

Karnataka Economic Forum Panel Discussion held - Monday, September 7, 2009

The Bangalore Chamber of Industry and Commerce (BCIC) is planning to organize “**Karnataka Economic Forum Summit**” during the month of January 2010 similar to the Indian Economic Forum (IEF). This initiative has been taken to bring forth the State of Karnataka back to its past glory as the Country’s most favourite industrial destination. This Forum would deliberate in detail on the problems and issues confronted by the Industry who are planning for new investments in the State and also ensure that the State Government provides conducive climate to attract them. This Summit will clearly spell-out the advantages the State has to offer as well as the bottlenecks and other issues which are being faced by the Industry which is hindering the investments into the State.

In this regard, Bangalore Chamber of Industry & Commerce organized a panel discussion on September 7, 2009 comprising the following prominent panelists: Mr. Subir Hari Singh, Principal Secretary, Infrastructure Department, GOK; Dr. A. Ravindra, Advisor to the Hon’ble Chief Minister of Karnataka; Mr. M.K. Ramachandra, Past President, BCIC and Managing Director, Krishna Foods Pvt. Ltd.; Mr. S Chandrasekhar, Past President, BCIC and Managing Director, Boruka Power Corpn. Ltd; Mr. F.R. Singhvi, Director, Sansera Engineering Pvt Ltd; Mr. Vivek Kulkarni, Chairman & CEO, Brickwork India Pvt Ltd; Mr. A N Chandramouli, CEO, Makino India Pvt Ltd; Dr. R S Deshpande, Director, Institute for Social and Economic Change, Bangalore; Dr. Elumalai Kannan, Associate Professor, Agriculture Development and Rural Transformation Centre, ISEC, Bangalore.

The meeting began with a welcome address by Mr.H.V Harish, Chairman, Economic & Corporate Affairs, BCIC. Mr.H.V Harish presented a brief outline/ plan of the Karnataka Economic Forum. He emphasized on the active involvement of Academicians, Government and International Consultants in the event. He said that the ultimate aim of the event should reiterate on Corporate Social Responsibility.

Dr. Deshpande, Director, Institute of Social & Economic Change (ISEC) informed all the members about similar forums that have been formed in other States like Maharashtra and Haryana. The Economic Forum in the above mentioned States are organized successfully without the official involvement of the Government. Members supported Dr. Deshpande and the members were of the view that “Karnataka Economic Forum” should be an individual program where help should be sought from Government and Industry. However, the event will be organized under BCIC banner solely. It was also discussed that Karnataka Economic Forum should be an annual event and a separate body for the Forum need to be created. Few of the members also suggested that the Karnataka Economic Forum shall be launched during the “Global Investors Meet” to be held on January 11 & 12, 2010.

Relevant Economic Data and policies of other States and other developing countries, especially the neighbouring ones need to be gathered to help create a database for the program.

Dr.Ravindra stated that Infrastructure development is restricted only to Bangalore while Infrastructural growth in other cities of Karnataka is being neglected. According to him, The Karnataka Economic Forum should take up issues of the Land Reform Act, Infrastructure growth and development of other backward areas of Karnataka to make an overall economic development of the State. He further stated that a SWOT Analysis of the State of Karnataka will help in bringing out the Advantages and help in addressing problems / issues that are preventing the economic growth of the State. Dr.Ravindra also suggested that the Chamber should work in close coordination with the State Government to make this event more eventful and successful.