

Six Local Chambers Move On to the Final Round of the 4th Local Chamber Awards

A total of six local chambers have been short-listed as finalists for the 4th CACCI Local Chamber Awards. Three of the short-listed nominees will vie for the Awards under the Big Chamber Category, and the other three under the Small Chamber Category

Big Chamber Category Finalists

The three finalists under the Big Chamber Category are:

- Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Bangladesh)
- Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (India)
- Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Pakistan)

Small Chamber Finalists

The five nominees under the Small Chamber Category include the following:

- Chittagong Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Bangladesh)
- Selenge Province Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Mongolia)
- Uvurhangai Chamber of Commerce (Mongolia)

Selection of Winners

The short-listed finalists have been invited to send representatives to Colombo for the final selection process to be held in conjunction with the 24th CACCI Conference. The final judging is scheduled on the morning of July 5.

Members of the Board of Judges will interview the short-listed finalists to obtain additional information or seek clarification on their achievements. Prior to the interview, each of the short-listed finalists will be given at most 5 minutes to make a summary presentation of the Chamber's achievements in each of the agreed criteria, and another 10 minutes to answer questions from the Board of Judges.

The Board of Judges will select the winners in each of the two categories based on the following agreed set of criteria:

- Outstanding Services to Members (policy advocacy efforts,

training programs)

- Outstanding Services to Community and to Country (trade and investment promotion projects, employment-generating activities)

- Participation in CACCI Activities and Projects (attendance in CACCI meetings; involvement in membership drive)

Announcement of the winners and the presentation of the trophies to the winning chambers will be made during the Gala Dinner of the 24th CACCI on July 6, 2010.

About the Finalists

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) was established in 1958 by the unification of the old Dacca Muslim Chamber and United Chamber under the Trade Organization Ordinance. Today, DCCI has a membership of about 4,000 who represent about 37 types of businesses. About 70% of its members are SMEs, while 30% are large enterprises. Member composition of DCCI includes the follows: 30% of export, 30% of import, 20% of sales and service and 20% of manufacturing. DCCI members/enterprises contribute to the national GDP by creating about one million employments in Bangladesh. For more than five decades, DCCI has been rendering need-based trade support services to its members for their business development.

The Chamber acts as a platform for representing the collective voice of its members for recommending, commenting and advocating policy measures affecting trade, commerce, industry, banking, insurance and budget. It also acts as a house for organizing research, surveys, training courses, workshops, seminars, symposia, round table discussion, and

business match-making meetings. In addition, DCCI also monitors developments in industrial, commercial and economic fields both domestically and internationally, as well as disseminates business information to members through print and electronic media.

DCCI also runs a number of projects in cooperation with national and donor organizations for creating conducive investment climate and enhancing trade and investment of the country. It gives inputs for different government policies as well as bilateral and multilateral negotiations on trade with different countries.

Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry



Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) was established in 1984 under the Companies Act VII of 1913 and 1961 Trade Ordinance as a Company Limited by Guarantee. Later in 2007, a new Trade Ordinance was introduced by the government repealing 1961 Ordinance. Accordingly, ICCI received a fresh license.

Initially, ICCI started its operation in a two-room rented building with a small membership base. It has now owned a five-story building that houses important national and multinational organizations, and its membership base has risen to about 2,500 members that represent a variety of businesses.

At the national level, the Chamber has affiliation with the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI), an apex body of chambers and associations in Pakistan. However, at the international level, it has affiliation with the International Chamber of Commerce.

The affairs of ICCI are looked after by an elected Executive Committee headed by the President and assisted by two Vice Presidents. The

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administrative matters are dealt with by the Secretary General.

In various sectors, sub-committees are formed by the Executive Committee to formulate proposals and recommendations for submission to relevant stakeholder organizations. The areas covered by these committees include international trade and facilitation, foreign trade and investment, development of SMEs, bilateral diplomatic trade and economic relations, energy, industries and infrastructure development, customs, income tax and sales tax, environment, banking, tourism and so on.

