

## From Chairman's Pen



8th December, 2004

*My dear fellow exporters,*

*With a view to strengthen economic ties, India and ASEAN covering 10 countries had signed a pact at the recently concluded ASEAN Summit in Laos. Apart from easy flow of trade between India and ASEAN region, it will further facilitate flow of foreign investment. The plan of action seeks to maximize synergies for promoting trade in goods, services and investment and identification of trade barriers. The plan of action also aims at encouraging development of on-line linkages between India and ASEAN with regard to certificate of origin and establish export and import inspection system in line with internationally accepted goods regulatory practices. Our Prime Minister had hinted for setting up of an ASEAN Economic Community for faster progress of countries in this region.*

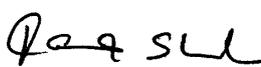
*Most encouraging is involvement of Japan, China and South Korea in the ASEAN community. China had signed a landmark deal with ASEAN to create an Asian Free Trade market. In the meantime, Japan had a dialogue with the ASEAN on the tariff cut on their trade zone that would start from April next year. All these would definitely encourage India's trade to grow to this region significantly. Moreover, India's tie with China would open a new vista in the near future.*

*As I have already mentioned in my earlier columns, EEPC has been putting in its best efforts to capitalize the opportunities prevailing in this region under the Government Focus ASEAN + 2 Programme. Special Focus has also been given on Chinese market who seems to be our competitor in the world market now. Our aim is to explore the possibilities in the vast potential market. Therefore, apart from having various promotional activities in the ASEAN region, EEPC proposes to organise its INDIA TECH Exhibition in Sanghai during November next.*

*As you may be aware, Council in association with Indo-German Chamber of Commerce is going to organise India's participation in the forthcoming Hanover Exhibition which starts from 11th April, 2005. Indo-German Chamber of Commerce and EEPC together had a number of Seminars in all major cities to create an awareness about the importance of this exhibition. I had also addressed one such held on 2nd December, 2004 in Kolkata which was attended by a handful of exporters in the Eastern Region. The news about this Exhibition has been published in this bulletin.*

*As regards scrap imports, some of the exporters have faced problems particularly with regard to certification from the Inspection Agency. Council had taken up the matter with the DGFT in respect of Certificate of Origin and Pre-Shipment Inspection.*

*Yours sincerely,*

  
(RAKESH SHAH)