

Regional Webinar on “Future Boards”

June 20, 2020 | Chennai, India

Institute of Directors (IOD), India, Chennai Region organised a special Webinar on June 20, 2020, on Zoom, from India, which was largely-attended from all over India and abroad. The Theme of the Webinar was “Future Boards”.

Mr. R. Srinivasan, Regional Director - Chennai, IOD, welcomed all the speakers and participants.

Lt. Gen. J. S. Ahluwalia, PVSM (Retd.), President, IOD in his Welcome Remarks, introduced the Theme of the Webinar “Future Boards” and its relevance during these pandemic times. He also briefed on the Vision and Mission of IOD and the various interventions which IOD has initiated to combat the troubling days ahead of us.

FIRST SESSION

Topic - **Systemic Risk and Financial Stability**

Speaker - **Dr. Seetharaman**, Group Chief Executive Officer, Doha Bank (Qatar)

Dr. Seetharaman touched upon how there was a global contraction of all economies globally and how we need to overcome worst contraction levels during the second wave of the Covid pandemic. The need of the hour is disaster recovery through sustainable value creation for human prosperity. Long term plans to build human humanity at all levels is required. He stressed on the need for Food security, healthcare, hygiene and sustainable energy security. The necessity to create green economies is a challenge we need to overcome. He stressed how economic progression can be achieved only with human progression

and absolute governance by championing ethical and moral values. He assured participants not to worry on security threats as online transactions increase as all institutions take abundant care and precautions.

SECOND SESSION

Topic - **Emerging Key Technologies for Directors**

Speaker - **Mr. Lakshmi Narayanan**, Former Vice Chairman, Cognizant Technology Solutions

Mr. Narayanan highlighted how the pandemic times has entrenched the value and importance of technology in every aspect of our lives. The need to be tech savvy has become an inevitable norm and a key skill requirement for every Board Member to discharge his duties diligently and efficiently. Remote meetings and vetting of digital forms are skills required of every director today. He also addressed a participant query on cyber security. He touched upon IP thefts, disruptions and nuisance of ransomwares.

THIRD SESSION

Topic - **Board Diversity**

Speaker - **CA Rajendrakumar**, Independent Director and Partner, Sanjiv Shah & Associates

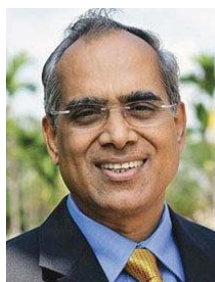
CA Rajendrakumar stressed on how Corporate Board must follow SEE (Skill, Expertise and Experience). A Board with diverse set of people will bring diversity of thoughts, address complex corporate issues, helps to build brand, increase revenues and above all, will be more



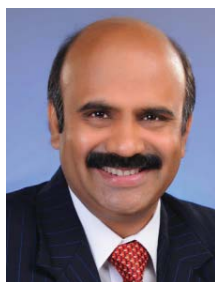
Lt. Gen. J. S. Ahluwalia
PVSM (Retd.)
President, IOD



Dr. R. Seetharaman
Group Chief Executive Officer
Doha Bank, Qatar



Lakshmi Narayanan
Former Vice Chairman
Cognizant Technology
Solutions



CA Rajendrakumar
Independent Director
and Partner
Sanjiv Shah & Associates



Chandrasekar Kopperi
Founder
ANOVA Corporate Services
and Consultant



Karthik
Director - Strategy
Group 10 Technologies

representative of shareholders. The experience of the diverse minds will act as a catalyst in not only identifying but also in dealing with negative forces in a corporate world. What made Abraham Lincoln tide over difficult times during his Presidency and made him one of the greatest Presidents in American History - it is the "people with diverse skills, experience and expertise" in his cabinet.

FOURTH SESSION

Topic - **Corporate Strategy Post - Covid-19**

Speaker - **Mr. Chandrasekar Kupperi**, Founder, ANOVA Corporate Services and Consultant

Mr. Kupperi stressed that every crisis is also an opportunity, of course, for the well-prepared. And that is why the following five Corporate Strategies are considered as the key in post COVID scenario:

1. Push towards Digital: Businesses should consider higher investment in cloud, data, cyber security, robotics process automation and towards data analytics.
2. Business Agility will be the key: Agility means quick action in absence of perfect data, quick response mechanism, pro-active and being nimble. Businesses should adopt Start-up mindset of favouring action over research and favouring testing over analysis.
3. Supply Chain resilience: Survive and be resilient before considering economic efficiencies.

4. Focus on Localization or a combination thereof: Reliability will gain importance relative to price, hence focus on domestic and appropriate long term tie-ups.
5. Business Cost Reduction: Conserve Cash and be financially prudent.

FIFTH SESSION

Topic - **Sustainable Investing**

Speaker - **Mr. Karthik**, Director – Strategy, Group 10 Technologies

Mr. Karthik highlighted as to how the Board should recognize relevance of “Sustainable Investing” and achieve Profit and boost Investor confidence and create Sustainable Value creation. The Boards should adopt appropriate Framework “ESG and Establish ESG Policy, Risk Assessment and Engage with Stakeholders. He also stressed on Boards to ensure appropriate oversight of ESG Risks & Priorities.

The concluding remarks were delivered by **Mr. R Srinivasan** by thanking all the speakers and participants for their support in making the Global Webinar a success.

Compiled by: ■

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