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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Readers,

I am delighted to share the January issue of the WTC newsletter which will provide a glimpse of the events and activities held at our Centers in Bengaluru, Kochi & Chennai. We are happy to inform you that we have recently laid the foundation stone for our third World Trade Center in Chennai. It will be a development of more than 1.8 million sq.ft. of premium office space spread across two towers with one being the tallest commercial structure in Chennai. It will be developed on a prime piece of land and is strategically located in the established IT hub, on OMR in Chennai. The project will be a landmark IT SEZ project consisting of premium retail and hotel within the campus, designed to provide world-class infrastructure for the 21st century workforce. Currently, we will operate from the Holiday Inn Express Hotel and we look forward to promote the economic region as a global destination for international businesses by complementing the efforts of the local Chambers and Associations at Chennai and help them to traverse to the global stage.



The sheer scale of GST makes it one of the most complex tax reforms attempted anywhere in the world. We, at WTC believe that the introduction of GST will result in a substantial lowering of transaction and logistics costs, apart from providing a much-needed boost to formalisation and tax compliance. The implementation of the newly enacted insolvency and bankruptcy law will have a similar impact, in terms of improving the overall ease of doing business in India.

India's GST is the first value-added tax to work entirely on an information technology and communications infrastructure. It takes ubiquitous computing and broadband access for granted. Invoices and returns have to be uploaded to the GST Network, where software will reconcile taxes paid on inputs with claims for credit for such taxes or reject them or even penalise them. It is best to view GST as another milestone in India's reform journey.

Apart from the introduction of tax reforms, we believe a thrust on the progressing MSME sector is much needed. India is home to more than 50 million Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), which represent diverse types of businesses, spread across the length and breadth of the country. The role of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the economic and social development of the country is well established. They contribute about 45% of the total manufacturing output and 40% of the exports from the nation. The sector provides employment to about 69 million people through 26 million enterprises throughout the country. Over 6000 products ranging from traditional to high-tech items are being manufactured by the MSMEs in the country. The labour to capital ratio in MSMEs and the overall growth in the sector is much higher than in the large industries. With regards to the success of the "Make In India" campaign, we believe that the MSME sector will play a pivotal role in it.

At our Centers in Bengaluru & Kochi, we have organised several events / activities covering topics such as GST implications on Exports / Imports, Smart Cities as well as on technology topics such as Blockchain, Robotic Process Automation, Big Data Analytics which are impacting how organisations do business nowadays. We have also been honoured to receive Delegations from Taiwan & Netherlands during this period.

We are also pleased to inform you that the Netherlands Business Support Office has recently opened their office at our World Trade Center in Bengaluru and we look forward to work with their team closely to promote the Indo-Dutch business ties.

As I now sign off, I look forward to your active participation & feedback in all the future endeavours of our WTCs.

Wish you and your families a very happy and prosperous new year!

Balaram Menon

President - World Trade Center Bengaluru, Kochi and Chennai
& Member - Board of Directors
World Trade Centers Association (WTCA), New York



