



ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012

The Administrative Board of the Indian Business and Professional Council (IBPC) is pleased to present this Annual Report at the 10th Annual General Meeting of the IBPC, Dubai on Saturday 31st March 2013.

The 5th IBPC Administrative Board is glad to pass on the information received from Dubai Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) mentioning the new decree issued by H.H. The Ruler of Dubai, **changing the status of Business councils** in Dubai. We are grateful to the Rulers for the decree amending the DCCI laws, allowing the chamber to register and organize the non-governmental economic and professional entities. With the new status, a 'License' will replace the current 'Permit' from DCCI. A million thanks to DCCI for pursuing at various forums, our requests to allow IBPC to own a multi-purpose office premises. With the new license, IBPC can function like any other company and purchase an office premises. DCCI intends to finalize the finer details by end of first quarter of the year.

We have been working on **payment portal for our website**. With the changed status of the council, this will also become a reality soon as the only hurdle in the process (not having a License) will now get removed. Members will then be able to renew their subscription online.

New initiatives **adding value to membership** have been undertaken for the first time by IBPC. **Jet Airways** now offers a 10% discount in airfare and fuel surcharge to IBPC members and their dependents. **New India Assurance Company** has followed suit by offering a 20% discount on Personal Health, Car and Accident insurance policies to all IBPC members and their families. **Pinnacle Knowledge Group** has agreed to extend 20% concession in fees for 'VproV's Founder coaching' in Dubai to IBPC members and their wards. We thank Jet Airways, New India Assurance Company and Pinnacle Knowledge Group for their offers. We will devise ways to incorporate these in the membership cards, which so far provides dining discounts only.

Each issue of our magazine **ProBiz** has continued to improve and has drawn more praise members as well as non-members. The Republic day issues, with HH Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum on the cover, made history by being the biggest ever ProBiz published, having a record of 76 pages!. The March issue of ProBiz, even though ready, will probably be circulated later, after the AGM for ethical reasons.

The 5th IBPC Administrative Board is also pleased to inform you that we have been conducting quality events, pertinent to various sectors of industry and all age groups. This year ends with **34 events** – a record by itself. Each one of our events was better than the one before and all the events have been well appreciated by members as well as guests. Recession or no recession, in the face of escalating costs, as the figures talk, we not only performed, we performed effectively and ended the year with a high note – with a surplus of over half a million dirhams during the year.

Our clan continues to grow - a record number- **75 new members including 6 ladies** joined IBPC during 2012. The visible change being, more and **more young** businessmen & professionals joining us, the average age as well as the gender inequality of IBPC has come down significantly.

IBPC team continued its winning spree at The **Ambassadors Cup – Golf Tournament**. **For the second consecutive year IBPC team** won both the rounds of The **Ambassadors Cup – Golf Tournament** hosted by Australian Business Council in association with Dubai Chamber by record points.

The trade and investment opportunities that abound in **Ras Al Khaimah** were showcased at an insightful presentation by Dr Khatar Massaad, CEO **RAKIA**, made to IBPC members on 7th May 2012 at Shangri La Hotel.

During 2012, one of the most important initiative by the current board, '**Business After Hours**' was flagged off on June 09th 2012 at the prestigious World Trade Club. Following the roaring success of the first ever pure net-working event, the sessions have since been conducted continuously on monthly basis on every second Saturday. Two full hours of quality net-working is certainly, net-worthing. As the event matured more features were added. In addition to the raffle draw, two more firsts were introduced - Investiture ceremony for the new members and 50 seconds power point shot for first five members pre-registering for the event. The new members are introduced and welcomed with a membership kit. Members use their 50 seconds opportunity to highlight their business to those present. The feature packed event has been an overwhelming success.

The Executive Director of **India Trade Promotion Organization**, New Delhi Mr. Neeraj Kumar Gupta IAS had an interactive session with the IBPC Board Members & the External Relations Director of Dubai Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI), Mr. Hassan Al Hashemi in the presence of Consul General, H E Mr. Sanjay Verma.