As the premier chamber of commerce and industry with national and international linkage, ICCI shall continue to enhance its leadership role by being proactive and providing quality services to its members and to act as a catalyst for rapid economic development in this region through promotion of trade, industry, services and development of youth entrepreneurship culture.

Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture

 Mahratta Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (MCCIA) has been playing a significant role in accelerating the industrial and economic development of Pune region in India since its establishment by Late Shri A. R. Bhat in 1934. The Chamber's functions and activities have proved beneficial to the industry and therefore it has attracted a strong base of 2,850 members from different segments like engineering, automotive and auto ancillaries, information technology, biotechnology, electronics & software, agriculture and agri-business, environment technologies and chemicals, among others.

The Chamber renders services to the industry through its 32 committees consisting of reputed experts, professionals and entrepreneurs. The Chamber disseminates information and functions through strategic planning, sends memorandum to the Government on policies and regulations and

organizes educative events and symposiums for members through these committees. These efforts have made MCCIA an effective agency in recommending various policy matters to the Central, State and Local Government.

As an association for the promotion of trade, industry and commerce, MCCIA's vision is to "facilitate the transformation of Pune as the Premier Destination Globally for Industry, Trade, Commerce and Agriculture". With this goal in mind, the Chamber continuously strives to make Pune a global destination. MCCIA has extended strong support to the MSMEs and SMEs and cluster development programs and in return this has ensured greater employment prospects in the Pune region.

Chittagong Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Chittagong Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CWCCI) is one of the leading and first regional women chamber involved in the economic empowerment of women in Bangladesh. It was formed by a group of innovative entrepreneurs in 2003. Currently, CWCCI is working as a common platform for women entrepreneurs and business women in Chittagong region. Main aim of CWCCI is to protect, develop, support and promote business enterprises owned by women by using proactive measures to ensure a favorable environment. The members of the Chamber include individual enterprises, cooperatives, private companies, NGOs, and institutions either owned or operated by women.

Through the activities of CWCCI, women entrepreneurs have the opportunity to develop their potentials. Everything in Bangladesh is centralized in Bangladesh, but the formation and activities of CWCCI is an example of decentralization which has also become an inspiring example for all women throughout the country. Thus, CWCCI activities are regarded as a role model for new entrepreneurs in other regions of Bangladesh.

CWCCI is relentlessly providing its support to women entrepreneurs in a period of free-market economy, with a view to face the challenges of

globalization. CWCCI believes that the development of women entrepreneurs will support the national economic development and play a vital role in empowering women.

Selenge Province Chamber of Commerce and Industry

By initiatives of 30 businesses, the Selenge Province Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Selenge CCI) was established in 2002 for the purpose of implementing the activities of the Mongolian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MNCCI). Their main goals are to develop the private sector, protect the rights and common interests of member and nonmember companies and support their business activities. Since its establishment, the Selenge CCI have worked hard to provide a wide variety of business support services and create a business friendly environment in the local area.

Selenge CCI has conducted various training programs and seminars for its members, such as round table meetings for tourism and food sector, training workshops for agricultural business and trainings on computer skills, among others.

In addition, it has also been actively devoted to services to the community. For example, Selenge CCI organized Harvest Festival-2009 Exhibition and Electrical Goods and Products Exhibition where local farmers and electrical product importers could directly introduce their goods to the customers.

Uvurhangai Chamber of Commerce

With 78 members, Uvurhangai Chamber of Commerce has been active in providing services both to its members and the community.

In terms of member services, the Chamber organizes meetings between its members and government officials for view exchanges as well as conducts various training programs on tourism, banking and Internet usage.

For the development of the community, Uvurhangai Chamber of Commerce organizes trade fairs on tourism, procurement for hospital goods and tournament. These events have contributed much to the business activities in the local community. ■