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VIRTUAL AWARDS CEREMONY

Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Environment Management, Occupational Health & Safety, Eco-innovation, Energy Efficiency

A Report

The Institute of Directors (IOD), India organised a Special Felicitation Ceremony to celebrate the achievements of some of the outstanding organisations - the winners of the coveted Golden Peacock Awards for 'Environment Management', 'Occupational Health & Safety', 'Eco-Innovation', and 'Energy Efficiency' for the year 2020, on December 15, 2020.

ACCA-the Global Body for Professional Accountants was the Principal Partner for the event. The event was 'Supported by' the Central Pollution Control Board, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India. This was supported by two key states of India i.e. Government of Kerala and Govt. of Telangana. Other partners were UPMRC (Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation), KSIDC (Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.).

The event was hosted online via IOD's licensed Cisco Webex account, and also streamed live on Youtube, Facebook and

LinkedIn. The event witnessed over 700 participants addressed by senior officials of Government of India. Other participants included business leaders, corporate board members, directors, CEOs, industry experts, policy-makers, environmentalists, innovators, energy specialists and related















domain specialists from across the country and across the globe, including USA, UK, Singapore, Germany, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Maldives, and India.

A large number of private and public sector institutions participated, including both, Central and State governments, were represented by:

1.) Mr. Arjun Ram Meghwal,

Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, Govt. of India

2.) Mr. Anurag Singh Thakur

Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Finance, and Corporate Affairs, Govt. of India

3.) Mr. Girish Chandra Murmu, IAS

Hon'ble Comptroller & Auditor General of India; and former Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, India

4.) Mr. D. S. Mishra, IAS

Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Govt. of India

5.) Dr. Prashant Gargava

Member Secretary, Central Pollution Control Board, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India

6.) Mr. Pradeep Kumar A. B.

Chairman, Kerala State Pollution Control Board Govt. of Kerala State. India





Mr. Mark Millar FCCA, President of ACCA delivered this year's Keynote Address. He plays an important part globally in leading a green recovery that promotes a sustainable and ethical world, reflecting ACCA's heritage and values. He champions public activity as a vital element in a healthy society.

IOD's Winners' Digest on 'Environment Management, Eco-Innovation & Energy Efficiency', a part of serial publications of IOD on Award winners' Best Corporate Practices, was released by Mr. Arjun Ram Meghwal.

IOD's Winners' Digest on 'Occupational Health and Safety', which is also a part of serial publications of IOD on Awards winners' Best Corporate Practices, was released by Mr. Girish Chandra Murmu, IAS.

Dr. Graham Wilson, Professor, Leadership & Organization Development, University of Oxford, UK in his 'Introductory Address' explained the concept and the objective in instituting the Golden Peacock Awards, which is to promote healthy competition and the will to perform better amongst industry players at global level. He mentioned that Institute of Directors, India has truly demonstrated that it is committed towards the growth of Corporate Boards. He highlighted that this event celebrates the achievements of the outstanding leaders in the areas of 'Environment Management', 'Occupational Health & Safety', 'Eco-Innovation', and 'Energy Efficiency' via a virtual awards presentation ceremony, despite the pandemic.



Dr. Vivek K. Agnihotri, IAS (Retd.), Director General, Golden Peacock Awards Secretariat; former Secretary-General, Rajya Sabha in his '**Welcome Address**' welcomed IOD members, global associates, subject partners and honoured expert speakers and guests present in the virtual Awards ceremony. He stressed that 'Environmental Emergency' is leading to climate catastrophe. We must prepare and create a clean tech and post pandemic recovery. It is time for the government, business and societies to mobilize and deploy resources and create high value green jobs. For growth of a company, we must remember and strive our best to work on the Quality, Sustainability and Business Excellence, as these are hallmarks of a great company.

Lt. Gen. J. S. Ahluwalia, PVSM (Retd.), President, Institute of Directors (India), in his 'President Address' mentioned that Golden Peacock Awards were instituted by Institute of Directors in 1991, as a 'public initiative' to raise the quality of important corporate functional areas, and to match the global benchmarks. IOD strongly believes that 'responsible competitiveness' brings out the best, both in individuals and in organisations, for raising their overall quality and standards.

