

Address of Welcome
By Sri Hemant Saraogi, President, EICMA
at the
Thirty-Seventh Annual General Meeting
of the
Eastern India Corrugated Box Manufacturers Association
held on 31st July, 2009 at 6.30 p.m.
at the Spring Club, Kolkata.

Respected Past Presidents, FCBM president Sri Anil Kumar Reddy and Friends,

I have the pleasure to welcome you all to the 37th Annual General Meeting of Eastern India Corrugated Box Manufacturers Association this evening. Special welcome to Sri Anil Kumar Reddy, president FCBM who has taken the trouble to travel all the way from Chennai to attend our programme tonight. May I request Sri R. G Saheb to welcome Sri Reddy with the Flower Bouquet?

You all are aware that the global economy is passing through a critical phase resulting in recession in demand. I believe, since we have not witnessed the rapid growth in this part of the country, as such, we are least affected of recession in comparison to other regions of the country.

Despite the critical situation, the Government's policy initiative has not given enough positive support to the desired growth of our industry. The industry continues to be saddled with discriminatory treatment in respect of imposition of Excise Duty. The anomaly in the rate of Excise Duty on Boxes and Kraft Papers has adversely affected the corrugated box manufacturing units.

The Association along with FCBM has been taking up the matter with the Union Ministry of Finance regularly. We expected that our industry will merit sympathetic consideration and the discrimination in levy of Excise Duty would be removed, however, the Union Budget for 2009-10 has belied our expectations and the industry has been left dry. We pledge that our Association will continue to follow up the matter strongly with authorities concerned along with the parent body, FCBM.

We are fortunate that legends from our Association have headed FCBM taxation committee all these years. This year our Bharatji has been a doing commendable job & is being appreciated all over the country.

I have been saying in past that Paper Mills in this region have to pull up their socks & supply quality paper to minimize the inter-state imports. I believe, many of the mills have rose to the occasion & are providing various options to the corrugators.

We can say our region is more or less self sufficient in terms of kraft paper production for our industry; now the situation demands to do the detailed cost-engineering for the paper mills as the formula of north /west mills + freight – 20-30 paise rates may not hold good any further.

Friends, apart from the Office bearers, the Sub-committee chairmen have rendered dedicated service to the association. Our Tax Compliance calendar is being regularly updated under the supervision of the experienced Sri R.G. Agarwal & Sri Bharat Kedia. They have been very prompt in providing the Tax related updates to the members through circulars & website from time to time.

Without the sincerity of Sri Chokanji , we would not have able to manage our office and R & D centre so well.

With the initiative of Sri B. D. Kothari, we are having our own office premises & he has done everything that was required for the Registry & mutation this year.

Our Website is our pride, apart from being a useful tool of communication, our website has generated substantial surplus to meet the day to day expenses of the association. Many thanks to Bharatji.

Friends, you are aware that the Association will host the FCBM Conference in Kolkata from 19th to 21st December, 2009. We take it as an opportunity as well as a challenge to project the image of our Association before the corrugated box manufacturing fraternity in the country and abroad. In this task, I count upon the support of our members. We have experience that the members of the Association have always come forward to lend their support to all the promotional endeavours of the Association. With the support and co-operation of the members, we would like to make the forthcoming FCBM Conference a memorable event in the years to come. Our Conference Committee with the blessings of Emeritus, Conference Chairman, Sri A. B. Ajmera & under proficient leadership of Sri B. D. Kothari is doing great job.

God willing & with the blessings of elders, I hope to see our next AGM in our own premises.

Before I conclude I would like to take this opportunity to express my heart-felt gratitude to all our illustrious past Presidents for their unstinted support and co-operation for promotion of the corrugated box manufacturing industry. I trust, the distinguished past Presidents will continue to guide the Association to follow the path of further glory and eminence.

On the occasion, I would like to thank my colleagues in the Managing Committee for their continued support and co-operation enabling me in

discharging my duties and responsibilities during the year as President of the Association. I am particularly thankful to,

Shri Milan Dey, Vice-President,

Shri Bharath Kedia, Hony. Secretary,

Shri Rajendra Chokhani, Hony. Treasurer,

Our past Presidents, Shri A B Ajmera, Shri R G Agarwala, Shri B D Kothari, Shri Benoy Basu Mullick and Shri Biplab Datta .

My special gratitude to Shri Satish Kapur on whom we can count upon any day, any time.

I would also like to thank the members for their support and co-operation during the year. I am confident that the Association will continue to receive the same all along. I hope that the members will take more interest in the activities of the Association and will come forward with constructive suggestions to make the Association more active and vibrant.

I am also thankful to our Mr. U. S. Roy Chowdhary from Bharat Chamber & our Lab-in-charge Mr. Vibhas Dutta for their cooperation throughout the year.

With these words, I thank you all, once again, for your presence at this Annual General Meeting.