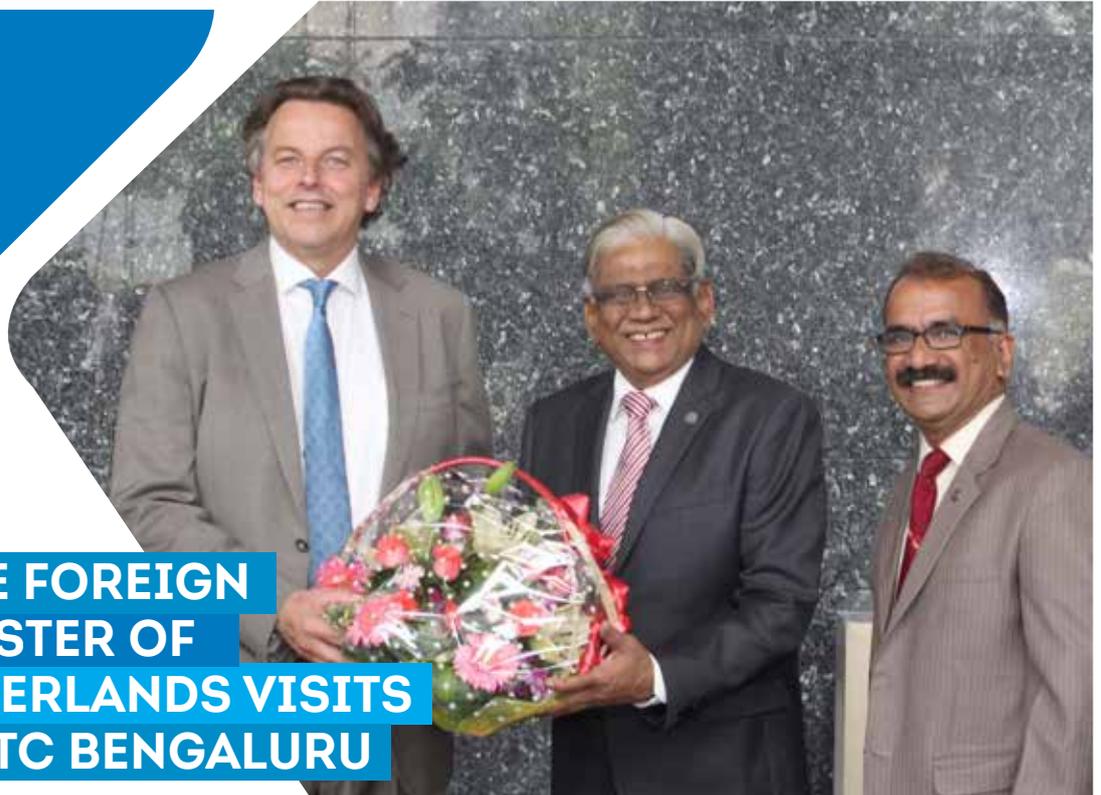
SMART URBAN PLANNING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri, Union Minister for Housing & Urban Development being felicitated by Mr. K J George, Minister for Bengaluru Development & Town Planning at the Smart Cities India Foundation and Public Affairs Centre seminar.

The other speakers during the inaugural session were Mr. Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, Govt. of India, Dr. A Ravindra, Former Chief Secretary, Govt. of Karnataka and Chairman, Smart Cities India Foundation and Mr. M R Jaishankar, Founder Member, Smart Cities India Foundation and Chairman, WTC Bengaluru & Brigade Group.

The Smart Cities India Foundation (SCIF) in association with Public Affairs Centre (PAC) organised a seminar on “Smart Urban Planning for 21st century: Challenges and Choice” with a focus on Bengaluru Draft Revised Master Plan on 14th December 2017. The event was supported by World Trade Center Bengaluru and Brigade Group. The day-long seminar also included thematic panel discussions that addressed the dynamics of mutual engagement between the Government, industry and civil society in urban planning. The seminar saw heads of parastatal organisations, urban planning and development experts along with real estate heads and deliberate on issues like land, housing, real estate, low cost housing to urban planning and sanitation. Representing the State Government at the seminar was Mr. K J George, the Minister for Bengaluru Development and Town Planning besides urban planning experts and other stakeholders.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chairman of SCIF & Director, Governing Council, PAC, Dr. A Ravindra reiterated the need for master plan approach and the exploration of other strategies. Mr. M R Jaishankar, Founder Member, Smart Cities India Foundation and Chairman, WTC Bengaluru & Brigade Group was of the view that the only way Bengaluru could sustain, is by developing, peripheral cities. Topics such as Central Government’s involvement, need for innovation and affordable housing were also touched upon by the speakers.



THE FOREIGN MINISTER OF NETHERLANDS VISITS WTC BENGALURU

His Excellency, Mr. Bert Koenders, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kingdom of Netherlands visited WTC Bengaluru and inaugurated the Netherlands Business Support Office on 7th May 2017. The Netherlands chose the city due to its significant potential in the areas of trade and investment, innovation and education. We want to do business in the city that's nicknamed "India's Silicon Valley", remarked the Minister.

The visit to Bengaluru by the Foreign Minister was a part of his four-day visit to India starting from 7th to 9th May 2017 to strengthen political and economic bilateral ties between India and Netherlands. Ranking amongst India's top ten trade partners, Netherlands is a major investor in Indian sectors like Technology, Energy, Logistics, Financial services and Transport.

Apart from Netherlands, The World Trade Center Bengaluru also houses the Consulate General of Canada.



