

March 2009

INSIDE:

CII & USA: MARCH 2009 EVENTS UPDATE

CII CEOs MISSION TO USA: 17- 19 MARCH: WASHINGTON DC AND NEW YORK

Mr. Sunil Bharti Mittal, Immediate Past President, CII, and Chairman and Group CEO, Bharti Enterprises led an 8-member CEOs delegation to the US from 17 to 19 March 2009. The delegation touched base with the new US Administration, business, and thought leaders in New York and Washington DC. The visit aimed at further strengthening of US- India bilateral ties and exploring new avenues of partnership and also focused on possible ways of reviving global economy through international collaboration.



Members of the CEOs delegation with Mr Lawrence Summers, National Economic Council, The White House



With Mr Robert Zoellick, President, The World Bank

In Washington DC, the CEOs met with key US Administration officials including: **Mr Lawrence Summers**, Director, National Economic Council; **Mr Timothy Geithner**, Secretary, Department of Treasury; **Ambassador Richard Holbrooke**, US Envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan and **Mr Jim Steinberg**, Deputy Secretary of State. On Capitol Hill, the delegation met with **Congressman Howard Berman**, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and **Congressman Gary Ackerman**, Chairman, House Sub-Committee on Middle East and South Asia . They also met with **Mr Robert Zoellick**, President, The World Bank. In New York, the CEOs met with their American counterparts at a meeting chaired by **Mr. Terry McGraw**, Chairman, Business Roundtable and

Chairman, President & CEO , McGraw Hill Companies and also had a session with **Dr Henry Alfred Kissinger**, Former Secretary of State and Chairman, Kissinger Associates.



CEOs at a meeting with Mr Jim Steinberg, Deputy Secretary of State. (L to R): Mr Richard Boucher, Assistant Secretary of State for South & Central Asian Affairs; Kiran Pasricha, Deputy Director General, CII; Vijay Thadani, CEO, NIIT; Tarun Das, Chief Mentor, CII; Sunil Kant Munjal; Chairman, Hero Corporate Services; Ambassador Arun Kumar Singh, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India; Jim Steinberg; Sunil Bharti Mittal, Leader of the delegation, and Chairman & Group CEO, Bharti Enterprise; Shobhana Kamineni, Executive Director, Apollo Group of Hospitals; C K Birla, Chairman, Hindustan Motors; Pawan Munjal, CEO and Managing Director Hero Honda Motors.

I. CII and USA:
March 2009
Events Update

II. CII-GBC Wins
Aspen Energy &
Environment
Award

III. US-India:
Bilateral
Update

IV. US Economic
Watch

V. Forthcoming
Events



Delegation members at a meeting with Congressman Gary Ackerman

In New York, CII and Asia Society in partnership with USIBC held a session on **'Global Economic Recovery: Need for Greater India US Partnership'**. USIBC also hosted a session on **'India and US: Partners in Global Economic Recovery'** in Washington DC. The CEOs participated in both the sessions reaffirming that US-India have come to be inevitable partners and the two nations must continue to collaborate to address the challenges confronting the world today.

The CEOs visit to USA, within 60 days of Obama Administration coming to power was reinforcement of CII's commitment to build stronger US-India relations encompassing economic, business, political and social dimensions. The importance of strong India-US relationship

was emphasized at every meeting during the visit. Enhanced cooperation in energy, climate change, education, healthcare, agriculture and urbanization was identified as cornerstone of strong bilateral relationship. The CEOs delegation underlined that India could be a strategic partner of the US in South Asia and Middle East. Special mention was made to enhance counter terrorism cooperation and to conclude the US-India Bilateral Investment Treaty. The CEOs also expressed that protectionism in the form of 'Buy America' provisions, H1-B visa restrictions or outsourcing restraints would only worsen the pain of economic crisis and undermine the gains of open trade realized thus far. Several meetings underscored the message that the US as a leader of open markets, free trade and globalization must demonstrate leadership in reviving global economy.

CII- IBF MEETINGS: 18 MARCH: WASHINGTON DC

In a day long program chaired by Mr David Good, Chairman, CII-India Business Forum (IBF) and Chief Representative, Tata Sons, USA, the members of IBF engaged with Organization for International Investment (OFII) and the East- West Center, participated at the USIBC session on **'Global Economic Recovery: Need for Greater India US Partnership'** followed by an interaction with **Ambassador Arun Kumar Singh**, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Indian Embassy in the US. The program also included a brief interaction with members of the CEOs delegation.