The Award Jury is headed by Justice M. N. Venkatachaliah, Padma Vibhushan, Chairman of IOD Advisory Council, former Chief Justice of India and former Chairman, National Human Rights Commission of India and National Commission for Constitution of India Reforms. He stressed that India's environmental resources are under huge stress. In comparison to 17% of the world's population, India has only 2.4% of global land, 4% of global potable water, and only 1% of forest resources. The business landscape has dramatically changed. The major business disruptions are due to geopolitical and technological reasons, affecting globalization and supply chains. Increasing stakeholder pressure on boards is due to social & environmental risks and challenges, which are the key disruptors of corporate economy. Protection of natural resources & bio-diversity have become vital issues for sustainable development. There is societal pressure on leading organisations & boards, concerning urgency of ESG to achieve short term profitability, along with long term sustainable value



creation. Today, 63 of the world's 100 largest public companies have a special board committee, overseeing 'Sustainability' matters.

On the International front, he stated that the 5th Anniversary of Paris Agreement was celebrated on December 12, addressed by 70 heads of major global economies. This accord is to become operational on 01 January, 2021. He also shared views of the UN Secretary-General, Mr. Antonio Guterres to declare a 'Climate Emergency'. The new US President - elect, Mr. Joe Biden has also pledged to rejoin the accord on the 1st day of his Presidency, and to convene a 'Climate Summit' within 100 days in office. Similarly, the Chinese President, Mr. Xi Jinping announced incremental improvements in all their earlier commitments.

On the Indian front, he shared that the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Mr. Narendra Modi has pledged that India will meet all its targets & even exceed expectations. Commitments of mitigation & adoption aspects, being progressed by India through 'International Solar Alliance' and coalition for 'Disaster Resilient Infrastructure', are also moving ahead well.

There is a global shift to ESG investing. A net 'zero' emission target of 2060 by India; will give the right signal for ESG policies and investments. Our boards need to be 'Future Ready', with relevant ESG & sustainability competence.

Thereafter, the 'Chief Guest Address' was delivered by:



Mr. Meghwal, in his '**Address**' expressed his concerns and urged everyone to re-think, "Are we ready to build India, as a country of the 21st century?" He shared that on May 12, 2020, the Hon'ble Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi delivered a message to the nation, to become self-sufficient i.e. an 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat Abhiyan'. He shared the ideologies of great

philosophers like Maharishi Arvind, Maharishi Dayanand & APJ Abdul Kalam, and how they had foreseen that India will emerge as a super power in future. The $21^{\rm st}$ Century is a period of knowledge and technological advancement. He shared that the three pillars of Industry 4.0 are Artificial Intelligence, Robotics & 3D printing. We will have to take $suo\ motu$ action to help the environment in reducing carbon emissions. We have to develop and save the environment simultaneously. Agriculture sector and energy efficiency go hand-in-hand for better productivity.

The 'Keynote Address' was delivered by:



Mr. Mark Millar FCCA
President
ACCA
(Association of Chartered Certified
Accountants), UK

Mr. Millar emphasized on the compliance of the UN 17 Sustainable Development Goals. He cautioned that we don't have a 'Planet B' and, therefore, we cannot have a 'Plan B'. These daunting questions relating to climate catastrophe must be answered. Uncertain climate changes are leading to floods and droughts, severely impacting the food supply chain. The Covid pandemic has raised serious questions about the health and safety of companies. He shared an important message: 'Not every business can do everything, but every business can do something'. He also mentioned that ACCA has developed 11 Subsidiary Goals of its own and they are focussed on achieving them.

The 'Guest of Honour Address' was delivered by:



Mr. Girish Chandra Murmu, IAS Hon'ble Comptroller & Auditor General of India, Former Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, India

Mr. Murmu, IAS praised IOD and mentioned that the Golden Peacock Awards are a unique recognition to the companies. He congratulated all the winners for the year 2020 in the category 'Environment Management, Eco-Innovation & Energy Efficiency'. He also highlighted that Independent Directors should guide the companies on a path of being profitable and responsible towards the environment. He released the Winners' Digest on 'Occupational Health and Safety'.

