delegation was the largest ever coming from Singapore and comprised representatives from a wide spectrum of industries. The main sectors covered were Biotechnology, IT & ITES, Financial Services, Tourism and Manufacturing, Healthcare and Pharma Engineering, Infrastructure and Real Estate.



2007

ESTABLISHING NETWORKS IN EUROPE, INDOCHINA AND FRENCH-POLYNESIA

2007 marked the year in which SICCI's international collaborations extended much further than India and South Asia in general. Now, the Chamber reached out to countries as diverse as Belgium, Ukraine, Vietnam and Fiji. With Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Pakistan, other promising markets in South Asia emerged with the Chamber embarking on rewarding relationships with these nations in the years to come.

SICCI MISSIONS TO INDIA, AFRICA AND CHINA

In early January 2007, the Chamber sent a business mission to New Delhi, India, and later the same month another to the Indian metropolises of Bangalore and Mumbai.

In April 2007, SICCI sent a mission to the Indian economic hubs of Mumbai, Bangalore, Mysore, and Mumbai. This was the largest Singaporean business delegation ever to visit India. It was led by Mr. Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Minister of Education, and covered the vital business sectors of Biotechnology, IT & ITES, Education and Logistics.



H. E. PRESIDENT MR. S. R. NATHAN DURING THE MISSION TO SOUTH AFRICA, BOTSWANA AND NAMIBIA, WHICH HE HEADED.

This initiative was followed by a co-organised 'SBF-SICCI Business Mission to Botswana, Namibia and South Africa' in May the same year. This mission accompanied H. E. President S. R. Nathan's state visit to these countries. From 28th October to 3rd November 2007, 'SCCCI – SICCI sent a business mission to the Chinese economic powerhouses of Shanghai, Hangzhou and Yiwu. This occasion marked the first visit of a SICCI delegation ever to China. Infrastructure, textiles, IT & ITES, engineering and manufacturing, trading, commodities and chemicals were the key sectors covered during the visit.

In October the same year, the Chamber sent a business delegation to the Republic of Maldives. This mission took place in conjunction with the visit of H. E. S. R. Nathan, President of Singapore's state visit to the island state.

Also in October 2007, the Chamber held its annual 'SICCI-DBS Singapore Indian Entrepreneur Awards'. H. E. Mr. S. R. Nathan, President of Singapore, handed the trophies to the winners. In addition, SICCI launched the SICCI-DBS Singapore-India Business Award (SICCI-DBS SIBA) to acknowledge the contributions of individual Singaporeans and Indians in promoting the bilateral economic relations between Singapore and India.



THE HEADS OF SICCI-SCCCI MISSION DURING THEIR CHAMBERS' VISIT TO CHINA.



BUSINESS MISSION TO THE MALDIVES, IN THE CENTRE: SICCI CHAIRMAN MR. M. RAJARAM AND H. E. PRESIDENT MR. S. R. NATHAN.



WINNERS OF SIEA 2007 WITH H. E. PRESIDENT MR. S. R. NATHAN .



H. E. PRESIDENT MR. S. R. NATHAN PRESENTING THE 2007 SICCI-DBS SINGAPORE-INDIA BUSINESS AWARDS.



H. E. PRESIDENT MR. S. R. NATHAN, AT SICCI'S 83RD ANNIVERSARY DINNER CELEBRATION.

2008

By April 2008, SICCI's membership amounted to 747. Non-Indian corporations made for 18.5 per cent of SICCI's members. Service-related corporations amounted to 40 per cent of the Chamber's members and the trading community 45 per cent. Non-Indian corporations constituted 17 per cent.

Aside from India, the Chamber continued to widen its international network of business relationships with commercial bodies and foreign missions, particularly those from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka but also those from ASEAN member countries, the Middle East and Eastern Europe.

MISSION TO GUJARAT AND KERALA

From 7th to 13th January 2008, SICCI sent a business mission to the economic hubs of Mumbai and New Delhi in India.



SINGAPORE BUSINESS MISSION TO KERALA AND GUJARAT, INDIA.

In June 2008, the Chamber went on a Business Mission to the Indian Provinces of Gujarat and Kerala, which former SICCI Chairman Vijay Iyengar described as “highly effective”. The mission was headed by Dr. Balaji Sadasivan, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In addition, the Chamber appointed a SICCI representative based in New-Delhi/India in September.

“TOWARD A DYNAMIC INDIAN DIASPORA”

From 9th to 11th October 2008, SICCI was co-host of an international conference titled “PBD Singapore International Conference” - Toward a Dynamic Indian Diaspora”. It was co-organised by India’s Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII). This mega-event was one the biggest platforms for Singapore’s business community to get a comprehensive insight into emerging business opportunities in India. More than 750 delegates, comprising business leader, government officials, policy makers, economists and academics attended the event, which featured 58 renowned speakers. One highlight was the interactive Dialogue Session with then Minister Mentor, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew.

On 5th November 2008, the 5th ‘SICCI-ISAS Global Business Leaders Lecture’ was held entitled ‘India: Current Scenario and the Road Ahead’. The distinguished speaker was Mr. Kapil Sibal, Minister for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, India.

In line with its commitment to corporate social awareness, SICCI, on 13th December 2008, donated \$100,000 to the Singapore Indian Development Association (SINDA) in its bid to support programmes that would strengthen the development of entrepreneurship as well as international business management skills amongst Singaporean Indian youth.

NEW PREMISES: THE SICCI BUILDING

2008 is also the year in which the Chamber moved into its current, premises in 31 Stanley Street in Singapore’s Central Business District. SICCI was honoured that Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong inaugurated the new office (named the SICCI Building) on 8th March that year. Also present was Mr. Tharman Shanmugaratnam, now both Minister for Education and Finance, as SICCI’s Special Guest. The new premise is a corner conservation building, double – facade and comprising 31/2 storeys.

LAUNCH OF EDC@SICCI

The inauguration of the new premises was accompanied by the launch of the Enterprise Development Centre (EDC@SICCI). EDC had been in the planning for several years.

EDC@SICCI has assisted Singaporean entrepreneurs and its members to reach out to overseas markets and expand their businesses. Together with various government agencies, it has provided help to national enterprises to obtain a more comprehensive understanding of available government assistance programmes and schemes.





