



FICCI E-NEWS

VOL. 12 | FEBRUARY 2022

"BE SEEN & BE HEARD"

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE:

By Lal Tulsiani
VP Internal
Time Flies

Time flies. Our term looks very different from the one we envisioned before taking over. The pandemic forced us to change and get creative in addressing the new call of our members and country.

As V.P. Internal, I am focused on coordinating with our Secretariat to ensure that the office is in a position to serve our members well, capable of providing support needed by Directors to fulfill their tasks and attend to all routine matters that an organization faces. Covid19 made it a challenge considering your board had to request the Secretariat to Work From Home.



Kudos to our Executive Director, Ms Ella Gan, who adapted to the various changes in Protocols thru the past couple of years in Pandemic. Along with her assistant Ella worked hard

to coordinate with members, Government agencies, Non Profit Organizations, Health Service Providers, handled new member applications, addressed various challenges in the Vaccination drive of our members. Time was made for Accounting, Banking, Payroll processing, and other routine tasks. Signing up for Zoom and Online banking was a blessing.

Assisting V.P. Shankar Sinha in the Membership Committee and welcoming several new members was a delight. I had the opportunity of being a small part of the team that assisted our multi talented, V.P. Sharon Vaswani in FICCI's advocacies and FICCI @ 70 Celebrations. Deep gratitude to all the members who supported such advocacies and events.

It has been a pleasure serving under President Mike who worked tirelessly to coordinate every aspect of FICCI's activities. My fellow Directors were a delight to work with. A special mention to Chairman Rex Daryanani whose mentorship has been invaluable in ensuring our deliverables.

Time flies and we will soon be preparing for our Turnover. So it's timely for me to end by thanking FICCI members for this opportunity to serve them.

BEGINNING OF THE END FOR PANDEMIC?

By LITO CINCO:



Is it the beginning of the end for Covid 19?

People, particularly from the business side, are optimistic that what they are seeing and reading are indications that indeed, the pandemic in the country is going to its end.

OCTA Research , a private sector group that tracks and monitors the pandemic has seen positive signs that by mid March, the National Capital Region (NCR) will be at the low risk level already.

All indicators, number of new cases, positivity rate, hospital bedroom usage, and reproduction numbers have been going down while the number of those fully vaccinated have been going up that by end of February, the projection for new cases is only from 1000 to 2000, this from January' last week average of 8422, moreso from early January when the cases were double digit figures.

Last February 11, there were only 3788 new cases reported with just 486 coming from the NCR, lowest so far this year.

Manila, 91, Quezon City, 90, and Makati, 49, were the top 3 while at the bottom, Marikina and San Juan only had 5 and 9 reported cases respectively.

This can only mean good news, particularly for the Chamber and there those who shared their thoughts on the matter, including President Mike Advani.

"With the number of cases going down and more people receiving full vaccination and booster shots plus the weakening of the Omicron variant if the virus, these all indicate that it is time to move from the fear mode to one of optimism, it is time to jumpstart our businesses and look for new directions," said President Mike.

He also added that with the government and the private sector working together in achieving normality with reopening of schools and tourism, " this will result to a positive mindset for all that will ripple down from the rich to the poor, but we still have to observe the necessary health protocols to maintain the downward trend of the pandemic."

On his part, Lal Tulsiani, VP-Internal said " we expect a growth rate of 6% to 7% in 2022, the government's Build Build Build projects and the election spending will be a big help in our recovery. The travel industry, local and worldwide, is opening up and will provide a big boost to our tourism industry and all economic activities."

"Our company shares this belief with banks and big business, we have started building up our inventories in preparation," concluded Lal.

Pushkar Misha, VP External also had his own optimistic thoughts on the future, " with the expected growth rate , all the 3 major sectors, agriculture, industry, and services will be revived. The IT-BPO industry will continue to grow and contribute, providing and provide employment to the youth. The Work From Home model is here to stay but will decline as the situation continues to normalize."

