

AIBC NSW welcomes new Consulate General of India to Sydney

Australia India Business Council NSW (AIBC) held a reception themed '*India is open for business*' welcoming **Mr Sanjay Sudhir**, the new Consul General of India to Sydney on 15th July 2014. AIBC Platinum Partner, **the Commonwealth Bank (CBA)** hosted the event which was attended by key industry and business leaders and Government representatives.

AIBC NSW President, **Mr. John Cox**, gave a welcome speech on behalf of the NSW Australian Indian business community. He extended a warmest congratulations and best wishes to **Mr Sanjay Sudhir**.

AIBC National Chairman, **Mr Dipen Rughani** spoke about the AIBC's active role in 2014 in promoting India Australia trade relations and how the Indian Government's new leadership role can positively impact business collaborations in India and Australia.

CBA Executive General Manager, for Institutional and Business Banking, **Mr Steve McGregor**, also welcomed the Consul General and the AIBC members attending the event, stating that the CBA was a proud host for this occasion.

AIBC National Vice Chair, **Mrs Sheba Nandkeolyar** introduced **Mr. Sanjay Sudhir** to the attendees regaling how engaged **Mr. Sudhir** was in getting to know Australia and AIBC even prior to his arrival.

In his keynote address, **Mr Sanjay Sudhir** said "We are at a cusp – both in terms of bilateral trade and investment relations and India's growth trajectory. There are early signs of economic recovery, a sentiment of hope and economic activity picking up with exports and industrial production growing."

According to **Mr Sudhir**, there exist several opportunities for Australia in many different sectors including Infrastructure, industrial corridors, Defence and Insurance, ports, mining and the Skills India program, where Australia has a huge scope to contribute – particularly Australian Universities and TAFE.

"Mr. Modi, the Prime Minister of India has a track record of governance and he plays a vital role in enabling environment – infrastructure, IIT's, IIM's skill development programmes etc.

India has some big names like Unilever, GM, GE, Toyota, Honda and Suzuki in addition to its own big players who are acquiring businesses worldwide. There is definitely space for Australian big names, for example the big 4 banks are already there – that should be the beginning of the story" he added.

He ended on a lighter note saying "India is not only open but wide open for business. At the Consulate General of India we are always available for you. We are building on the work so painstakingly done by our predecessors and in collaboration with you all. It is jappi time – pappi time."

Tata Consultancy Services' Chief Technology Officer, **Mr Ananth Krishnan**, also welcomed the Consul General. He spoke about the technology sector, its development in India and what it means for business opportunities in Australia.

Mr Steve McGregor delivered the closing remarks on a highly positive note about the future of Australia-India business space.

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