GROUP PHOTO WITH PRIME MINISTER LEE HSIEN LOONG AT SICCI'S NEW PREMISES.



MR. KAPIL SIBAL DELIVERING HIS KEY-NOTE LECTURE AT THE 5TH SICCI-ISAS BUSINESS LEADERS' LECTURE.



PRIME MINISTER MR. LEE HSIEN LOONG (CENTRE) AT THE 'PBD SINGAPORE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE'.



DISTINGUISHED SPEAKER SENIOR MINISTER MR. GOH CHOK TONG DELIVERING THE LUNCHEON ADDRESS



MINISTER MENTOR MR. LEE KUAN YEW DURING THE INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE SESSION.



PRIME MINISTER LEE HSIEN LOONG INAUGURATING THE CHAMBER'S NEW PREMISES.

2009

2009 was a challenging year for the Chamber due to the world's financial crisis. Still, the income generated by the various corporate entities of SICCI—EDC@SICCI, SICCI IOB, SICCI Trade Match and the Secretariat, enabled the Chamber to wrap up the year with a surplus. To a large extent, this can be attributed to the support from SICCI members and the larger business community.

SICCI MEET-THE-AMBASSADOR SERIES

In January 2009, the Chamber launched a new programme named the 'SICCI Meet-the Ambassador Series'. In this initiative, SICCI invited diplomats from vital partner countries to discuss emerging opportunities for doing business with the Chamber's members.

The first of these meetings took place on 28th January 2009 with His Excellency Dr. S. Jaishankar, High Commissioner of India to Singapore as guest.

The second in the Series took place on 16th April 2009. Guest this time was His Excellency Mr. Tamas Magda, Ambassador of Hungary to Singapore.

The third in the Series took place on 28th May 2009. Guest this time was His Excellency Mr. Bulent Meric, Ambassador of Turkey to Singapore.

A fourth get-together followed soon after on 5 June the same year with Mr. Daniel L. Shields III, Charge d'Affaires of the United States to Singapore. Six more sessions with esteemed guests from their respective country's diplomatic corps followed in the same year making the Series a vibrant initiative for establishing business opportunities.



MR. K. SHANMUGAM (LEFT) MINISTER FOR LAW AND SECOND MINISTER FOR HOME AFFAIRS DURING THE SINGAPORE BUSINESS MISSION TO INDIA.

MISSIONS TO INDIA, MYANMAR AND SRI LANKA

In 2009, bilateral trade between India and Singapore amounted to \$21.5 billion, a decline from the previous year due to the adverse global economic conditions. However, bilateral trade was expected to recover in the coming years, reaching around \$40 billion by 2012.

In line with the previously mentioned vision to extend endeavours to establish business contacts and partnerships beyond India in the near future, in 2009, the Chamber sent business missions to the cities of Yangon and Naypyitaw in Myanmar and Colombo, Kandy and Dambulla in Sri Lanka in November that year. The 24-strong member delegation was headed by then SICCI chairman Mr. Vijay Iyengar.

From 7th to 10th January 2009, SICCI went on a business mission to the city of Chennai in India. The mission was led by Mr. K. Shanmugam, Minister of Law & Second Minister for Home Affairs, Singapore. And from 11th to 13th May, SICCI headed a highly successful business mission to Myanmar, which was headed by SICCI chairman Mr. Vijay Iyengar and supported by International Enterprise Singapore and EDC@SICCI.

In the same month, SICCI went on yet another mission to India, this time to the state of Gujarat. The "Vibrant Gujarat Global Investor's Summit", the 4th of its kind, was organised by the State of Gujarat and held in Ahmadabad. Singapore's Senior Minister of State, Mr. Zainul Abidin Rasheed, which also comprised members of Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA)



THE SICCI DELEGATION LED BY CHAIRMAN MR. VIJAY IVENGAR DURING THEIR BUSINESS MISSION TO MYANMAR.



SICCI CHAIRMAN MR. VIJAY IVENGAR WITH SPEAKER MR. SUNNY VERGHESE, CHAIRMAN OF INTERNATIONAL ENTERPRISE SINGAPORE DURING THE 2ND SICCI CHAMPIONS-OF-INDUSTRY DIALOGUE SESSION TITLED "INTERNATIONALISATION: NAVIGATING UNCHARTERED WATERS" ON 8TH APRIL 2009.

On 26th April, SICCI's Women's Indian Network (WIN), in collaboration with Tanjung Pagar GRC, launched the 'Needy Family Adoption Scheme' Community Project. In this project, volunteers reach out to elderly and needy Indian families and provide support and a helping hand.

This was followed by a mission to Bangalore, India, in order to participate in the International Women's Conference (IWC). The mission was co-organised by SICCI and the Women's Indian Network (WIN). IWC hosted 650 female attendees from nearly 70 countries.

BUSINESS MATCH-MAKING SESSIONS

The first of these sessions was a meeting between 35 SICCI members and an 11-member business delegation from the Union State of Myanmar. The discussion concentrated on emerging business opportunities in Myanmar and challenges faced by Singaporean companies when doing business in Myanmar.

A second business match-making session occurred on 22nd May with SICCI hosting a delegation from the Shanghai Overseas Chinese Chamber of Commerce (SOCCC). A third in the Series followed in early June the same year. This time SICCI hosted a delegation from the South Indian Andhra Chamber



PARTICIPANTS OF THE SICCI-WIN COMMUNITY PROJECT LAUNCH "NEEDY FAMILY ADOPTION SCHEME".



BREAKFAST MEETING WITH (CENTRE) SICCI CHAIRMAN MR. VIJAY IVENGAR AND (IN WHITE) MR. LAI THANHAWLA, CHIEF MINISTER, MIZORAM, INDIA.

