

Chairman's Pen



My dear fellow exporters,

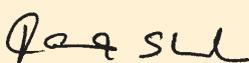
The Council successfully hosted the 17th Indian Engineering Exhibition (INDEE) in Johannesburg, South Africa last week. The exhibition was held between 23 – 26 October, 2007 at Nasrec Expo Centre, Johannesburg, South Africa coinciding with South Africa's largest engineering exhibition called the MTI exhibition where India was the partner country. The exhibition was inaugurated by Dr. Ashwani Kumar, Union Minister of State for Industry, Government of India, Dr. Goolam Essop Pahad, Minister in Presidency and Ms. Elizabeth Thabethe, Deputy Minister for Trade and Industry, Government of South Africa. 171 Indian companies participated at the exhibition which was graced by 5,500 visitors.

The value of the total enquiries generated during the exhibition was USD 174.07 million. This value does not include the amount that was not quantified by many of the exhibitors, since discussions are on and it was not possible for them to quantify the value. The value of the total order booked during the exhibition was USD 2.36 million. Two companies, Ankur Scientific and SSP have signed MOUs each with companies based in South Africa. This apart, many companies have appointed agents in South Africa for their businesses.

On the occasion of INDEE 2007 at Johannesburg, South Africa, the Council also formally inaugurated the India Engineering Center (IEC) which is the second such facility of the Council. This Center is a showroom-cum-warehousing facility where Indian companies can showcase their products as also catalogues and can use the centre as a marketing office for their companies by paying a nominal charge for using such facilities. This apart, the Council also organized the Indo-SADC Partnership Summit on October 23, 2007 which was also inaugurated by Dr. Ashwani Kumar, Union Minister of State for Industry, Government of India at this summit. The Council signed two MOUs, one each with Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Johannesburg & Cape Town and Namibia Chamber of Commerce, Namibia. Similar MOUs are expected to be signed with industrial organizations belonging to other SADC member countries.

Meanwhile, the Council is also taking up with the Government issues relating to other problems faced by engineering exporters, especially the effects of a stronger Rupee on our exports. We will be submitting our views at a brain storming session called by the Director General of Foreign Trade on 2 November, 2007.

Yours sincerely,



(RAKESH SHAH)