Members of the CII- India Business Forum with members of the CEOs delegation

At the meeting with **Ms Nancy McLernon**, President & CEO, OFII, the IBF members discussed implications of 'Buy American' policy, tax issues and the outsourcing debate, particularly regarding H1B visas and other issues concerning Indian companies operating in the US. OFII and IBF agreed to work together to address some of these challenges.

The meeting with **East West Center** (a Think Tank established by the US Congress) featured discussions on the **'Asia Matters for America'** initiative of the East West Center, which includes an innovative website and brochure-map demonstrating interactions between all U.S. States and Congressional Districts with forty countries in the Asia-Pacific. The East West Centre is currently working on creating individual country versions of the initiative focused on Australia, India, Japan, and Taiwan. CII-IBF members discussed the possibility of joint (CII/IBF-The East West Centre) India initiative, which might be called "India Matters for America".

Ambassador **Arun Kumar Singh**, in a separate interaction with IBF members, highlighted the need to work on sectors like GSP, IPR, Environment, Labour, Cap & Trade, Aviation, Food Safety etc. He also emphasized the need of engaging with US on Biofuels, Water, Nanotechnology and Education.



Panelists of the CII- US Embassy session on Solar Energy

SESSIONS WITH US SOLAR ENERGY TRADE MISSION: MARCH: NEW DELHI, JAIPUR AND AHMEDABAD

Making strides in promoting Indo-US cooperation in renewable energy, CII organized a series of interactive sessions with the US Solar Energy Trade Mission on 23 March in New Delhi, 24 March in Jaipur and 26 March in Ahmedabad. The delegation comprised of U.S. utility scale solar, solar photovoltaic, and solar project developers and suppliers, who met with Indian firms seeking commercial and investment partnerships. The session focused on encouraging investments in the sphere of solar energy and highlighted the immense potential of generating solar power in India. CII members briefed the US delegation about the developing legal and policy framework for solar energy in India such as the development of appropriate market mechanism like Renewable Energy Certificates. This

was the first initiative of the US government targeted directly at India's budding solar energy market and also the first time the U.S. Department of Commerce led a Solar Trade Mission to the states of Rajasthan and Gujarat. Key speakers included: **Mr William Zart**, Leader of the US Commercial Solar Trade Mission to India & Deputy Assistant Secretary, US Department of Commerce; **Mr Carmine D'Aloisio**, Minister Counselor-Commercial, US Embassy in India; **Dr Pramod Deo**, Chairman, Central Electric Regulatory Commission; **Mr Deepak Gupta**, Secretary, Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Government of India and **Mr Deepak Puri**, Deputy Chairman, CII (Northern Region) and Managing Director, Moser Baer India Ltd.

INTERACTION WITH KENTUCKY LEADERSHIP TRADE MISSION: 3 MARCH: NEW DELHI

CII hosted a Leadership Trade Mission from Kentucky, led by **Ms. Constance Lawson**, Governor of Richmond, Kentucky. The meeting brought forth the countless possibilities to boost bilateral trade and investment engagements between India and Kentucky across a wide array of sectors. The delegation comprised of state level government representatives, members from Chambers of Commerce, business leaders in corporate consultancy services and experts from the healthcare sector. While **Ms. Indrani Bagchi**, Diplomatic Editor, Times of India presented a perspective on US- India relations to the delegation. , CII

experts gave an overview of the Indian economy and the role of CII in facilitating economic change. CII also facilitated one-to-one meetings for some members of the delegation with retail companies based in Delhi and Mumbai.



Members of the Kentucky delegation with CII experts at the Kentucky Leadership Trade Mission meeting in Delhi



Panelists at the CII-US EXIM Bank interactive meet

US EXIM BANK INTERACTIVE MEET: 24 MARCH: AHMEDABAD

CII interactive meet with US EXIM Bank in Ahmedabad focused on disseminating information about how the EXIM Bank could facilitate Indian industry's efforts in procuring goods and services from the US. It was a highly informative session for member companies who gained knowledge on the kind of support that US EXIM Bank could provide for transport security, special credit facility for renewable

energy, procurement of engineering services by US Professionals, purchase of technology from US and procurement of space application programs for civilian use. The Indian side solicited support from the US EXIM Bank for the 6000 mega watt nuclear power plant planned in Bhavnagar, Gujarat and also for promoting the upcoming Gujarat International Finance Tech City Model, which presents an opportunity for American real estate developers and the Information, Communication and Technology companies.