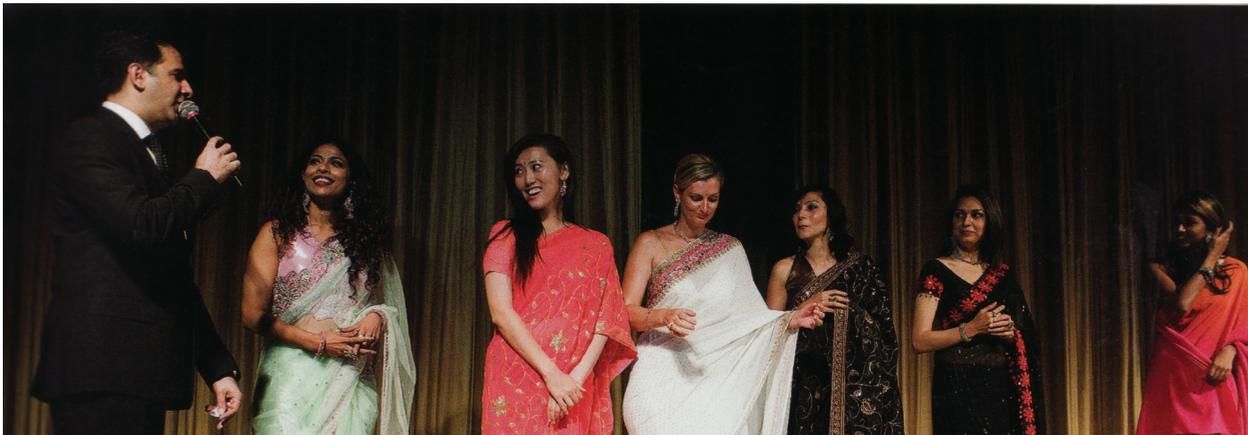
of Commerce, led by its President Mr. K. B. Narasimha Prasad. Mr. Prasad highlighted the high business potential in industries such as textiles, information technology, electronics, automobiles and leather for SICCI members. Next, the Chamber hosted a delegation from the Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) in June that year.

On 26th June 2009, SICCI hosted a breakfast meeting with Mr. Lal Thanhawla, Chief Minister, and Mr. S. Hiato, Minister for Public Health and Engineering, from the state of Mizoram in Northeast India.

On 29th July 2009, SICCI and ECD@SICCI organised a business mission to Johor, Malaysia. The highlight of this visit was a business networking session with officials of the Malaysian Indian Business Association. It helped to create a platform for small and medium enterprises both in Malaysia and Singapore to interact with each other.



GROUP PHOTO DURING SICCI'S BUSINESS VISIT TO JOHOR, MALAYSIA.



PARTICIPANTS OF SICCI-WIN'S BOLLYWOOD GALA EVENT.



2009'S SICCI-DBS AWARDS WITH FINANCE MINISTER MR. THARMAN SHANMUGARATNAM (THIRD FROM RIGHT).

A glamorous gala event – the Bollywood Glitz @ the Ritz – was organised by SICCI's Indian Women's network (SICCI-WIN) on 29th August that year. It was a highly successful evening of fun and dance, attended by over 200 SICCI members and guests.

On 10th October, the Chamber celebrated its 85th anniversary with a spectacular concert, a festive dinner and the annual ceremony for the 'SICCI-DBS Awards' presented by Finance Minister Mr. Tharman Shanmugaratnam. 1300 SICCI members attended the event.

GROWTH OF SICCI'S SUBSIDIARIES

2009 also saw the growth and the expansion of activities of SICCI's three subsidiaries: EDC@SICCI, Trade Match and SICCI Institute of Business (IOB).

EDC@SICCI was founded in 2002. By 2009 it already had provided advisory and consultancy services to more than 2400 Singapore-based businesses. This particularly concerned providing assistance to start-up enterprises and guidance to small-

medium enterprises (SMEs) in their efforts to venture overseas. It has also made connections to roughly 3000 businesses through its outreach efforts.

Trade Match led the business missions to India, Sri Lanka and Myanmar and major SICCI events such as the SICCI-DBS SIEA in 2009 and the SICCI 'Champions of Industry Dialogue Sessions.'

SICCI-IOB organised over 30 seminars in 2009, including popular trade documentation seminars and the highly successful 'Beginners Business Mandarin' course.

Another project by SICCI-WIN that year was the Dialogue Session "Project Athena". In this initiative, WIN-members provided practical advice to Indian single mothers. This session was held at the Singapore Indian Development Association (SINDA). And in mid-November, SICCI's Youth Committee, together with its partners, held its first annual Indian Youth Entrepreneurs' Seminar titled the "The Entrepreneurial Mindset". The Seminar was held in conjunction with the SICCI Youth Enterprise Awards 2009 (SYEA).



ORGANISERS AND PARTICIPANTS OF SICCI-WIN'S DIALOGUE SESSION WITH SINGLE MOTHERS.



SICCI OFFICIALS WITH WINNERS OF THE 2009 YOUTH ENTERPRISE AWARDS.

2010

BEYOND INDIA – BENEFITING FROM THE POTENTIAL OF GLOBAL MARKETS

From 7th to 9th January, the Chamber headed a business mission to New Delhi, India where it took part in the 8th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention together with more than 1200 delegates from India and other countries from all over the world. The event was jointly organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry and the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs. Dr. Manmohan Singh, then India's Prime Minister, inaugurated the convention.



MISSIONS TO VIETNAM, CAMBODIA AND LAOS

Amongst the numerous events and activities SICCI organised in 2010, business missions to Vietnam and Cambodia (in August 2010) and Laos (in September 2010) should be highlighted as they underline the Chamber's continuous ambition to extend its business partnership beyond India and South Asia to the emerging markets of the region.

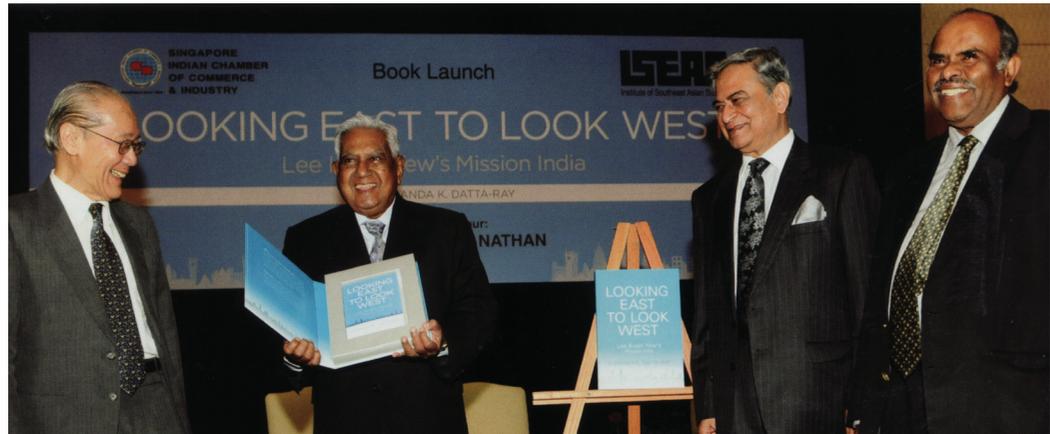
FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF SICCI'S THREE SUBSIDIARIES

The missions to Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos were organised by SICCI-Trade Match. The same year, IOB@SICCI held about 20 educational and skills improvement courses, seminars and training programmes for the Chamber's members.

