

AILBIEA celebrates 20th anniversary

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CBIC should take the trade bodies into confidence and test run the project at small ICDs and then take it to minor ports before launching them directly at major ports, which causes lot of delays and uncertainties.

Mr Lapsiaa added that the importers/exporters needed to be graded/ranked based on their compliance and in following ethical business practices. He said that it was imperative for the importers/exporters to be serious about the knowledge of Customs initiatives, laws, notification, etc. and, also, in their ap-

pointing qualified and reputed vendors as against going for L1 tender systems and giving away their clearances to unqualified and tainted vendors, to cut costs. "This", he said, "vitiating the environment and resulted in host of unethical practices flourishing".

Mr Lapsiaa also cited lack of Customs infrastructure at minor ports and urged the Shipping Ministry to ensure that proper full-fledged Customs station was in place at the minor ports, with officers having judicial and executive powers before making the port operational. He pointed out the hardships trade had to face at minor ports like Pipavav, Hazira, Haldia and others.

Dignitaries from the revenue side who shared their views with the delegates included Mr Bani Bhattacharya, Principal Chief Commissioner of Customs, Mumbai, who appreciated the concerns expressed by Mr Lapsiaa and assured him and the gathering of the department taking a note of the same. He cited some of the key initiatives undertaken by the Customs and urged the trade to make full use of them. He particularly mentioned of the AEO programme and the deferred duty payment scheme, which he urged all the importers and exporters to avail of.

The meeting was chaired by Mr Nadir Godrej, who in his inimitable style, rendered a wonderful poem covering all the issues and points of liquid bulk trade *vis-à-vis* the Customs and port. He received a thunderous applause from the huge gathering after the recitation of the well-conceived poem.

Mr S. Thirunavakarassu, Sr Manager - Indirect Taxation, Hindustan Unilever Ltd, spoke on the good trade facilitation measures undertaken by the Customs and also requested them to expedite the classification and valuation issues, which at times were causing alarming delays. He complimented AILBIEA and also assured the Customs



Mr N. Sellappan, Director-Operation & Logistics, Jupiter Dyechem Ltd, receiving the award

Commissioners of the trade coming much closer to the department's call on various issues and also to closely interact with the department.

Mr Yashodan Wanage, Dy Chairman of Mumbai Port, assured the trade of increasing the capacities for liquid bulk and stated that the port was seriously considering to boost the liquid bulk trade by offering space for construction of tank farms in future.

Mr M. P. Taparia, Chairman, Supreme Petrochem Ltd, praised the association, particularly Mr Jayyant Lapsiaa for spearheading the association and managing it

so well. He said the AILBIEA was going a very good job in trying to bridge the gap between Customs and the trade.

The highlight of the meeting was the conferring of:

★ **AILBIEA LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD on 94-year-old Mr Ramniklal Gosalia, founder of Ramniklal Gosalia & Company, importers of chemicals, solvents and other polymers.**

★ **THE MOST ENTERPRISING CEO IN LIQUID BULK TRADE on Mr T. K. Kannan, CEO of Adani Wilmar Ltd.**

Besides, AILBIEA Stellar Awards were presented to:

★ Mr Tej Contractor - For the Most Promising Youth in Exim Trade for the year 2018-19.

★ FFFAI - Special Trophy for successfully hosting the prestigious and mammoth FIATA World Congress for the first time in India in September 2018 in New Delhi.

★ Mr N. Sellappan, Director-Logistics and Operations, Jupiter Dyechem Ltd, for being the outstanding officer in the liquid bulk trade

★ Krishnapatnam Port Company Ltd for significant growth in the port sector.

Conference on Customs

Earlier in the day, AILBIEA organised a conference on Customs Trade Facilitation and latest changes in Customs. Advocate Ratan Jain, Director, Lakshmikumaran & Sridharan Attorneys, and Mr Samir J. Shah, Director JBS Academy, Ahmedabad, were the speakers, with Mr Harsh J. Lapsiaa being the moderator.

This was followed by a Global Logistics Game, a new and unique game on logistics which was conducted by Mr Tej Contractor with assistance from Mr Harsh J. Lapsiaa. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all the delegates who attended, said a release. Prizes were given to the winners in the end.

Indian Customs Cooperation Fund

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to developing and least-developed WCO members, and particularly to small island economies in South Asia. Based on members' identified needs

ment, and Customs modernisation, informed a release.

During the meeting, Mr Mikuriya expressed his gratitude to India for this significant financial contribu-

ment of the CCF India, demonstrating India's readiness to play a part in the development of Customs capacity in partnership with the WCO.

The WCO is grateful for the ongo-