India Country Presentation: 40th Annual Meet of the Board of Governors
‘Public-Private Partnership the way forward for infrastructure development in India’

Speaking at the India country presentation -- ‘Emerging Opportunities for Private Sector in Infrastructure’ -- Dr D Subbarao, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India, said that infrastructure development in India required private investment and a Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) approach. He added that to make infrastructure amenities available to all in India remained the main concern. Dr D Subbarao addressed over 200 delegates at the ‘India Country Presentation’ organised by the Ministry of Finance in partnership with the India Brand Equity Foundation, during the 40th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors on May 6th at Kyoto.

As India aspires to become one of the premier globally competitive economies, speakers at the presentation, which included prominent government and industry representatives emphasised how infrastructure demands were gaining critical focus with the PPP model becoming centre-stage as the recognised model to raise resources for investment in Indian infrastructure. Mr Vinayak Chatterjee, Chairman, Infrastructure Council, Confederation of Indian Industry & Chairman, Feedback Ventures, informed that the Planning Commission had suggested that investments in infrastructure would need to increase from 4.6 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP), to between 7 per cent and 8 per cent during the Eleventh Plan Period (2007-2012), which would entail an outlay of almost US$ 30 billion during the Plan period.

Mr Arvind Mayaram, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, provided an overview of ‘Business Opportunities in Infrastructure’, emphasising the large untapped market, which represented a huge business opportunity for the private sector.

Mr Ashok Chawla, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation, referred to the strides made by the aviation sector in India, with 14 new airlines emerging over 1992 and 2007. He referred to the Airport Regulatory Bill, recently approved by Parliament, which was expected to provide an iron-clad framework for the airport development regulatory environment. Mr J P Batra, Chairman, Railway Board, referred to the turnaround in the Indian railways, wherein the freight traffic and passenger traffic had posted a growth 9 per cent and 7 per cent respectively -- compared to 4 per cent and 2-2.5 per cent in the period preceding last three years.
The presentations, which offered the Government's vision and the private sector's perspective on the imperatives for building world-class infrastructure in India, the challenges, but more importantly, the prospects that infrastructure development offered, was extremely well-received.

On the occasion of the Country Presentation focusing on Infrastructure, India Brand Equity Foundation, prepared a special edition of its bimonthly magazine, India Now, a perspective, which outlined the phenomenal opportunities for infrastructure development in India. The India Business CDs formed part of the delegate kit of the more than 3000 attendees that participated in the Asian Development Bank (ADB) Annual Meet.

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