IEEE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VISITS WTC BENGALURU

Mr. E James (Jim) Prendergast, Executive Director, IEEE visited World Trade Center Bengaluru on 3rd May 2017. The meetings between the leadership of WTC and IEEE explored various areas of collaboration which were intended to facilitate concerted efforts by different stakeholders within the ecosystem on emerging technologies, including joint programs between WTC & IEEE for the benefit of the engineering community as well as society at large. The meeting was also attended by Dr. A Ravindra, IAS - Former Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka. IEEE is the world's largest technical professional organisation dedicated to advancing technology for the benefit of humanity. The Indian Head Office of IEEE is based out of World Trade Center Bengaluru.

WORKSHOP ON BUILDING HIGH PERFORMANCE TEAMS



World Trade Center Bengaluru in association with Unique Consultants organised a training program on 'Building High Performance Teams' on 22nd May 2017. The Program was conducted by eminent trainer, Mr. V Aswatha Ramaiah, Founder of Unique Consultants, Bengaluru, who has conducted training programs for more than 300 organisations in India and abroad.

This workshop focused on the key skills and mindset required to succeed at the highest level and it provided managers the right nuances in developing their team leadership skills and unleash the talent of each individual team member.



DUTCH BUSINESS DELEGATION AT WTC BENGALURU

The Netherlands Business Support Office, a part of the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, New Delhi in association with World Trade Center Bengaluru hosted a high-level Business Delegation headed by Mr. Marten van den Berg, Vice Minister of the Netherlands for Foreign Trade on 20th June 2017 at Bengaluru. The delegation comprised of eight companies from varied sectors such as Water Management, Information Technology, Textiles, Healthcare etc. Apart from the seminar on doing business with the Netherlands, WTC Bengaluru also organised exclusive B2B sessions for each of the Dutch companies. During the same day, His Excellency, the Vice Minister and Mr. Vijay Bhaskar, Additional Chief Secretary to Government cum Development Commissioner, Government of Karnataka along with other senior officials from the Government of the Netherlands inaugurated the Consulate General office at the World Trade Center Bengaluru.

The event was followed by a trade networking dinner hosted by Mr. Alphonsus Stoelinga, the Ambassador of the Netherlands to India, Nepal & Bhutan in honour of the visiting delegation led by the Vice Minister at the Northern Terrace of the World Trade Center. Apart from Netherlands, the World Trade Center Bengaluru also houses the Consulate General of Canada.

INDO-AUSTRALIAN BUSINESS SUMMIT 2017



The Indo-Australian Chamber of Commerce in association with World Trade Center Bengaluru organised the Indo-Australian Business Summit 2017 on 23rd June 2017 at WTC Bengaluru. The theme for this year's summit was "Unlocking a New World of Opportunities". The summit was held in the background of a remarkable upsurge in the Indo-Australian trade relations during the past decade. Growing number of Australian companies are now expanding their footprints in India and even five Australian states (New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia) have already established their trade offices in India. Ms. Nirupa Shankar, Director, WTC Bengaluru was one of the speakers of the event who spoke on the opportunities of the Indo-Australian Business ties.

The summit focused on the trends and opportunities in a wide range of sectors in the Indo-Australian space including software development, back office operations, accounting outsourcing, telecommunications, innovative technologies, business set up for SMEs, business migration, investing in Australia, NRI market etc. The one-day event thus offered the most comprehensive program on doing business with Australia. Apart from a large number of Indian companies, the event had participants from Australia, New Zealand and Singapore.



World Trade Center Bengaluru hosted a business delegation from Taiwan on 18th August 2017. The delegation was led by Mr. Dave Tsai, Director of the Chennai office of World Trade Center Taipei. The business delegation consisted of 10 companies from Taiwan representing sectors specific to Internet-of-Things (IoT). The objective of the visit was to understand more on the smart city policies in India and the opportunities of Taiwanese companies to get involved in the upcoming Smart Cities in India.

The delegates had the opportunity to interact with Mr. C S Rao, Chairman & Co Founder, Quadgen Wireless Solutions Inc., who is an eminent personality in the area of telecommunication evolution in India. Mr. Rao briefed the delegates on the emerging opportunities in the smart city sector in India and areas wherein they could collaborate with Indian companies.



PRACTICAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM AT WTC BENGALURU

World Trade Center Bengaluru in association with Leverage, a leadership capability development firm conducted a program on 'Practical Leadership' on 26th July 2017. This daylong experiential program was offered as a part of the 'Leverage Learning Lab™' series. Despite abundant knowledge, information and resources available on leadership development, many organisations are still grappling with issues of converting this knowledge into action. The 'Learning Labs', are powerful sessions crafted by Leverage to address this. The program was designed to help participants understand the distinction between Management and Leadership. The learning elements were crafted to help them take small yet practical steps and embark on a meaningful leadership development journey.

Facilitated under a lab setting, the process helped participants experience, observe, reflect and learn the essentials, while committing to application and further learning. Participants were nudged to systematically build a model that can be applied at the workplace without the use of many frameworks and theoretical domains.

Participants drawn from different organisations appreciated the following aspects of the program:

- The simple, engaging and interactive design
- The opportunity to validate what was being learnt through the lens of different industries that they came from
- Practical tools to start being aware of and apply at the workplace



BUILDING POSITIVE WORK CULTURE IN ORGANISATIONS

World Trade Center Bengaluru in association with Unique Consultants organised a training program on 'Building Positive Work Culture in Organisations' on 27th July 2017. The program was conducted by renowned trainer, Mr. V Aswatha Ramaiah, Founder of Unique Consultants, Bengaluru.

The program dwelt on the importance of building positive work culture in organisations and practical guidelines to do so. Every element for building positive work culture was explained with case studies and examples. The participants found the training program very impactful, thought-provoking and practical. The course contents, presentation skills of the trainer and the training methodology were highly appreciated by the participants.



SESSION ON THE IMPACT OF GST ON EXPORTS & IMPORTS

World Trade Center Bengaluru in association with Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) and Engineering Export Promotion Council (EEPC) organised a session on the impact of GST on Exports & Imports on 30th August 2017. The Knowledge Partner for the event was Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan Attorneys. The session was addressed by Mr. Vijay Kumar ITS, Addl. DGFT - Bengaluru, Mr. Vivek Prasad, Addl. Director General, DGTS - Bengaluru and Mr. G Shivadass, Senior Executive Partner, Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan Attorneys. There were over 100 participants representing numerous companies from sectors such as Information Technology, Textiles, Construction, Engineering, Manufacturing etc.



COLLABORATIONS BETWEEN SELECTUSA & WTC BENGALURU

World Trade Center Bengaluru had an interactive meeting with the team from U.S. Commercial Service on 15th September 2017. The objective of the meeting was to discuss possible collaborations to promote the initiatives of SelectUSA in the regions of Bengaluru & Kochi. Ms. Manjushree Phookan, Senior Commercial Specialist & Director, U.S. Commercial Service, Bengaluru spoke about the growing interest of Indian companies, looking to expand into different markets in the United States of America.

WTC Bengaluru & Kochi will soon be organising joint roadshows to promote SelectUSA and how it can help, local companies understand the tools and resources available through SelectUSA, to make informed investment decisions.

WTC BENGALURU WELCOMES THE NEW CONSUL OF CANADA



WTC Bengaluru welcomed Mr. Eric Robinson, the new Consul and Senior Trade Commissioner of Consulate General of Canada in Bengaluru. Mr. Robinson during his assignment prior to Bengaluru, was working as an Alternate Permanent Representative of Canada to the Food and Agriculture Agencies of the United Nations in Rome for over 5 years.

The Consulate General of Canada in Bengaluru is the largest diplomatic mission in India after the High Commission in New Delhi. It caters to the States of South India such as Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.



WORKSHOP ON 5G WIRELESS NETWORKS & IoT

A Workshop on 5G Wireless Networks & IoT was organised at the World Trade Center Bengaluru on 3rd November 2017. The event was jointly organised by Consortium of Electronic Industries of Karnataka (CLIK) & eMERG. The speaker of the Workshop was Ms. Shashi Mariputtana, Director, Strategy & Business Planning, Intel Corporation, USA.

The speaker presented an overview on how 5G goes beyond smart phones, in Enterprises, driving new business opportunities with ultra-reliability and low latency, massive M2M connectivity and enhanced mobile broadband citing examples from Manufacturing, Healthcare and Airlines. Other eminent speakers such as Ms. Uma Reddy, Founder & Ex-President, eMERG, Mr. Mohandas U, President, CLIK and Mr. Balam Menon, President, World Trade Center Bengaluru also spoke at the event.