2013 also saw EDC@SICCI being renamed as SME Centre@SICCI.



SICCI'S 86TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS AND PRESENTATION CEREMONY FOR THE SICCI-DBS AWARDS. THIRD FROM LEFT: SICCI CHAIRMAN MR. R. NARAYANAMOHAN AND ON HIS RIGHT GUEST-OF-HONOUR DR. NG ENG HEN, MINISTER FOR EDUCATION AND SECOND MINISTER OF DEFENCE.



FROM L. TO R.: PROF. WONG GANG WU, H. E. PRESIDENT S. R. NATHAN, AUTHOR MR. SUNANDA K. DATTA RAY AND AMB. K. KESAVAPANY, DIRECTOR OF ISEAS.

Altogether, as former SICCI Chairman Mr. R. Narayanamohan pointed out, SICCI's three subsidiaries "haven grown from strength to strength since their inception".

SUB-COMMITTEES ENSURE A BOOST IN OUTREACHING EFFORTS

Changes in the national and international economic landscape have always been responded to flexibly and promptly by SICCI. In 2010, this commitment led to the establishment of three sub-committees: Firstly, the **Sub-Committee on Productivity and Innovation**, which is responsible for introducing productivity and innovation-related initiatives at the Chamber, Secondly, the **Sub-Committee on Professionals**, which is responsible for reaching out to the increasing number of Indian professionals in Singapore, And thirdly, the **Sub-Committee on Beans and Pulses**, which is responsible for promoting the interests of the pulses traders in Singapore whilst monitoring both local and international developments and the impact these have on this trade.



MINISTER FOR FINANCE MR. THARMAN SHANMUGARATHNAM WITH PARTICIPANTS AT THE DEEPAVALI CHARITY AT TAMAN JURONG CC.

BOOSTING SICCI'S TIES WITH MEMBERSHIP BASE

In order to reinvigorate ties with its members, in 2010 the Chamber redoubled its endeavours to hold various networking sessions and presentations by representatives from government agencies and industry leaders.

The Chamber continued its successful 'Meet the Ambassador' Series. One of several prominent guests was H. E. Dr. Simeon Selby Ripanga, High Commissioner of South Africa to Singapore. On 29th July H. E. Mr. Nguyen Treung Thanh, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to Singapore was guest at SICCI, and on 26th August 2010, SICCI hosted H. E. Madam Sin Serey, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia to Singapore in another round of the Series In June 2010, SICCI hosted a



FROM L. TO R.: AMB. K. KESAVAPANY, H. E. MR. R. JAYACHANDRAN.

roundtable discussion with a business delegation from Oman, again underlining the Chamber's ambition to reach out globally.

In October, the 'SICCI-DBS Singapore Indian Entrepreneur Awards (SIEA) were awarded for the 7th time since its launch at the Ritz Carlton Millenia Singapore. The Guest-of-Honour was Dr. Ng Eng Hen, Minister for Education and Second Minister for Defence. The event was attended by more than 800 members and guests. Rewarding the best Singaporean Indian business leaders, the award has become a true benchmark for enterprise, innovation and entrepreneurship. In 2010, the Chamber again took the Awards campaign a step further with the launch of the SICCI-DBS India Enterprise Award (SICCI-DBS IEA). This is presented to an Indian company registered in Singapore that has made a significant impact on Singapore's socio-economic development.

The Chamber also held Networking Sessions with the Malaysian Business Association, with Indian Shipping officials, with a business delegation from Argentina (all in September), with a Taiwanese business delegation (in October) and with delegates from CAPEXIL—a leading Export Promotion Council from India (in November). Also in September, the Chamber gave a reception for H. E. Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mauritius. Finally, SICCI was a co-organiser of the biggest ‘Inter-chamber Networking Night’ held at the Resorts World at Sentosa on 3rd December 2010. The event was spearheaded by the American Chamber of Commerce and hosted representatives from roughly a dozen international chambers of commerce.

CORPORATE SOCIAL CONSCIENCE: DEEPAVALI CHARITY

As part of the year’s Deepavali festivities, SICCI and its members reached out to needy families in Taman Jurong and South West CDC. SICCI and its members raised a total of about \$ 50,000 for the event “Nights of Lights: Deepavali 2010” on 20th November that year.

In showcasing Singapore’s desire to foster its strong links with India, the Chamber partnered with the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) to organize the launch of the book “Looking East to Look West: Lee Kuan Yew’s Mission India”.

In December that year, the Chamber and the Enterprise Development Centre@SICCI organized the sixth “SICCI Champions-of-Industry Dialogue Session” with H. E. Mr. R. Jayachandran, High Commissioner to Mauritius. The topic for the session was “Succeeding in Family-run Businesses – the “Dos” and “Don’ts”. The discussion session that followed the presentation was moderated by Ambassador K. Kesavapany, Director of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, and SICCI Advisor.

2011

“MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE” AND “DISTINGUISHED LEADERSHIP DIALOGUE”

In 2011, SICCI organised various events and programmes, including a number of new initiatives such as the “Ministerial Dialogue Series” and the “Distinguished Leadership Dialogue”. The former initiative was aimed at providing Indian professionals with the opportunity to interact with key policy makers. The latter has endeavoured to engage young Indian professionals in Singapore.

The objective of the “Distinguished Leadership Dialogue was to engage all the Indian expatriate professionals who are well educated, talented and resourceful to have an interaction with the chamber.

The Chamber hosted the inaugural inter-chamber networking sessions together with its sister-chambers: the Singapore Malay Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SMCCI) and the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SCCCI). Aside from this event, the Chamber held numerous business advocacy initiatives, networking events, market awareness programmes, capability development programmes and business match-making sessions.