A special 'Chief Guest Address' was delivered by:



Mr. Anurag Singh Thakur Hon'ble Minister of State for Finance, and Corporate Affairs Govt. of India

Mr. Thakur in his 'Chief Guest Message' said that the post-Covid world will be different in many ways. Not only for our personal lives, but also for the environment, government and health sectors, in general. The Indian government has applied 'zero effect' and 'zero defect' approach, which helps in achieving 'multiplier effect' in various sectors at multiple levels. India has adopted low carbon and climate resilient development practices. He mentioned that India is not just meeting Paris Agreement targets but is exceeding them.

A 'Special Address' was delivered by:



Mr. D. S. Mishra, IAS Secretary Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Govt. of India

Mr. Mishra, IAS in his 'Address' shared that India has been leading in ensuring that all our commitments from the Paris Agreement and various other International forums are being accomplished. He highlighted how the initiatives for fully urbanising the Indian landscape is being done, keeping in view the projections of large-scale migration of Indians from rural to urban India, in the coming decades, to fulfil their aspirations and dreams. He also mentioned that India has witnessed a massive transformation since the Mr. Narendra Modi's announcement on August 15, 2014 to launch a massive campaign to make the country clean, 'Swachh Bharat Mission'.

Following this, **Award Session I** commenced for felicitation of Golden Peacock Awards winners for '**Eco-Innovation & Occupational Health & Safety – 2020**'. The list of winning companies along with their citations and details has been listed elsewhere in this issue.

Thereafter, a 'Special Address' was delivered by:



Mr. Pradeep Kumar A. B. Chairman Kerala State Pollution Control Board Govt. of Kerala State, India

Mr. Kumar said that Institute of Directors, India can play a vital

role in conveying the message of regulatory authorities to the industries and various stakeholders. In his decades of experience in pollution control, he has witnessed the evolution of the pollution control system from close quarters. He recalled how the Environmental Protection Act of 1986 was a big gamechanger in environment management. It is only now that most major industries have air, water and noise pollution control missions in place. And subsequently, new legislation and work continues for pollution control from various other wastes such as Bio-medical, plastic, e-waste etc.

Thereafter, the **Award Session II**, commenced for felicitation of Golden Peacock Awards winners for '**Environment Management and Energy Efficiency – 2020**'. The list of winning companies along with their citations and details have been listed elsewhere in this issue.

Thereafter, a 'Special Address' was delivered by:



Dr. Prashant GargavaMember Secretary, Central
Pollution Control Board
Ministry of Environment,
Forest and Climate Change
Govt. of India

Dr. Gargava mentioned that a time has come for us to move towards 'self-regulation'. He discussed the initiatives being undertaken by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and the Ministry to overcome challenges in environment management. He reiterated the CPCB's role more as 'Facilitators and Enablers' for industries, and not just as 'Regulators'.



IOD CONVEYED ITS GRATEFUL THANKS AND GRATITUDE TO ALL OUR EVENT PARTNERS

The Virtual Awards Ceremony was supported by our valuable partners. The Principal Strategic Partner was ACCA (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants), UK. The Silver Partner was Government of Kerala. The Associate Partners were Govt. of Telangana, UPMRC (Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation), KSIDC (Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd.). The event was 'Supported by' the Central Pollution Control Board, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt. of India.

Mr. Ashok Kapur, IAS (Retd.), Director General, Institute of Directors, India finally proposed the 'Vote of Thanks'. Special Thanks were conveyed to the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) as the Principal Strategic Partner. Thanks were also conveyed to the events' Silver Partners and Associate Partners. Also, to the Government of Kerala & Government of Telangana, and participation by some of the well-performing State PSUs: UPMRC (Uttar Pradesh Metro Rail Corporation) and KSIDC (Kerala State Industrial Development Corporation Ltd).

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS

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Central Pollution Control Board Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Government of India Compiled by: Mr. Ashok Kapur, IAS (Retd.) Director General Institute of Directors and

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