INFRABUILD 2017

Spark Economy Research Centre (SERC) organised INFRABUILD 2017 on the Theme: Role of Civil Engineering in Infrastructure Development on 24th & 25th November 2017 at the World Trade Center Bengaluru. The seminar was attended by experts, professionals connected to Infrastructure Development in the country. The Chief Guest & Keynote Speaker at the seminar was Prof. B R Srinivasa Murthy, Chairman - Taskforce on Quality Assurance in Public Works - Government of Karnataka, the renowned expert in the areas of PPP, expert from Infrastructure Development Department, Government of Karnataka, Mr. Lalit Chugh was the Guest of Honour at the seminar.

There were over 100 delegates who attended the seminar, discussing pertinent issues under topics like Roads, Pavements, Flyovers, Highways, Metro Railways, Bridges & Tunnels, Public Utilities, Buildings, Malls, Sustainable Energy and Urban Environmental Issues.



COLLABORATIONS WITH THE THAI TRADE CENTER

The officials from the Thai Trade Center, Mumbai, Royal Thai Consulate - General, led by Ms. Suwimol Tilokruangchai, Executive Director & Consul Commercial visited World Trade Center Bengaluru to explore possible collaborations to promote Trade & Business opportunities between both regions. WTC Bengaluru also organised an interaction for them with the officials from Amazon Global Sales Team to explore the possibility of bringing on board sellers & buyers from Thailand, those who are interested in exploring the Indian market.



SEMINAR ON BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY

The World Trade Center Kochi organised a session on Blockchain Technology. The program was conducted at WTC Kochi on 30th May 2017. UST Global was the Knowledge Partner for the event. The objective of the program was to update the IT community on the concept of Blockchain Technology and its implications on business. The seminar was presided by Mr. Praseed Pai, Sr. Solutions Architect - UST Global, Thiruvananthapuram.



TALK ON CONVERSATIONAL USER INTERFACE

The World Trade Center Kochi in association with The National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) organised an interactive session on Conversational User Interface. The session was conducted on 27th September 2017 as a part of the knowledge sharing series of WTC Kochi. Mr. Rajeev M A, Enterprise Architect, Tata Consultancy Services and heading the AI lab in TCS Kochi was the main speaker.

The primary objective of the program was to update the IT community on the trending subject 'Conversational User Interface' (CUI). It was an opportunity for participants to clarify their queries and get more information on how CUI is evolving with the advancements in Artificial Intelligence.



**TWITTER DEVELOPER
COMMUNITY MEETUP
OCTOBER 17 EDITION**

WTC Kochi organised the October meet of Kochi Twitter Developer Community. This was jointly done with IEEE Kerala Young Professionals on 28th October 2017 at WTC Kochi.

There were two sessions on “Webpack & Babel JS” and on “Building RESTful APIs”. The developers had the opportunity to network during the event. In addition to this, exclusive updates from Twitter Developer Team and goodies were given to the participants.



**TALK ON HR
AUTOMATION
AND ANALYTICS**

A talk on HR Automation and Analytics was organised by the WTC in Kochi on 9th November 2017. This program was organised jointly with GreyTip HR and Backwater Capital. Mr. Lakshmi Narayan, Founder & Director-Build HR Consultants, Chennai was the key speaker. Mr. Narayan said that automation will redefine jobs and companies that are already in the process of transformation. He also touched upon the evolution in the HR domain and the relevance of using analytical tools to boost productivity.

The event was attended by delegates from Manufacturing, IT, Finance, Telecom and Automobile sectors. GreyTip HR is a HR software company that enables HR departments to leverage IT for both effectiveness and efficiency. Their solutions cover all areas including employee information management, leave and attendance management, training, appraisals etc. Backwater Capital is an investment advisory firm providing tailor made transaction support and investment banking services to the SME & MSME sectors, with presence in Kochi and Dubai.



WTC KOCHI INKS MoU WITH TiE KERALA

WTC Kochi, on 11th November 2017, signed a MoU with TiE Kerala at the TiEcon Kerala 2017. Through this, both organisations have agreed to collaborate in facilitating and fostering entrepreneurship development in the State. Mr. Balaram Menon, President of WTC Kochi and Mr. Rajesh Nair, President-TiE Kerala signed the MoU.

The Indus Entrepreneurs, Kerala Chapter (TiE Kerala), part of TiE Global, a not-for-profit organisation, focuses on nurturing entrepreneurs. It is a global community which is committed to change the face of entrepreneurship and thereby grow business. TiE was founded in 1992 by a group of successful entrepreneurs in Silicon Valley and is currently the world's largest entrepreneurial organisation.