In February the same year, SICCI organised the United States-India-Singapore Business Forum in collaboration with the High Commission of India in Singapore, the United States Embassy in Singapore, the American Chamber of Commerce in Singapore and the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS).

On 21st June 2011, the prestigious SICCI-DBS Singapore Indian Entrepreneur Awards (SIEA) were handed out once again—a resounding success of an event held every year since 2004. In 2011, SICCI also signed two MoUs: one with the Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Tuticorin, India and another with the EDC@Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry Shanghai Representative Office.

On 31st March 2011, the Chamber hosted H. E. Mrs. Fauzia Mazhar Sana, High Commissioner of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to Singapore for its Meet-the Ambassador Series, which by now went into its third year. Other guests included the Ambassador of the United States to Singapore and High Commissioners from four Asian nations.

In August, shortly before the Presidential Elections, the Chamber hosted a dialogue session with Dr. Tony Tan, at the time Deputy Chairman of the Investment Corporation of the Government of Singapore. The event was attended by more than 200 SICCI members and guests.

THE CONTINUING MISSION TO SEEK NEW MARKETS: MISSIONS TO CENTRAL ASIA, AFRICA, SOUTHEAST ASIA AND SOUTH ASIA

The Chamber, in its ongoing mission to make inroads into non-traditional markets and in line with previous plans, sent business delegations to Uzbekistan, Malaysia, Mauritius, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and, again, India. SICCI also hosted



MR. HERNAIKH SINGH, SICCI'S CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER (LEFT) AND MR. LIM SAH SOON, SCCCI'S SECRETARY-GENERAL (FAR LEFT) DURING THE SIGNING OF THE MOU PROCEEDINGS BETWEEN THEIR RESPECTIVE ORGANISATIONS.



MR. K. SHANMUGAM, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND LAW, AT THE 2011 DEEPAVALI RECEPTION.

business delegations from all around the globe and held networking sessions with international partners such as the “Doing Business in South Africa” gathering with the South African High Commissioner to Singapore, H. E. Dr. S. S. Ripinga. A mission to India took place from 7th to 14th January and took the 21-member delegation to New Delhi and Gurajat. The delegation also took part in the 2011 PBD (Pravasi Bharaiya Divas) Convention, one of the largest gatherings of the global Indian Diaspora from India and other countries from all over the world. The Chamber also took part in a networking session with senior Indian government officials and business leaders. The mission to Mauritius took place in conjunction with the state visit by— then—President of Singapore, H. E. Mr. S. R. Nathan. On 23rd June, SICCI organised a business forum and a networking

session with a business delegation from Zimbabwe. It was the first visit of a Zimbabwe business delegation to Singapore. On 6th October, SICCI Trade Match hosted a delegation from Argentina. On 22nd November that year, SICCI took part in Rumanian-Singapore Business Forum.

Under the Business Seminar Series umbrella a seminar titled “Regional Economies in 2011: Challenges and Prospects” was held. The renown speakers were Mr. Manu Bhaskaran, Chief Executive Officer of Centennial Asia Advisors Pte Ltd, Dr. S Narayan from the Institute of South Asian Studies and Mr. David Carbon, Managing Director and Chief Economist of DBS Bank.

PROMOTION OF SOCIAL WELFARE

In accordance with its dedication to corporate social responsibility, the Chamber organised the 2011 National Day Observance Ceremony and, as in previous years, a Deepavali reception, which included the fund-raising for some 400 underprivileged families to involve them in the Deepavali festivities. More than 150 SICCI members and guests and was graced by the attendance of Mr. K Shanmugam, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Law and his wife.

REBRANDING

Another key initiative in 2011 was a comprehensive rebranding of the Chamber. This comprised the re-launch of SICCI's newsletter under a new name, The Chamber Times, a re-presentation of the corporate logo and the creation of logos for the Chamber's four subsidiaries. The Chamber also launched a new website the same year.

2012

Undeterred by an unprecedented dwindle in the number of members in 2010 due to a membership review, by 2012, the Chamber was fully back on track with the number of members increasing.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Foremost among the numerous events and activities organised by the Chamber in 2012 was the annual SICCI-DBS Singapore Indian Entrepreneur Awards (SIEA).

This year's SICCI-DBS Indian Entrepreneur Awards presented Singapore's nine leading Indian entrepreneurs; three were awarded with the title entrepreneur of the year. Mr. Teo Chee Hean, Deputy Prime Minister and Coordinating Minister

for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs, honoured the occasion. It was attended by more than 900 members and guests.

SICCI'S TRADEMARK EVENTS

SICCI's various regular events—the “Distinguished Leadership Dialogue Series”, the “Inter-Chamber Networking Sessions, and the “Meet the Ambassador series” continued as well. The latter hosted the diplomatic representatives of Pakistan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Malaysia to Singapore. The Chamber also hosted eminent industry and political personalities from all over the world, such as Mr. Partha Chatterjee, Minister for Trade and Industry, Government of West Bengal, and Ms. Shakknazaryan Regina from the Ministry of Justice, Republic of Uzbekistan.



DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR FINANCE AND MANPOWER, MR. THARMAN SHANMUGARATNAM

The Chamber also took part in several dialogue sessions in 2012. These included sessions with Mr. S. Iswaran, Minister; Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Home Affairs and Second Minister for Trade and Industry and Mr. Teo Ser Luck, Minister of State for Trade and Industry.

On 22nd March 2012, the Chamber launched the "Ministerial Dialogue" series. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Finance and Manpower, Mr. Tharman Shanmugaratnam launched the series and took part in a dialogue session with SICCI members which focused on socio-economic challenges facing Singapore.

As part of its social welfare engagements, and in line with initiatives in previous years, the Chamber again reached out to needy families during the Deepavali celebrations.

From 9th to 13th January 2012, the Chamber organised a business mission to India, this time to the metropolises of Kolkata and Hyderabad. The delegates had the opportunity to attend the "Bengal Leads Summit 2012" (in Kolkata) and the "Partnership Summit 2012" (in Hyderabad).

The SICCI-Institute of Business again expanded its course offerings, organising more than 30 courses and seminars in 2012.

In July, SICCI chairman Mr Narayanamohan was part of a high-level delegation accompanying Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on a visit to India.

