

CIB Pune Chapter

Inaugural Meeting Report

January 31, 2014

Venue: Tata Management Training Centre, Pune

When Caux Initiatives for Business (CIB) scheduled its first Pune City Chapter Meeting, the expectations were that the meeting would be low-key. However the inaugural meeting



of the Pune Chapter on January 31, 2014 went beyond expectations. Set in the beautiful, idyllic campus of Tata Management Training Centre in Pune – a setting that seems far removed from the hustle and bustle of a busy city – a meeting was organized by the CIB team in Pune to describe the purpose and work of CIB and invite like-minded persons from the Pune community, more particularly from business and industry, to join hands in promoting that it is possible to do business ethically and still remain competitive.

The classroom named “Takshashila” – a name from one of the earliest universities of the world – was filled to its maximum capacity of 50 persons. The composition of the gathering ranged from mostly heads of small and large business companies, a few persons from training organizations and young management students.

T. P. Mukherjee, the Convener of CIB’s Pune City Chapter, after welcoming the distinguished participants showed a short presentation that explained what CIB and its activities were. Sarosh Ghandy, the Director of CIB, elaborated further why it was necessary to come together to join hands in making business ethical and sustainable. Introducing Kishor Chaukar, the former MD, Tata Industries Ltd., Sarosh invited him to deliver the key-note address.

Mr. Chaukar’s speech was brief but to the point. He shared that it was necessary to bring about a change in our mindset while doing business. This, more so now because the consumer and the community has become more aware and conscious than ever before and that other stakeholders including the environment were not in a position to be taken for granted as in times past. He recounted from his past experience at Tatas how a citizen while keenly welcoming the idea of large investment for business in her city, suddenly withdrew when she heard that the investment could be for a thermal plant to provide power supply for the region. The high level of awareness amongst people in this hyper-



connected world of ours, and their activism in taking a stand to protect their interests' calls for more conversations in building a common ground, he said.

He then shared how Caux Initiatives for Business was attractive to him because unlike other voices of activism that called for change, CIB was a group of people from business, the bureaucracy and customers that now called for change. This he said was what made it special. In conclusion he shared from his longtime association with MRA, IofC and CIB at Asia Plateau, Panchgani and how the ethos and ambience made the place unique, stimulating and full of learning.

An inspiring video of how the late Suresh Hundre, former MD of Polyhydron Ltd., Belgaum (his Rs. 400 million-turnover company) brought about a sea of change in his company, a change that transformed it into a temple of ethics, trust and employee well-being and all the while still remaining competitively sustainable – was then screened for the audience.

Following this, Lt. Col. (Retd) Allan Burby shared briefly how related to mindsets for change, awareness needed to go beyond just compliance and commitment but into the rarer heights of consciousness, while striving for purpose oriented social action. Illustrating his point with the analogy of a tree he said that it was the stage of consciousness that invited one to look holistically at the ecosystem and its constituent attributes. One must attempt to look beyond just the visible and the obvious to all the elements that contributed to the tree being alive, healthy and interdependent. Drawing inference with the purpose of this first CIB city chapter, he added that CIB was striving to bring about this level of consciousness by connecting with people of a similar mindset in jointly "Ideating, Acting and then Activating".

Ms. Wendy Burby from Pragati Leadership Pvt. Ltd. tabled the concept of "Poorna Pune", a movement based on a mission working towards discovering & developing a city that is filled with "change-makers" believing that they can lead change in society, starting with themselves. It is a collaborative movement that invites the collective towards building a Pune that is a city of catalysts of change in an evolving social environment of transformation.

The management students of Symbiosis Centre for Information and Technology (SCIT) led by Professors Shaji & Saravanan then presented four short AV clippings to showcase a few programmes that they were involved with in uplifting and caring for the needs of some of the weaker sections of society including the challenged.



After a very brief time of questions from the audience as to how one could be a part of CIB, Farhad Forbes, Director, Forbes Marshall Pvt. Ltd. very beautifully concluded the evening by sharing how the greatest benefit he and his organization have for long enjoyed with CIB was the opportunity to learn from the sharing and experiences of others.

It would be fitting at this point to say that the effort made by everyone to spare time and make it to this Inaugural CIB Pune Chapter Meeting has been greatly appreciated; especially for those who have travelled from distant parts of Pune city, and a few from as far as Panchgani and Bangalore for this event.

All present were assured that each would receive a copy of the event report. In conclusion, Mr TP Mukherjee expressed his gratitude to the TMTC team and members of the CIB team in helping prepare and execute this event.

The organizing committee concludes that the primary objective of the 31st January meeting was to get people of a similar aspiration and mindset together; this was achieved.

Going forward, the next such meeting would spare much time for defining key focus areas/objectives for the Pune city chapter to engage upon. Progressing the collective, the 3rd city meeting would then spend time in drawing consensus upon a plan of action & measures for each objective.

The CIB – Pune chapter invites all who read this report to send your suggestions, questions and ideas in breathing life & value into this city chapter to Mr. TP Mukherjee at your earliest convenience. You could write to cib.pune.india@gmail.com

For a detailed list of persons that attended the 31st January 2014 meeting at TMTC, Pune, please see attached sheet.