H.E Lt. Gen. Dhahi Khalfan Tamim, Commander in Chief – Dubai Police delivered a memorable presentation on "**Dubai - City of Gold**" for IBPC members on 27th June 2012 at Crowne Plaza, Hotel. Era this, never in the history of IBPC was a speech delivered in Arabic and live translated into English. Another heartening record was, a jam-packed ballroom half an hour before the scheduled time – reflecting respect and affection of the community for the visiting dignitary.

An Interactive Session with a high powered **Government of Kerala** delegation headed by Mr. Somasundaran, Additional Chief Secretary (Industries & Commerce) and Mr. Alkesh Kumar Sharma, Secretary (Industries) promoting '**Emerging Kerala 2012**' was held at Ritz Carlton, DIFC on 9th July 2012. The main focus of the meet was to showcase investment opportunities in Kerala and to position Kerala as an 'Investor Friendly Destination' with a proactive government and administration in place.

In the holy month of Ramadan, IBPC invited its members & spouses for a Suhoor Dinner along with a traditional Ramadan Music to commemorate **India's 66th Independence Day** on Wednesday, 15th August 2012, at 9.00 PM at Hotel Ritz Carlton, DIFC, Dubai. The event was graced by the Chief Guest **H.H. Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister for Education and Scientific Research, Government of UAE**. The evening was also attended by the Indian Ambassador, Indian Consul General, eminent dignitaries and diplomats from several countries.

3rd Inter-Business Council Networking Event "**Back to Business**" organized in association with American Business Council was held on 10th September, 2012 at Jumeirah Creekside Hotel, Dubai. More than a thousand members from business councils of several countries attended the event

IBPC, under the aegis of the consulate General of India in Dubai, organised a seminar on '**investment opportunities in Gujarat**' at Ritz Carlton on 24th September 2012. A 10-member high level delegation from Gujarat, led by Mr Kamal Dayani, Industries Commissioner, Government of Gujarat, showcased investment and business opportunities to leading industrialists and businessmen of Dubai, followed by a series of B2B meetings in Sharjah and Abu Dhabi to promote Gujarat on the eve of **Vibrant Gujarat Summit**, scheduled from January 11 to 13, 2013

A special gathering on 3rd October 2012 at hotel Crown Plaza, to hear **Mr. T.K.A Nair, Advisor to the Prime Minister, Government of India**. Nair encouraged the Indians abroad, especially from the GCC region to actively participate, financially and intellectually to support the massive requirements of building physical and social infrastructure in the country.

A special address by **Mr. Kapil Sibal, Union Cabinet Minister, for Human Resource Development, Communication and Information technology, Government of India** on October 14, 2012 at Crown Plaza, Dubai. Mr. Sibal spoke about the important parameters of India's growth and shared with the audience a review of the long-term interest of India, how does the present government want to go about it and what are the hurdles in the process.

A Presentation on **Emerging risks: Cyber Liability – Protection and Prevention** by **Mr. Takamasa Makita, Legal Director, Clyde & Co LLP** on 4th December, 2012 at Oudh Metha Ballroom, Movenpick Hotel, Bur Dubai . Legal professionals in UAE have urged the companies to be vigilant about the nature of cyber-crime and take necessary precautions not only to avoid it but also to retain confidentiality of information, prevent loss of data and maintain reputation of the firm

What is in store for the economy in the year ahead was discussed after lucid presentations on **'What to expect in 2013' India's Outlook** by **H E Mr. Sanjay Verma, Consul General of India to Dubai & Dubai's Outlook'** by **Mr. Thaddeus Malesa, Dubai Chamber** on 12th December, 2012 at Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dubai.

A seminar on **'The Legal System of Dubai'** on 20th December, 2012 at Ritz Carlton, DIFC, Dubai. **H E Dr Ahmed Saeed Salem Bin Hezeem, Director General, Dubai Courts** delivered a presentation on the "Judicial & Administrative Excellence in Dubai Courts" which was followed by presentations by **H E Judge Ali Shamis Al Madhani**, Senior Judge, DIFC Courts, Mr. Nizar Fadhlouli, Registrar, DIFC-LCIA Arbitration Centre and Ms. Korinna Vonthotha, Manager, case management unit, DAIC. Legal experts shared an enlightening picture of the Emirates legal system which has come a long way and is set to become a matured world-class system in few years time.