Indeed, 2022 will be the recovery year for the country , and that includes all the businesses of the Chamber that were hard hit by the pandemic.

LOOKING BACK



Last February 23, 2022, a discussion was held on India - Philippines Bilateral Trade Opportunities by FIEO and FICCI Phils. The Keynote Speaker for this event was H.E. Amb. Shambhu S. Kumaran. This joint session was attended by over 180 participants with the aim to bring business opportunities to bigger scopes moving forward.



Virtual Tastings with Diageo have started exclusively for FICCI members. These are scheduled at EVERY THURSDAY. All are encouraged to take part and may reserve their slot on the google form.

NOW YOU KNOW

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: Indu Badlani, Bhavnani



Foundation of education, mentorship and experience has an impact on one's growth. Indu Badlani Bhavnani is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Founder of Project Space and was recently awarded by CEO Insights Magazine as one of the top ten Indian leaders in the Philippines 2021.

Her accomplishment that led to her award is indeed impressive as she had to compete with other big multinational Indian executives in the country, emerging as the only woman in the list.

Indu believed that the foundation and support of her parents at an early age built her confidence to challenge herself in achieving her vision of global collaboration. Indu was represented at the Model United Nation The Hague and Beijing, was selected to be part of Vice President Binay's delegation to India, supported several BPO industry lead initiatives in partnership with the DICT, Project lead for a women entrepreneurs initiative supported by the Indian embassy to name a few. Indu added "Age shouldn't define our limits, one should be open to opportunities, challenges and experiences."



Indu's vision for Project Space stemmed from wanting to continue her enthusiasm on global collaboration. With her corporate experience in the BPO industry for 8 years, she believed she could support startups with this opportunity as they grow. "I believe that businesses can complement one another and compete in markets that are often beyond their reach. This is can be the key ingredient to scale and exceed our growth expectations " Indu added.

As a young business owner, Indu acknowledges consistency and commitment is key. "We should not only focus on ensuring our clients are satisfied, it is just as important to prioritise your employees." Indu kicked off ProjectSpace with 3 employees early 2019 and has grown to becoming a medium sized business at the end of 2021.

The pandemic served as an opportunity as Project Space embraced change using tools and technology that allowed the business model to shift. Currently 80% of its employees are working from home on a full time basis. In addition this business shift allowed her to open up opportunities in hiring skilled individuals based outside of Luzon. 15% of her workforce is now based in Visayas and Mindanao.

"Willingness to embrace change will encourage creativity and improve your business model" was Indu's advice to young entrepreneurs.



When asked for her reasons to follow her father in becoming a member of FICCI and her expectations from the chamber, her reply, "The chamber is a well established organisation, one representing different industries, as a young entrepreneur, I believe it can bring new opportunities and resources." Indu also further emphasised she would to actively support the chamber's initiatives. "I can contribute a different perspective relating to business process services and support business in their digital transformation."

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAY CELEBRANTS:

- 6 - Kawshik Sehwan - AFC; Mike Hemandas-Games & Garments -
- 10 - Mr. Rajan Uttamchandani - VP for Finance & Treasurer1
- 12 - Deepak Thakur-Kamla Inc.; Haresh Gurnamal-Lifesports
- 13 - Deepak Kumar- Land Registration Systemf
- 17 - Mr. Shankar Sinha - VP for Membership & Asst. Treasurer
- 20 - Jerin Raj - KEC International
- 24 - Mary Ann Lee - Makati Medical Center
- 28 - Rajesh Idnani- Black Prince

We welcome your suggestions for FICCI E-NEWS, just as we welcome informative articles you may want to contribute.

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ERRATUM
The sentence in last month's member spotlight on Manila Bambi: "Presently it is Tramigo GPS Solutions with branches in Paranaque, Cebu, and Davao." was a misprint and referred to LA Commercial.

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