

SAARC CCI 1st Young Entrepreneurs Forum: vision 2020:

As one of the strategic initiatives, the SAARC Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SAARC CCI) organized the 1st Young Entrepreneur Forum: vision 2020 in collaboration with the Nepalese Young Entrepreneurs Forum and the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Partnership with Friedrich Naumann Foundation, at Kathmandu, Nepal, on 11th November, 2010.

The core objective of the forum was to bring together young business leaders so as to groom them to be the next generation of business leaders for South Asia and to identify their role in the formation of south Asian future business community.

Mr. Kush Kumar Joshi, President, FNCCI, who was the Chief Guest, delivered a key not speech at conference, which was attended by over 100 young entrepreneurs from the region. The Inaugural session was followed by two working sessions wherein experts and the young Business Leaders from India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka shred their views in context of their respective countries.

The conference commenced with lighting of oil lamp by Mr. Pradeep Kumar Shrestha, Vice President, SAARC CCI (Nepal) followed by introductory remarks of Mr. Iqbal Tabish, Secretary General, SAARC CCI in which he highlighted the objectives of the Conference and said that SAARC CCI intended to enable its members, who were amongst the most successful in South Asia, to hone their leadership and strategic business skills, and to gain broad perspectives beyond company and industry concerns. He added that about 75% of young enterprises in South Asia were either 2nd or 3rd generation of business community, while only 25% were new entrants. On account of allied problems, the inclination of youth in South Asia was focused on developing managerial skills instead of entrepreneurial skill. He reiterated for the need of providing business friendly environment to unleash the true potential of Young Entrepreneurs.

Mr. Pradeep Kumar Shrestha, Vice President, SAARC CCI (Nepal) in his welcome remarks said that the last SAARC summit in Thimpu has declared 2010-2020 ‘the Decade of intra-regional connectivity in SAARC’ to further boost economic cooperation in South Asia and urged upon the need for finding ways and means to collectively exploit all available resources not only for business but also to make individuals and economies competitive globally. “Without the collective approach, competing with the world at large will be extremely difficult,” he added and urged for coordinated efforts.

Mr. Shahrukh Malik, Chairman of SYEF in his keynote address said that the youth have the ability to transform the present challenges into opportunities provided the SAARC member states offer business friendly environment and contribute towards promotion of young entrepreneurs as a priority agenda. He underscored the need for futuristic plan for promotion of SYEF.

The Chief guest of the conference Mr. Kush Kumar Joshi, President, Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI) in his keynote address said that despite geographic advantages of contiguity, proximity and familiarity, regional cooperation and

integration, full liberalization and economic integration have not taken off because of ‘the burden of history’ in the region.

Mr. Subodh Kumar, Program Executives, FNF and Mr. Anuj Kumar Shrestha, President, Nepalese Young Entrepreneurs Forum during his concluding remarks emphasized for proactive role of youth in investment promotion and the intra-regional trade in South Asia and hoped that the forum would be successful in bring the future community closer together which will help achieve objectives envisaged under SAFTA.

The first working Session “Youth Entrepreneurship in South Asia: Experience Sharing” was chaired by Mr. Pradeep Kumar Shrestha, Vice President, SAARC CCI (Nepal). Speakers Mr. Saurabh Jyoti, Vice Chairman-SYEF (Nepal), Mr. Amandeep S. Sahney, Vice Chairman, SYEF (India), Mr. Zulfiqar Ali Bader, Vice Chairman, SYEF (Pakistan) and Mr. Sanjaya Jayaratne, Vice Chairman, SYEF (Sri Lanka) made the presentations during the session.

The second working session on “Prospects of Youth Entrepreneurship in South Asia” was chaired by Mr. Padma Jyoti, Past President SAARC CCI. Mr. Sujeev Shakya, Prominent Economic Analyst and Management Consultant from Nepal and Mr. Anil Chitrakar, Social Entrepreneur, Ashoka Fellow made the presentation. Two working papers -Youth Entrepreneurship in South Asia: Experience Sharing and Importance of Youth Entrepreneurship in South Asia -were also presented during the conference, where the participants from all the SAARC member countries except Bhutan and Afghanistan took part.

In last & final session SYEF Meeting was conducted which was participated by Chairman, all vice chairmen and members of NYEF who were briefed by Secretary General SAARC CCI about the objectives of the Forum. The participants worked out as a road map to activate SYEF and expressed firm commitment to transform South Asia into an economically vibrant region and leader of the global economy through shared-vision and collaborative efforts.

The SAARC Young Entrepreneurs Forum was launched on November 24, 2009 to share ideas amongst youth of the region and bring together the like-minded young entrepreneurs to one platform and work collectively for the socio-economic development of the region.



(Mr. Pradeep Kumar Shrestha, Vice President, SAARC CCI (Nepal) and former President FNCCI inaugurates the forum by lightening the oil lamp).



(Mr. Kush Kumar Joshi, President, FNCCI, while addressing at inaugural session of the conference).