CII- GBC WINS ASPEN ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT AWARD

CII- Sohrabji Green Business Center (GBC) in Hyderabad, India won the Energy and Environment Award in the NGO category, presented by the US- based Aspen Institute at the 2nd Annual Aspen Environment Forum on 27 March in Washington DC. The Award recognizes excellence of CII-Green Business Centre for making a real contribution to innovation, implementation, and communication of energy and environmental solutions. The Awards ceremony celebrated the success and provoked intellectually stimulating and productive thinking and conversations about ways to emulate and expand upon the success stories. The GBC is India's premier developmental institution offering advisory services in promoting green buildings and energy efficiency. ([More](#))

US-INDIA: BILATERAL UPDATE

- **India-US Trade (December 2008 - January 2009)** ([More](#))

Trade	Value \$ Billion
Total trade	2.97
US's exports to India	1.138
India's exports to US	1.83
India's Trade Surplus	6.92

- **Indian Foreign Secretary Visits USA:** Shiv Shankar Menon, India's Foreign Secretary, on a four day official-visit to the USA from 11- 15 March, met with top officials of Obama Administration. In the first Indo-US interaction with the new US administration, Mr. Menon met key Congressional leaders and discussed a wide collaborative agenda ([More](#))
 - **Sunil Bharti Mittal joins Carnegie Board of Trustees:** Sunil Mittal, Chairman and Managing Director, Bharti Group, has joined the Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a Washington think tank. ([More](#))
 - **India makes record defense purchase from US:** India has purchased eight Boeing Co P-8I maritime patrol aircraft, the largest U.S. arms transfer to India to date, costing \$2.1 billion. ([More](#))
 - **New Indian Consulate in Atlanta:** To boost trade, India will soon open a full-service consulate in Atlanta, drawn by Atlanta's growing clout as a business hub and its burgeoning Indian population, estimated at about 80,000. The office will make it more convenient to apply for Indian visas and likely boost Georgia trade with India as well. ([More](#))
-

US ECONOMIC WATCH

- **US Gross Domestic Product:** Real GDP decreased at an annual rate of 6.3% in the fourth quarter of 2008, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis. This follows a decrease of 0.5% in the third quarter. In the full year 2008, real GDP rose 1.1%, compared to 2.0% in 2007. ([More](#))
 - **US Employment Rate:** The U.S. unemployment rate in February 2009 reached 8.1%, the highest level since 1983. The stunning pace of job losses raises the possibility that perhaps as early as this summer, one in 10 Americans will be out of a job even though they are actively looking for work. ([More](#))
 - **U.S. international trade deficit in goods and services:** The total trade deficit in January 2009 declined 9.7%, to \$36.0 billion, down from \$39.9 billion in December, revised. Exports fell by 5.7% to \$124.9 billion, and imports declined by 6.7% to \$160.9 billion. ([More](#))
 - **Omnibus Appropriations Act of 2009:** Senate Approved \$410 Billion Bill to provide fiscal 2009 funding for nine federal departments, covering all government activities other than defense and homeland security-related agencies. Congress already has approved a \$700 billion financial bailout & a \$787 billion economic stimulus package. ([More](#))
-

CII- USA FORTHCOMING EVENTS: APRIL 2009

- Interaction with Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, US Envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan on 8 April in Delhi, India
- CII National Task Force on Internal Security interaction with Admiral (Retd) James Loy, Senior Counselor, The Cohen Group and Jack Noonan, CEO, SPSS Inc on 9 April in Delhi, India
- CII to support 'India Business Conference 2009' organized by Columbia Business School on 10 April in New York, USA
- Interactive Meet with Congressman Howard Berman, Chairman, House Foreign Affairs Committee and the accompanying Congressional delegation on 16 April in Chennai, India
- Meeting with Ambassador Meera Shankar, US Ambassador to India on 17 April in Delhi, India.

CONTACT US

US Office: 1700 North Moore Street, Suite 1928, Arlington VA, 22209; Phone: 703 807 0310, Fax: 703 807 0315

Email: sreekumar.nair@cii-usa.org

India Office: The Mantosh Sondhi Centre, 23 Institutional Area, Lodi Road, New Delhi – 110 003; Phone: 91-11-24629994-7 Fax: 24626149

Email: shruti.bhatia@cii.in