

AILBIEA celebrates 20th anniversary

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Godrej of Godrej Industries Ltd, and a large gathering of stakeholders in the liquid bulk business gathered under the auspices of AILBIEA to discuss various challenges confronting the trade and to brainstorm strategies for future growth.

Highlighting the strong positive correlation between economic growth and commodity consumption, AILBIEA advisor, senior business analyst and agri-business and commodities market specialist, Mr G. Chandrasekhar, asserted that the country's consumption of liquid bulk cargoes (crude oil, vegetable oil, chemicals, biofuels and so on) is set to expand because of strong GDP growth.

In his welcome address, AILBIEA President, Mr Jayyant Lapsiaa, referred to some of the recent achievements of the association with respect to addressing the operational issues faced by importers and exporters. He urged the revenue authorities to trust the members of the association who were generally known to uphold ethical standards. He also expressed optimism that the country's liquid bulk trade covering crude oil, vegetable oil, chemicals and others will continue to expand in the wake of strong GDP growth and demand.



Mr Bani Bhattacharya, Principal Chief Commissioner, Customs, Mumbai Zone 1, accepting the commendation citation award on behalf of Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC)

Mr Lapsiaa stressed on "the need of infusing more facilitation by reducing stress and anxiety of reputed and compliant importers and exporters by ensuring that



Mr Jayyant Lapsiaa, President, AILBIEA, addressing the gathering on the occasion of the 20th anniversary, in the presence of (seated from left) Mr Yashodan Wanage, Deputy Chairman, Mumbai Port Trust, Mr N. B. Godrej, Managing Director, Godrej Industries Ltd, Mr B. Bhattacharya, Principal Chief Commissioner of Customs, Mumbai Customs, Zone 1, Mr M. P. Tapania, Chairman, Supreme Petrochem Ltd, Mr S. Thirunavakarassu, Senior Manager-Indirect Taxation, Hindustan Unilever Ltd, and Mr G. Chandrasekhar, Senior Business Analyst and advisor to the association



Mr S. Ramakrishna, Chairman and Mr A. V. Vijaykumar, Chairman-Elect of Federation of Freight Forwarders' Associations in India (FFFAI) receiving the award

He also stated that the allied governmental agencies such as Assistant Drug Controller, FASSAI and quarantine departments were acting tough and delaying granting of NOCs, thereby causing undue and untold hardships to importers and exporters. Their actions were detrimental to ease of doing business and increased the dwell time as well as the transaction costs. He urged the Principal Chief Commissioner of Customs to look into the matter and

ensure that sanity is restored and that these allied agencies are directed to be more proactive and expeditious in granting of NOCs.

Mr Lapsiaa praised the Customs department and the CBIC for being more proactive and trade-friendly. However, he regretted that some remedial measures need to be taken when the EDI systems are down, which unfortunately is a common feature. The trade has to suffer for no fault of theirs. He also requested that the post audit SOPs should be issued and there should be proper



Mr T. K. Kannan, Chief Executive Officer of Adani Wilmar Ltd, receiving the award

guidelines given to the officers while auditing. He said