



## 1<sup>st</sup> Event of Air Cargo Forum India - ACFI

# Air Cargo Today to Tomorrow

After the launch of **Air Cargo Forum India (ACFI)** on Oct 10<sup>th</sup> 2012 the **1<sup>st</sup> Event** – of ACFI “**Air Cargo Today to Tomorrow**” was held on 5<sup>th</sup> March, 2013 at Westin Hotel, Gurgaon, aiming at better future of air cargo in spite of number of challenges at present.



Left to right : Mr. Yashpal Sharma, Treasurer, ACFI, Mr. Pradeep Panicker, President, ACFI, Mr. Ram C. Menen, Divisional Senior Vice President, Emirates SkyCargo, Mr. Shantanu Bhadkamkar, Chairman, FFFAI, Mr. Varun Singhi, Director, Logistics Trade & Commerce, Indian Sub-Continent, Middle East & Mediterranean, GAP Inc, Mr. Rakesh Prasher, Director, Global Supply Chain, Ranbaxy Laboratories

A group of high profile expert speakers including Mr. Ram C. Menen, Divisional Senior VP, Emirates Sky Cargo, Mr. Varun Singhi, Director, Logistics Trade & Commerce, Indian Sub-Continent, Middle East & Mediterranean, GAP Inc, Mr. Rakesh Prasher, Director - Global Supply Chain, Ranbaxy Laboratories, Mr. Shantanu Bhadkamkar, Chairman FFFAI, and Mr. Pradeep Panicker the President ACFI in the presence of over 200 dignitaries highlighting the importance of cooperative strength of all stakeholders of the air cargo logistic trade to contribute in the making of a competitive air cargo logistic trade in India.



Mr Pradeep Panicker, President, ACFI in his welcome speech updated the august gathering/audience about the various activities undertaken by ACFI. One of the initiatives taken he informed was the establishment of sector specific eight nos. of working sub committees like Automobiles Industry, Apparel/ Textile Industry, Electronic Industry, Domestic & Transshipment Air Cargo, Process Simplification, Innovation and Pharmaceuticals etc. for taking up various issues for improvement with the appropriate authorities based on feedback from the respective sectors. He further emphasised that it is essential to make India's air cargo supply chain efficient

on its deliverables by making “transportation simpler and transparent, which is only possible through coordination among industry members.”

Mr. Ram C. Menen of Emirates delivered on the Aviation Industry from airline perspective. He mainly touched upon the “On going volatility in oil prices which has made it more challenging for global cargo operators to keep costs under control while maintaining efficient service levels. He stressed upon joint cooperation between shippers, distributors and air cargo supply chain agencies which may result in lower operating costs for airlines and allow shippers to maintain lower inventory levels and collective efficiency.



Mr. Varun Singhi from GAP spoke about Apparel Exporters perspective taking up from “Movement of apparel from production line to retail outlet chain. Apart from various other issues he touched upon specific bottlenecks in the existing processing of air cargo at the airport. Better cooperation will ensure streamlining of processes and control cost escalation. He also stressed on generation of high degree of trust among partners, 24x7 Operation at cargo terminal by all the agencies including Customs, need of change in the Customs Regulations for export of samples, need of a logistics institution, and reduction in the pilferage of items and finally he proposed that shippers also should become the members of ACFI.



Mr. Rakesh Prasher from Ranbaxy the major exporter of pharmaceutical products attracted the attention of members about the constraints of Pharma Industry in the supply chain. He emphasised upon efficient handling between the post production supply chain and distribution for which a temperature controlled and GPS enabled vehicles are required. He also demanded that Airports should have hygienic storage facilities and maintain a desired cool chain up to the loading in to the aircraft. He also stressed on the X-Ray facility for BUP shipments, wooden skids for fast & unitized movement of Pkgs., SLU should be allowed to avoid multiple handling & damages. Mr. Prasher also demanded that the cargo handlers should also be trained about the requirements of Pharma Consignment.

Mr. Shantanu Bhadkamkar, Chairman, FFFAI spoke about wide spectrum of Stakeholder’s contribution to the economy, efficient supply chain management, additional growth in GDP & competition with other modes. Way forward- challenges, Globalization, need of world class logistic Infrastructure, technology, policy changes & recourses. Better advance planning, ease of doing business, competitive cost, reliability & predictability in the industry etc.



A panel discussions & Question & answer session was conducted by Mr. Ramesh Mamidala, COO, Celebi Delhi Cargo Terminal Management India Private Limited (CDCTMIPL). The audience raised questions related to various aspect of air cargo logistic trade to each guest speakers who answered promptly upto their satisfaction.

Among members who raised questions were Mr. J M Nair, GM Airport OPS, Blue Dart, Mr. Vipin Jain, Chairman, BAR-India Cargo, & Mr. Sunil Arora, Mr K S Wadhwa , Mr Mahesh Trikha all Members of ACCAI, & Mr R. Katyal Member ACFI who touched upon following main points;-



- i. How to make Indian Airports Transshipment Hubs,
- ii. Multiple procedural layers hampers smooth/faster movement of cargo,
- iii. Status on the development of Cargo Village at IGIA,
- iv. Expansion of ACFI needed to various regional areas for PAN India development,
- v. Prospects of AEO (Authorized Economic Operator) by Customs,
- vi. Multi-country consolidation at Indian Airports at par with Dubai & Singapore.

While wrapping up the session Mr. Sanjiv Edward Head DIAL Cargo thanked all the participants & the guest speakers for their valuable participation & enlightening the members present. Mr. Edward said that the theme of the workshop was finally achieved by the healthy interactive deliberations among the speakers & the audience which basically focused upon the need of Collective & Coordinated efforts by all the stakeholders of Air Cargo Logistic Trade & Industry to achieve an Efficient Air Cargo Supply Chain to Boost the Indian Economy the Vision of ACFI.



*Photo Gallery*