The Chamber organised and participated in numerous events in 2012. These included the ACE-ETPL Investor Forum 2012, the SME BizTech Summit 2012, the Inter-Association Networking Night 2012, the Africa Singapore Business Forum, the Advisory Seminars "Trade and Investment Opportunities in Canada", "Thailand Beyond Bangkok", "Indonesia-Tapping Business Opportunities in Southeast Asia" and "China-Bohai Rim, China's Northern Economic Powerhouse".

TREASURING EXISTING NETWORKS, EXPLORING NEW ONES

In 2012, SICCI welcomed missions from countries as diverse as Malaysia, Uzbekistan and India. At the same time, SICCI sent missions to Mumbai (India) and participated in a mission to Indonesia. It was led by Indonesian Ambassador to Singapore, H. E. Mr. Andri Hadi, During the visit to Jakarta, the delegation participated in the 27th Trade Expo Indonesia (TEI) 2012.

2013

In Kochi, Kerala, the delegation took part in the 11th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD 2013) where members had the privilege to meet Kerala government officials and state officials from various states.

A BOOST IN EDC@SICCI IOB EVENTS

The year 2013 saw a boost of EDC events. They included a number of Outreach Events such as the Networking Session "Business Enterprise Network 2020", Business Advisory Sessions, conferences involving Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and various talks and seminars.

IOB organised numerous events in 2013 including Trade Documentations, Seminars on Education, Management Development Workshops, Productivity Management Programmes and Language Proficiency Courses.

DIRECTORY LISTING OF SINGAPOREAN INDIAN COMPANIES

In May 2013, the Chamber launched the second edition of this directory with a listing of more than 2500 companies in Singapore for the benefit of its members and the Singapore Indian business community in general. At the same time, the directory is a very valuable source for non-Singaporean businesses and professionals to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the potential that Singaporean Indian businesses offer to them. Guest-of-Honour was Mr. Teo Ser Luck, Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry. He commended the Chamber for this publication.



EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

This year's SICCI-DBS Singapore Indian Entrepreneur Awards was held on 25th October and had one of the highest attendance since the inauguration of the initiatives with over 900 guests participating. Guest-of-Honour was His Excellency President Dr. Tony Tan.

As in the previous year, SICCI again took part in the Trade Expo Indonesia, which was held in Jakarta International Expo from 16th to 20th October 2013.



MR. K. BARATHAN, CEO; H.E. PRESIDENT DR. TONY TAN; MR. R. NARAYANAMOHAN, SICCI CHAIRMAN; MR. J. Y. PILLAY.



TRADE EXPO MISSION - INDONESIA.



H. E. PRESIDENT TONY TAN AT THE 2013 SICCI-DBS SINGAPORE INDIAN ENTREPRENEUR AWARDS.

2014

ON 24TH APRIL 2014 SICCI WITNESSED A CHANGE OF GUARD

Dr. R. Theyvendran from Stamford Press was elected as the Chairman of the Board. The inaugural ceremony was held at the Chamber's 73rd Annual General Meeting and graced by Madam Halimah Yacoob, Singapore's Parliamentary Speaker.

The year 2014 also saw the rebranding of the Chamber's newsletter under its new name "SICCI Connect". As Chairman Dr. R. Theyvendran explained:

"The name SICCI Connect was chosen because of the three pillars SICCI represents: Advocate, Connector and Enabler and is part of the larger effort by SICCI to proactively reach out to connect with its members and advocate opportunities for business expansion which in turn will enable members to be better equipped in battling with the steep competition from the fast-evolving business arena. The question here is, how can SICCI make a difference for its Members? SICCI's new brand image aims to involve and align everyone associated with it to its corporate objectives, core values, key programmes and future directions."

On 19th May, the Chamber launched the 11th SICCI-DBS Entrepreneur Awards at the Mandarin Orchard Hotel in Singapore.

SICCI'S BOARD MET UP WITH CEO'S OF INDIAN BANKS

A high powered delegation of CEO's from all the major banks from India who have an operating presence in Singapore met with SICCI's board members at the Orchard Hotel on 9th July.

Mr B K Iyer, CEO, ICICI, Mr Sanjay Agarwal, CEO, Bank Of Baroda, Ms Kalpana, CEO, UCO Bank, Mr D Mahapatra, CEO, Bank Of India, Mr Ramu and Mr Manaw Kumar from Indian Bank, Ms Meghna, BOI- EXIM and Mr Sachil Dagur, CEO AXIS Bank were in attendance.

The CEO's seemed to share the same sentiments that lending to Indian companies is more due to cultural alignment and understanding customer expectations. Even the lending rates are as competitive as local/international banks in Singapore. They were keen to put down the assumptions that all Indian Banks charge higher rates of interest is a misconception.

Indian banks pay a great deal of attention in establishing long-term customer relationships and they always tend to play well within the law.



KEY 2014 OFFICE BEARERS (FROM L TO R): DR R. THEYVENDRAN, CHAIRMAN, MR. KIRPA RAM SHARMA, VICE-CHAIRMAN AND MR R. PONNAMBALAM, VICE-CHAIRMAN.



CHANGE OF GUARD AT THE CHAMBER'S 73RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. FROM L. TO R.: MADAM HALIMAH YACOUB, SINGAPORE'S PARLIAMENTARY SPEAKER, SICCI CHAIRMAN DR. R. THEYVENDRAN AND OUTGOING SICCI CHAIRMAN, MR. R. NARAYANAMOHAN.



MR. PONNAMPALAM RECEIVING THE AWARD FROM MINISTER TEO SER LUCK. (FROM L TO R) MR TAN KAI HOE, MINISTER TEO SER LUCK AND MR PONNAMPALAM.

The Indian banks have their fair share of problems too. Lack of information about SMEs, local market conditions affecting them and their pattern of loan requirements has hindered credit-lending facilities. The Chamber will work closely with the banks to overcome these issues.



STAFF OF SME CENTRE@ SICCI WITH THE GUEST OF HONOUR. (FRONT ROW FROM L TO R) L. ANANTHAN, TAN KAI HOE - CHIEF EXECUTIVE, SPRING, MINISTER TEO SER LUCK, R. PONNAMPALAM, KARPAGAM JYAH RAMAN, HELEN CAMPOS, MUHAMMAD MUSTAFA RASHEED (BACK ROW FROM L TO R) KALVINDER SINGH GILL, PURVA SATIJA, CHEW MOK LEE - ASSISTANT CHIEF EXECUTIVE, SPRING, KAMESHWARI JAYAPRAGAS AND PHUA SHI JIANG.