TALENT ENGAGEMENT IN A FLAT AND VIRTUAL WORLD

The World Trade Center Kochi along with Ernst & Young LLP (EY) conducted a talk on 'Talent Engagement in a Flat and Virtual World' on 30th November 2017 at Holiday Inn Hotel, Kochi. Mr. Rajesh Nair, Executive Director - Markets and Business Development - EY LLP spoke at the event.

Mr. Rajesh Nair touched upon the shifts in the ways of working using some interesting case studies. He also shared his thoughts on the HR processes starting from recruitment and how each one of them have changed with technology. The session provided insights for HR professionals on better retainment and engagement of talent in their companies, updates on the latest trends and processes for talent engagement and also shared best practices using case studies. The event was attended by HR professionals from various companies in and around Kochi. It was a mixed crowd comprising of MNCs to startups, WTC Kochi tenant companies, consultants etc.



The World Trade Center Kochi was the Trade and Investment Partner at the recently concluded Trade Expo GMCV (Global Manufacturing Cluster Vision) 2030 at Coimbatore. The event was organised by INTEC and Coimbatore District Small Industries Association (CODISSIA) on 2nd June 2017 to encourage and connect Indian manufacturers to the global market. The 8th edition of the Conclave was themed 'Evolution Through Innovation'.

Mr. Balam Menon, President - World Trade Center Bengaluru and Kochi was one of the speakers at the event and his session emphasised on how WTC can help manufactures connect globally. The conclave was a part of the Annual Expo for Manufacturing and Machine Tools that was organised at CODISSIA Exhibition Center Coimbatore.



The World Trade Center Kochi in association with The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) and KPMG India organised a full day seminar titled 'Interactive Session on GST - Transition and the way forward' in Ernakulam on 9th June 2017. The seminar was held at Taj Gateway Hotel, Marine Drive, Ernakulam.

Mr. Pullela Nageswara Rao IRS, Chief Commissioner of Central Excise - Customs and Service Tax, Kerala inaugurated the seminar. GST is the new tax reform which has been implemented from 1st July 2017 in India. It offers uniform rates across the country which is expected to reduce tax burden on businesses, simplify processes and eventually cut down on the compliance costs which will bring in more transparency. The session was an opportunity for the participants to interact with the speakers and clarify their queries on how GST could impact the various sectors in Kerala.



SEMINAR ON ROBOTIC PROCESS AUTOMATION

As part of the knowledge sharing series at World Trade Center Kochi, a seminar on Robotic Process Automation was organised on 27th July 2017. KPMG India was the knowledge partner for this program.

Robotic Process Automation (RPA) is the new buzzword in the IT industry as it promises to bring in a shift in the traditional way of doing business. It mainly refers to sophisticated computer software that automates rule-based processes without the need for constant human supervision. RPA is seen as a catalyst for business process transformation and innovation as it helps companies simplify work, collect valuable data and drive continuous improvement. Mr. Shailesh Indapurkar, Associate Director, KPMG Bangalore was the speaker. He explained the impact RPA can bring in different domains and advised the participants on how to evolve with this new technology. The session was attended by tech companies, startups and subject enthusiasts.



VISIT OF FOUNDER PRESIDENT OF TiE KERALA

Mr. S R Nair, Founder President - The Indus Entrepreneurs (Kerala Chapter) and renowned Mentor visited WTC Kochi on 18th August 2017. Mr. Nair is a passionate entrepreneur, author, adjunct professor and mentor. The team led by Dr. Bose K Nair, Vice President - WTC Kochi received him. His visit was mainly centred around ways in which World Trade Centers can cater to and facilitate the business requirements of startups in Kerala.



INTERACTIVE MEETING WITH FEDERAL BANK

Dr. Bose K Nair, Vice President, WTC Kochi visited the Federal Bank Head Quarters in Aluva on 11th August 2017. Dr. Nair met Mr. Ashutosh Khajuria, Executive Director and Chief Financial Officer, Federal Bank Ltd. The meeting was mainly to discuss and identify areas where WTC Kochi can connect with Federal Bank. Federal Bank is presently the largest private sector commercial bank in Kerala and is the first bank in the private sector to introduce, an Industrial Finance Branch.



