

CIB (India) Pune Chapter

Second Meeting Report

June 6, 2014

Venue: Symbiosis Institute of Computer Studies and Research (SICSR)

"Sensitisation on aspects of ethics has increased better self-governance, transparency in actions and long-term corporate performance. It is axiomatic that transparency brings ethicality. Top-ranked companies in the world are those, which highly value ethical conduct," said Maj. Gen. (Retd.) S C N Jatar in his speech on this occasion.



Sanjiv Mehta welcoming the delegates

Welcoming 200 delegates, Sanjiv Mehta, MD, V Hire, a Recruitment Services company in Pune appreciated the SICSR for the remarkable efforts they made to organize the event. On being called upon to say a few words, the Director of SICSR, Lalith Kathpalia, shared his thoughts behind taking this initiative. Recognizing that ethics and values were key to the success of any organization, he felt that this forum would be a wonderful opportunity for his students and staff to understand its importance. This more so because when one thinks of the word, "business", ethics and values do not figure up as important for sustainability and growth. Admitting that his institute has just made a beginning he expressed his keenness to work closely with CIB.

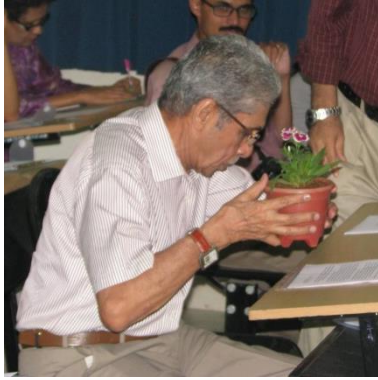
Following a short presentation about CIB, T. P. Mukherjee, Convener of the CIB Pune Chapter, welcomed the Keynote Speaker, Maj. Gen. (Retd.) S C N Jatar and requested Sanjiv Mehta to introduce him to the delegates.

Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Jatar , a respected figure in the Indian Hydrocarbon Sector, in his speech shared, "A soldier's honour code is perhaps the oldest instance of a structured code of conduct in ethics, leadership, management and governance."

The former Chairman and Managing Director of ONGC Ltd. who also held the position of CMD of Oil India in the past continued his sharing by then speaking of the nature of morals and ethics. "Ethics is not limited to specific acts and defined moral codes, but encompasses the whole range of moral ideals and behaviours, a person's philosophy of life."



*Lalith Kathpalia
Director, SICSR*



*Maj. Gen. SCN Jatar
felicitated with a sapling*

Bringing the link between ethics and corporate governance the retired Indian Army officer who is currently on the Board of Directors of Videocon Industries Ltd. said, "The cutting edge for ensuring good governance is an enabling value-frame and sensitivity to ethics. Ethics thus becomes central to the process of governance."

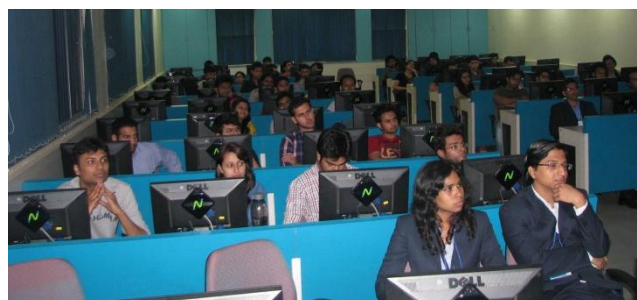
Continuing further, the Major General said, "In the corporate world, the open market is divinity, the consumer is sovereign and the bottom line is monetary profit. The antiquated Indian legal system has an adverse effect on social ethos. Many of our younger generation now feel that it is necessary to be unethical and evade the law to reach high places. They feel that scholastic excellence is unnecessary because networking and muscle power fetch everything that one needs in life. A situation has come when we tend to pardon the unethical behaviour of a person because he is a 'go-getter' and an achiever."

"Ethics is beyond the law. The law merely specifies the lowest common denominator of acceptable behaviour. Ethics, thus, goes far beyond structure, systems and legal provisions. It has intimate relationship with professionalism and personal values. There are many instances where one is not sure of legality or ethicality. One has to live with one's conscience and take a call."

The audience comprising of delegates from Industry, students and staff of SICSR listened to the Major General with rapt attention as he spoke, "Ethics represents the dilemmas that most of us face in our working lives. As an individual reaches policy levels, fuzziness creeps in and discretions in behavioural choices increase. The top managements are constantly dealing with issues, which could be controversial in their impact and many are legal yet unethical."

Concluding his speech, Maj. Gen. Jatar said, "All successful organisations have achieved high ethical standards. The cutting edge for ensuring good governance is an enabling value-frame and sensitivity to ethics. A strategic approach at the super structure and practical functioning through human resource intervention is necessary."

The question and answer session evoked lot of interest among the students and delegates from business and industry. Some of the answers suggested were: preparation of Code of Ethics; saying no to giving bribes and; if there is conviction and faith, then there is a way out.



*SICSR students listening with rapt attention to
Maj. Gen. Jatar through video streaming*

To accommodate 200 participants, the audience were seated in two separate auditoriums. Delegates in the second auditorium viewed and heard the Speaker through online video streaming technology. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks and filling up of the feedback forms.



After the meeting the feedback forms were analysed it was observed that almost all the participants opined that their expectations were met, and that they would like to be associated with CIB's initiatives. Several offered to volunteer in its activities.

The next meeting shall be held on **July 12, 2014 at 5:00 pm** in the MKCL Conference Hall on the 5th Floor, "B" Wing of ICC Trade Tower, Senapati Bapat Road. If you happen to be in Pune and would like to join the meeting, please call T P Mukherjee on +91-9552626262 or at cib.pune.india@gmail.com.