BRIEFING ON THE INDIAN BUDGET 2014



“Singapore is playing a dominant role in re-shaping the Indian economic resurgence for the next five years and we will continue to do so.”

-Mr. Abhijit Ghosh



Previously, Industry growth was negative, policies were not strong but in the last three months FDI's have been gaining momentum, giving reasons for optimism.

-Mr. Indraneel Roy Choudhury

INDIAN BUDGET 2014





(FROM L TO R): DR. AMIT MITRA, SCCI DIRECTOR, CAPT. SUBANGSHU DUTT, C.M, MAMTA BANNERJEE, CEO GEORGE ABRAHAM, SICCI DIRECTORS JP JAISWAL AND AKBER ALI.

ANOTHER FEATHER IN THE CAP FOR SICCI

SPRING Singapore organised an SME Centre Appreciation Dinner on 20 August 2014 at the POD @ The National Library. The event was held to recognise the various Trade, Associations and Chambers (TACs) and Government agencies that had contributed in various ways in assisting SMEs.

SICCI was accorded a special mention from SPRING Singapore. Mr R. Ponnampalam, Vice-Chairman of SICCI, received the appreciation plaque from Mr Teo Ser Luck, Minister of State, Ministry of Trade and Industry and Mayor, North East District, and Mr Tan Kai Hoe, Chief Executive, SPRING Singapore. The Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry is one of the five key partners that has jointly collaborated with SPRING Singapore to provide SMEs with easy access to business information and advice through SME Centres.

Ms Helen Campos, Chairperson, SME Centre@SICCI, staff of SME Centre@SICCI and peers from the other SME Centres enjoyed an evening of networking. Old friendships were fostered and new ones established.

CHIEF MINISTER OF WEST BENGAL HERE TO SEEK FDI

Miss Mamta Bannerjee, the Chief Minister of West Bengal came to Singapore on a five day visit. She was here on the invitation of the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Law Mr. K. Shanmugam.

Accompanied by a high-powered delegation which included Trade, Industry and Finance Minister Dr. Amit Mitra, chief secretary Sanjay Mitra and the Indian high commissioner in Singapore, Vijay Thakur Singh, she delivered a keynote address

at the West Bengal Business Forum. The forum was organised by the Singapore Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry in partnership with IE Singapore, the Confederation of Indian Industry and the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Miss Banerjee was here to attract investments to her East Indian state. She held a special audience with SICCI's Board members and CEO present at the forum

SICCI MEMBERS' TSUNAMI NETWORKING EVENT

SICCI's Chairman and Board of Directors were pleased to host a Members' Networking event on 29th July 2014 at Orchard Hotel Ballroom. This exclusive 'Members-Only' event was attended by over 100 SICCI members. SICCI also took this opportunity to welcome its new members who joined the Chamber between March and July 2014. The New members were presented with their Certificates of Membership by the Chairman.



MR. P. SUDHAKAR FROM HI-TECH ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION PTE LTD RECEIVING HIS MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN, DR. R. THEYVENDRAN.



MS. AKANKSHA FROM RAKS INTERNATIONAL PTE LTD RECEIVING HER MEMBERSHIP CERTIFICATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN, DR. R. THEYVENDRAN.



SICCI MEMBERS SEEN NETWORKING WITH EACH OTHER.

SICCI Chairman, Dr. R. Theyvendran also launched a 'Tsunami Networking' session where 10 members were selected to speak about themselves and their companies. Three lucky members, selected from this group, received Robinsons Gift Vouchers from the Chamber. This pioneer session, led by the Chairman, was very well received by the members.

The event was also graced by Guest Speaker Mr. Saket Misra, Managing Director and Head – International Banking, Royal Bank of Scotland. He enthralled the audience with his views on the new Government in India and its policies.



SICCI TO JOIN THE SG50 SPIRIT

Singapore is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its independence in 2015. To commemorate and celebrate this major milestone in our nation's history, SICCI will profile the SG50 logo in the letterhead for a start.

Over the past 50 years, businesses have played significant roles in developing Singapore's economy and in creating jobs for Singaporeans. As we look back on Singapore's journey, it is important that we celebrate how we have played a part, by contributing to improve the lives of Singaporeans and the success of Singapore.



NEW SBF CHAIRMAN VISITS SICCI

The Chamber had a high profile visit by the newly elected Chairman of the Singapore Business Federation (SBF) Mr. Teo Siong Seng, who has also been appointed as a Nominated Member of Parliament. He was accompanied by the CEO Mr. Ho Meng Kit. In the meeting with SICCI's Chairman Dr. R. Theyvendran and CEO Mr. George Abraham, the discussion centred on opportunities for greater collaboration between SBF and SICCI in trade and investment related activities. It was also suggested that SICCI take the lead in lining up activities for business related events in India.



SICCI APPOINTS AN INTERIM CONSULTANT CEO

Mr George Abraham who was the Executive Director of SICCI from 1980-2003 has been requested to assist as the Consultant CEO, albeit on an interim basis. His appointment will help SICCI to normalize the day to day functions and implement the plan of actions the new Board has for the Chamber.



SME CENTRE@SICCI

DELEGATES FROM SPRING SINGAPORE MEET UP WITH SICCI'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SPRING Singapore met SICCI Board of Directors on 18 July, 2014. From SPRING, Ms Chew Mok Lee, Assistant Chief Executive, Ms Chung Lai Thoe, Director, Enterprise Services Division (Partnership & Alliances), Ms Kay Sugino, Head (Partnership & Alliances) and Mr Eugene Chan, Senior Officer (Partnership & Alliances) attended the meeting. SPRING gave an overview of its role in developing the SME sector in Singapore and highlighted some of the grants & schemes SMEs could tap.

BUILDING BRAND AWARENESS THROUGH DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS

Today, people read text on ever-smaller screens, including tablets, smartphones and e-readers like the Kindle. However, with the growing number of ads online, companies are finding it challenging to attract their target audience. Held on 24th July, the seminar taught SMEs how to use digital communications to enhance their brand's awareness and participants understood how to develop a writing style for online platforms, ways to attract customers on the Internet and how to use language to their advantage. Held at SICCI's seminar room, the event attracted participants from a wide array of industries.