FOSTERING BUSINESS RELATIONS WITH CANADA

The Consulate General of Canada along with the World Trade Center Kochi and FICCI organised a meeting with Mr. Parthi Muthukumarasamy, Senior Trade Commissioner and Counsellor (Agriculture & Agri-Food) and Consulate General of Canada-Mumbai on 12th October 2017.

The focus points were Food Processing & Agro sectors. He was accompanied by Mr. Nitin Verma, Counsellor (Agriculture & Technical Specialist) and Mr. Kapil Malhotra, Trade Commissioner, Consulate General of Canada - Bengaluru.

Dr. Bose K Nair, Vice President delivered the welcome address and Mr. Savio Mathew made the opening remarks. Attended by leading food processing companies from Kochi, Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam, Kottayam and Thrissur, the session gave insights on how to connect with Canadian companies and explore opportunities for their respective products. After the session, Business to Business meetings were also organised with the Consulate officials.

WTC KOCHI BAGS THE BEST COMMERCIAL PROJECT AWARD



World Trade Center Kochi bagged the 'Best Commercial Project' award at the 9th Realty Plus Excellence Awards (South) 2017. The award is indeed a testimony of this landmark real estate project. The award was received by Mr. Vinod V, General Manager - Projects at the conclave held in Bengaluru on 30th November 2017.

In addition to this Mr. M R Jaishankar CMD, Brigade Group was awarded the 'Scroll of Honour' for his contributions to the real-estate sector while Ms. Nirupa Shankar, Director, Brigade Hospitality, won the 'Woman CXO of the Year' award.



VISIT OF THE OFFICIALS FROM THE U.S. CONSULATE GENERAL

Mr. James M Fluker, Commercial Consul & Principal Commercial Officer - South India, U.S. Consulate General, Chennai along with Mr. Rahul Padmanabha, Lead - SelectUSA visited WTC Kochi on 6th December 2017. The meeting focussed on the overall business scenario in Kerala and identified several areas of mutual interest for both India and USA. Mr. Prasad Balakrishnan, CEO - Maker Village also participated in the meeting and gave an overview of the Emerging Entrepreneurship Ecosystem of Kerala. Mr. Fluker was also accompanied for a tour of WTC Kochi, to help understand more about the facilities and services that it offers.



BIG DATA ANALYTICS PREDICTIVE & MACHINE LEARNING SYSTEMS

The World Trade Center Kochi, as part of its Knowledge Sharing Series, organised a joint session with IEEE (The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) on 'Big Data Analytics - Predictive & Machine Learning Systems' in WTC Kochi on 4th October 2017.

Mr. Vijay Nair, Chief Technology Officer - Assyst International Pvt. Ltd., was the main speaker. According to him, Big Data technologies such as Hadoop and Cloud-based analytics bring significant cost advantages when it comes to storing large amounts of data. Additionally, one can identify more efficient ways of doing business. The program was attended by IEEE Members, Infopark Companies and Tech enthusiasts.



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WTC CHENNAI FOUNDATION STONE LAYING CEREMONY

Brigade Group, the promoters of World Trade Center Bengaluru and Kochi, achieved another milestone in its strategic expansion plans with the foundation stone laying ceremony of the World Trade Center Chennai in the presence of its joint venture partner, Government of Singapore Investment Corporation (GIC) on 9th June 2017.

World Trade Center Chennai will be a development of more than 1.8 million sq.ft. of premium office space spread across two towers, with one being the tallest commercial structure in Chennai. It will be developed on a prime parcel of land and will be strategically located in the established IT hub of OMR. The project will be a landmark IT SEZ project in Chennai consisting of a premium retail space and hotel within the campus, designed to provide world-class infrastructure for the 21st century workforce. The master plan is developed by world renowned design, architecture, engineering & planning firm - HoK from New York, USA.

The Chief Guest of the ceremony was Dr. M K Shanmuga Sundaram, IAS - Development Commissioner MEPZ, Government of India and the Guest of Honour was Mr. Roy Kho - Consul General of Singapore in Chennai. The august audience was also addressed by Mr. M R Jaishankar, Chairman & MD - Brigade Group, Mr. Lee Kok Sun, CIO - GIC Real Estate, Singapore, Mr. Kishore Gotety - Country Head, India, GIC Real Estate and Mr. Balaram Menon, President - WTC Bengaluru, Kochi, Chennai & Board Member, WTCA New York.



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