

Address By
Shri Bharath Kedia, President
Eastern India Corrugated Box Manufacturers' Association
At the 39th Annual General Meeting
On Friday, the 9th September, 2011 at 4.15 P.M.
At "Moksh Banquets", Kolkata.

Respected Past Presidents', FCBM dignitaries, Friends!

The Managing Committee warmly welcomes you to the 39th AGM of Eastern India Corrugated Box Manufacturers' Association. It is our privilege & pleasure to welcome Sri Kirit Modi, Chairman – FCBM Paper Mills Co-ordination Committee. Thank you Kirit Bhai for your motivating presence. We especially welcome our members from Assam, Orissa, Jharkhand & West Bengal districts for coming all the way to attend this meeting.

Friends, double dip recession in the USA, GDP rate falling from 9% in 2008 & expected to be at 8% this fiscal are indicators of a sluggish industrial growth. The eastern region has not been a witness to the high growth rate; hence the slowdown impact is also not prominently being felt here. The implementation of GST in the next fiscal can be a silver lining for a robust economic growth.

The Packaging Industry in the region is in an expansion mode, new automatic & semi-automatic units are coming up; existing units are expanding with modern machines. The present increase in capacity is being matched with the annual growth of 15% of the end consumer. Any further increase in capacity needs an increase in demand of boxes; which I am optimistic will be met by the pro industrialisation policy of the newly elected legislature under the leadership of Smt. Mamata Banerjee. The focus for the industry should be not only on output increase but also on specialization to serve niche consumers by value addition.

The region is self sufficient for the industries off take of Kraft Paper & Duplex Board. Having said that there needs to be a discipline on both sides; the paper mills need to resort to a quarterly revision of prices as opposed to adhoc increases; we on our part should avoid adding fuel to fire by avoiding excess procurement at the slightest hint of a price increase. The visible initial saving of say 5% is offset by extra interest, storage, wastage cost & loss of production time in getting the desired reel from the congested over stocked storage area. We should think twice before resorting to panic buying & creating an artificial demand for Paper Mills enabling them to increase prices further.

The highlight of 2010-11 is conferring of the highest FCBM award, the Late Sri S.N. Harlalka Award to our Past President Sri B. D. Kothariji for his contribution to the industry for reduction in Excise Duty on C.B. Boxes.

The activities of the association, worth mentioning have been - obtaining favorable clarification from the CBEC regarding filing of ER-4, 5 & 6 Returns under Excise; Memorandum for Assam Commercial Taxes department for abolition of Entry Tax on Paper; amendment of the 39 year old constitution to adapt to the times while keeping the crux intact as envisaged by the founder members; highly successful seminar & meeting with Orissa fraternity; increase in membership strength by 15%; most updated web site of the corrugation industry, addition of the state-of-art compression machine at R & D Centre etc. etc.

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The association has issued Membership Certificates duly framed, to members having no outstanding subscriptions; this has proved to be useful in instances of visit by inspectors from Excise & Minimum Wages departments. We request members to clear their dues to the association & obtain their certificate; we are avoiding reading out the dues list to evade embarrassments on either side; therefore kindly check the O/S list at the registration desk & do the needful.

There are yet many miles to go & other goals to attain, I am sure the newly elected office bearers will take the activities forward in 2011-12.

The activities have been possible because of excellent team work. The self less advice of the Past Presidents, right from Sri A.B. Ajmeraji, Sri R.G. Agarwalaji to Sri Biplab Da, has steered the committee in the right direction. Special Thanks to Ex officio Sri Hemant Saraogi for his guidance & sound counsel.

I also thank the experienced, Sri Rajendra Chokhani ji, the man behind the firm administration of R & D Centre, the flamboyant Sri Mohit Bajaj for giving his 100% in his executive role of running the body, thereby, making us jobless, Sri Ashok Newarji for aptly controlling the financial kitty & not shying away from making the necessary checks & balances inspite of his health; Sri Hemant Saraogi for taking the web site to an enviable level; Sri Milan Kumar Dey, the face of the body for expanding the association wings in Orissa, Sri Hemant Saraogi for his successful liaison with our Assam members. Thank you Team EICMA for your support & hard work.

The machinery of Team EICMA is running smoothly thanks to the secretarial support of Sri U.S. Rai Chowdhury, Sri A. Ganguly & Sri Mitra from Bharath Chamber of Commerce. My appreciation is also due to Sri Chandra Kant Kuila for his impartial Test Reports at the R & D Centre, assisted by Sri Joy Kr. Sarder in the day to day activities.

My genuine gratitude is to you the members of EICMA for your solidarity & support.

"Together we are & we will continue to be a force to reckon with"

Thank You!