Dubai being a world class 'Cruise Terminal' with several cruises visiting Dubai, IBPC Dubai has seized the opportunity to be first and signed up with a **Costa cruises** a highly preferential deal for the members and their families. That marks one more of the 'Firsts' for IBPC! IBPC Dubai offered its members a novel opportunity to network to a captive audience while enjoying sailing along the scenic Arabian Gulf.

On January 28 IBPC celebrated the 64th **Republic Day of India** at Ritz Carlton, DIFC Continuing our tradition, to salute **distinguished seniors** who many years back, embarked upon their chosen mission with vision, grit, dedication & determination and to reiterate their leadership position in the business and professional world, Senior Businessmen & Professionals were felicitated on the occasion. Highlight of the evening was a grand musical program by renowned Kathak exponent Vidha Lal and her group, who were specially flown in from India for the occasion. Ball-room jam-packed with a record number of IBPC members, guest and dignitaries was testimony to the interest of our members.

February started with our ever popular, regular monthly event **"Business After hours"** on Saturday the 9th.

IBPC Dubai organized a mega-event on Sunday, 17th February, 2013 at 11.30 AM at Hotel Ritz Carlton, DIFC, Dubai, hosting **"INDIA - UAE Trade Summit"** graced by **H E Anand Sharma, Minister of Commerce & Industry, Government of India** and **HE Sheikha Lubna bint Khalid Al Qasimi, UAE Minister for Foreign Trade**". A record number of guests attended the event.

History was created on February 23rd when five eminent speakers discussed **SME – Opportunities & Challenges** at a seminar. While Mr. K V Ramamoorthy, CEO, Bank of Baroda discussed Opportunities & Challenges for SMEs, Mr. Thaddeus Malesa, from DCCI gave Guidelines for Enhancing SME Finance. Shridhar Sampath, Business & Financial Skills coach enlightened members with 'The Five Secrets to SME Breakthrough Success'. Inspirational Speaker Dr R Durgadoss talked of an entrepreneurial perspective 'Failure is an Option, but Fear is not'. Mr. Bharat Bhatia, CEO, Conares Metal Supply Ltd talked of the secrets of his success story.

On 28th February, IBPC members discussed at a breakfast meeting, the **annual Indian Budget** after viewing the live telecast. Padamshri CA T.N. Manoharan gave his expert comments.

Continuing the trend of the past year, this year also On March 5th IBPC organized a **Post Budget Panel Discussion** in association with Times Now which will be on Times Now and ET Now channel globally. The event was attended by a record crowd.

March 09th saw the final “**Business After hours**” a net working session loved by one and all.

Efforts are on to sum up the year with an event which will go down in the history as the best ever. If things fall in place, end of March 2013, we may have Prime Minister of India, HE Man Mohan Singh, to address the distinguished members of IBPC - marking the first ever visit by a Prime Minister of India for over three decades.

We would like to place on record our heartfelt gratitude to our Patrons, H.E. the Ambassador of India, Mr. M.K. Lokesh, Honorable Consul General of India, Mr. Sanjay Verma, H.E. Mr. Mirza Al Sayegh, Director of the Office of H.H. Sheikh Hamdan bin Rashid Al Maktoum, H.E. Mr. Hamad Buamim, Director General of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce & Industry and his colleagues for their unstinted and ever available support to the IBPC.

We thank each one of our members for their constant encouragement and support, which made us walk the talk on the road to excellence.

Our sponsors deserve a special vote of thanks for standing by us despite the recession. But for their support we would not have been able to organize a record number of events.

To sum up, the year of the Lord, 2012 saw IBPC as more vibrant and more visible. If not more, it was as eventful as 2011. India UAE had added warmth in relations. Bilateral Trade figures jumped up to US \$ 200 million a day!

Long live India - UAE friendship!



Dr Bharat Butaney
President



Kulwant Singh
Secretary General