7 QUALITIES OF BUILDING CUSTOMER LOYALTY

In recent times, more SMEs have been playing close attention to customer service, striving to offer higher quality services and to secure their customers' loyalty. They have realised that achieving customer satisfaction has been proven to be one of the key strategies in winning the hearts of many of their customers. Held on the 31st July at SICCI's Seminar room, the event saw a heightened



SEATED FROM L TO R - MR. S MALAIAPPAN, DR R THEYVENDRAN, MR KIRPA RAM SHARMA & MR R PONNAMPALAM.
STANDING FROM L TO R - CAPT SUBHANGSHU DUTT, MR A DINAKARAN, MR ASHOK KHOSLA, MR J P JAISWAL, MR S V PADMANABHAN,
MR KUPPAN KARUPPIAH, MS HELEN CAMPOS, MR NEIL PAREKH, MR DEEPAK S SINGAPURI, MR AKBER ALI,
MR S PALANIAPPAN, MR C SANKARANATHAN & MR MOHAN DAS NAIDU.

YEN COMMITTEE 1ST BUSINESS CLINIC 23rd of July 2014



level of audience participation. In this second series on customer service, the seminar shared on how to raise customer satisfaction and to delight customers, highlighted techniques, principles and qualities required to maintain customer and how to ensure customer satisfaction and delight which will lead to higher customer retention.

ASPIRING ENTREPRENEURS GET A FILLIP

The recently formed Young Entrepreneurs Network (YEN) Committee is a unification of both successful and budding entrepreneurs. The committee has been formed with SICCI members who have similar goals and objectives, which is to promote Indian entrepreneurship in Singapore. Their first meeting was held in the SICCI boardroom on the 4th July 2014.

The YEN Committee conducted a 'Business Clinic' on 23rd July 2014 at the Chambers. The Committee met five aspiring entrepreneurs who shared their

experiences of facing a multitude of challenges to start their business ventures. All of them displayed a strong passion towards taking a leap of faith into entrepreneurship. Some had revolutionizing ideas too.

The committee is moving forth with a strong mandate to pair aspiring entrepreneurs with selected mentors from SICCI. These mentors will eventually guide them to their next stages of their ventures. The mentees, will be channelled to the SME Centre to avail the existing government grants and support.

The YEN Committee's ultimate vision is to convert aspiring entrepreneurs to become successful. With the core committee raring with ideas and a strong commitment towards attaining this goal, the entrepreneurial spirit among local Indian community is well set to receive a boost.

CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD: SICCI AND ITS DEDICATION TO ITS CONSTITUENTS

The new Board under the leadership of Dr. R. Theyvendran has set new directions for the Chamber to increase its effectiveness and reach and keep pace with the changes in the national and global economies.

The Chamber's mission has remained consistent over the years: that is, to provide the best service for the benefit of the increasingly diverse members.

To this end, the Chamber today has eight Sub-committees, which cover key areas of interest to its members and SICCI itself. They are:

(a) Professional Wing

Responsible for reaching out and engaging Indian professionals and businesses regularly

(b) Productivity and Innovation

Responsible for innovation and productivity-related initiatives by SICCI

(c) Membership Service and Networking

Responsible for addressing all matters related to members' needs and interests

(d) Beans and Pulses

Responsible for promoting the interests of Singaporean pulses traders

(e) Business Development

(f) Finance and Administration

(g) SICCI's women Indian Network

(h) SICCI's Youth Entrepreneurs' Network

Responsible for the strategic planning for activities of the Chamber's youth members

The Chamber also comprises four subsidiaries, which work together to promote the interests of its members by providing network opportunities and linkages that allow them to grow their businesses both in Singapore and other countries. They are:

(a) SME Centre@SICCI (until April 2013: EDC@SICCI).

Responsible to provide business advisory services to members and professionals to assist in the advancement of their businesses

(b) SICCI Trade Match

Responsible to connect the Chamber's members with suitable business partners, both locally and internationally



(c) SICCI Trade Documentation

Responsible for issuing, certifying and endorsing Certificates of Origin, Inward and Outward Permits, and other shipping documents

(d) SICCI Institute of Business

Responsible for assisting the Chamber's members and Singaporean businesses to gain essential knowledge and skill to boost their competitiveness. It holds workshops and seminars on a large variety of topics such as trade, marketing, finance management development and language skills.

THE FUTURE

The Chamber has come a long way in the last 80 years. Singapore has changed, the region has changed and the world economy has transformed itself beyond the imagination of the pioneering members. However, in the words of Mr R. Jumabhoy at the inaugural meeting of the Chamber in 1935, "This is the body which represents your business. Therefore, your co-operation to this Chamber is for your own welfare you are an important part of the backbone of this country and therefore your responsibility is greater."

The Chamber will continue to play a rallying role for the Singapore Indian business community. Indians have traversed this region for the last 3000 years and left indelible footprints through knowledge, religion, culture and commerce. A new breed of Indian entrepreneur has emerged combining inherited business acumen with the advantages of the knowledge economy, new technology and new skills.

Future objectives of the Chamber include assisting Indian businesses in Singapore to expand and diversify beyond the areas the Indian community has been traditionally dominant in, to boost membership interaction in its Members' Networking Sessions and to help young Indian entrepreneurs by getting them in touch with established business contacts.

SICCI's commitment towards its members and the Indian business community remains steadfast through the various networking events, market awareness programmes, business advocacy initiatives, training programmes, business advisory services, business match-making sessions and capability development programmes. These initiatives and events have continued to enable our members to explore local and global opportunities as well as generate new sources of businesses and income.

Whilst India will still feature predominantly in the Chamber's international outreach in the years to come, SICCI is at the same time aiming to send more missions to countries in the Middle East, South Africa and Eastern Europe. In the longer term, the Chamber hopes to reach out to China, South Korea and Japan as well. Partly organised independently by the Chamber, partly in unison with other Chambers and governmental bodies, these missions will offer a vital platform for Singaporean businesses that plan to expand internationally. In the meantime, the Chamber's traditional engagement with India would remain strong as more and more Singaporean companies eye markets in India for potential partners and clients and more Indian companies locate in Singapore to tap the region.

Given the direction that the Chamber has taken over the last eight decades, we can surely look forward to the Chamber continuing to play its rightful role in sustaining the economic growth and well-being of Singapore.