



***Asian Centre for Corporate Governance & Sustainability™ (ACCGS)***  
***Presents***  
**INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR NETWORK**



Mr. Subodh Bhargava launching the Asian Centre's Independent Director Network, Seen in the picture are (L-R) Mr. M.K. Chouhan and Ms. Vladislava Ryabota of IFC.

Asian Centre's "Independent Director Network" was launched on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2014, by Mr. Subodh Bhargava, Chairman Tata Communications Ltd. Mr. Bhargava is also the Chairman, Advisory Board, Independent Director Network.

Legal & Regulatory landscape within which boards are operating is changing fast and becoming complex. For instance, new Companies Act – 2013, in India, has placed humongous responsibilities on the shoulders of Independent Directors. As a result, the risks for Independent directors have increased many fold. In order to manage and mitigate these risks, directors need specialised advice.

Asian Centre For Corporate Governance, recognises these ever increasing needs of Independent as well as Whole time directors. These needs can be categorised as follows;

- **Appointment needs** - Need to get on boards
- **Development & Board renewal needs** - Need to renew once own knowledge on changing landscape of Corporate Governance and duties and responsibilities of Directors.
- **Information needs** – need to seek advice on Legal, Regulatory, Financial and Taxation matters.
- **Legal Protection needs** - need to seek advice on how to protect oneself from the Legal risks eg. Risk of arrest warrant etc.

Asian Centre is attempting to fulfill these critical needs of directors through a special initiative called 'DIRECTORS NETWORK', which was launched at the occasion of inaugural Director Power Breakfast Series 2014-15, on 12<sup>th</sup> August 2014 at the hands of Mr. Subodh Bhargava, Chairman, Tata Communications Limited.

### **Benefits of Director Network:**

**The members of the 'DIRECTORS NETWORK' of Asian Centre will benefit in many different ways, some of them are:**

**Opportunity to get invitations for Appointment on corporate boards\*:** Asian Centre will create a database of members of the 'DIRECTORS NETWORK'. This database will be built by invitation only and will be an active database, so as to maintain a certain level of quality. This database will be a combination of

- a) experienced board members
- b) Bright professionals with great potential to become directors.

Asian Centre database will be unique because it will have gender diversity as well as regional diversity. The database will have

- c) Women professionals as well as
- d) Professionals from other countries, especially Asia.

Bright professionals with great potential to become directors will undergo an orientation programme before they become part of this database. This database will be shared with ET 500 companies, who will have an opportunity to invite any member of Asian Centre 'Director Network' to be on their board.

\* Disclaimer: This will be on the 'best effort' basis but Asian Centre does NOT guarantee the invitation.

**Opportunity to be invited to Development / orientation programmes by Asian Centre:** Director Orientation is a process which helps directors to keep abreast with the latest and the best board processes and practices. Asian centre believes that peer group learning in informal settings is the best way to help directors renew their knowledge base. Hence, Asian Centre for past 14 years, has been presenting many of the internationally renowned, practitioners and thinkers with cutting edge ideas in Corporate Governance & Sustainability space, at its flagship events like;

- Director Power Breakfast Meetings
- International Conferences / Asia Business Responsibility Summit

'Director Network' members will be invited to all the above events free of cost. They will also have. Members will have access to the restricted pass word protected web pages which will contain presentations of speakers of all events as well as access to the research reports and valuable articles on Corporate Governance & Sustainability.

**Opportunity to receive advice from experts from Legal, Regulatory, Financial and Taxation areas:** Asian Centre is creating a panel of experts from streams like, Solicitors / Corporate Lawyers/ Former Police officers, Tax experts. 'Director Network' members will have the opportunity to receive comprehensive advise from these experts.

14 years track record of Asian Centre: There have been four focus areas in which Asian Centre has been active for past 14 years:

- Advocacy
- Consultancy
- Training &
- Research

**Asian Centre has conducted research on Corporate Governance of 100 Indian companies** including BSE Sensex 30 Cos, Nifty 50 Cos from time to time. Our first research was presented in New Delhi at Director Power Breakfast Meeting few years ago, Mr. Minoo Shroff and Mr. M.K. Chouhan were invited by CNBC to share detail of this research. The 2005 research was presented at Washington DC on July 5, 2006 at the Conference of International Corporate Governance Network by Mr. M.K. Chouhan, during his speech on the theme "What is Emerging in Emerging Markets". 2007 Research was conducted jointly with Indian Merchants Chamber and released on the occasion of 8<sup>th</sup> International conference at Hotel Taj Mahal, Mumbai on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2008.

**The humble efforts of in 'Knowledge Creation' & Dissemination'**, have been through several unique initiatives like; 70 Director Power Breakfast meetings, 10 International Conferences on Corporate Governance & Public Governance. The Digital Video Conference with Prof. Jay Lorsch, Harvard Business School has been yet another such initiative.

Performing the advocacy role, Asian Centre has provided valuable inputs to Securities Board of India (SEBI) Committee on Corporate Governance and Dr JJ Irani Committee, set up by Ministry of Corporate Affairs, These inputs were provided after conducting specific Director Power Breakfast Meetings, involving Industry Leaders and professionals and therefore were quite broad based. Asian Centre also provided valuable inputs to Committee Constituted by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs to formulate a Policy Document on Corporate Governance in 2012.

**In the area of Director Development** Asian Centre has conducted 3 Director Training / Development Programmes (in academic partnership with two leading Business schools of Asia, Asian Institute of Management (AIM), Manila, Philippines & Indian Institute of Management (IIM-B) Bangalore, India.

**Asian Centre has also taken significant steps towards networking with international** Institutions like, International Corporate Governance Network, (ICGN) London, GCGF, Washington and participated in Asian Roundtable on Corporate Governance by OECD, Paris. In Asia, we have actively partnered with Singapore Institute of Directors (SID), Hong Kong Institute of Directors (HKIoD), Malaysian Institute of Corporate Governance (MICG), Thai Institute of Directors (Thai IoD), and Indonesian Institute of Corporate Directors (IICD) and have brought them to India to support our Conferences as well as have gone to these countries and supported their events.

Going forward, the views of Asian Centre 'Director Network' members will be represented at all stages of the policy process. To maximise our influence, we will communicate our viewpoint to the policy-makers, through direct discussion with Ministers, through detailed discussions with civil servants, through written responses to consultation documents, through production of research and policy papers, by taking a position in the media.

Asian Centre has been fortunate to have patronage of a very large number of Industry leaders and directors since 2001 and based on suggestions from many people, we have created 'Directors Network', which will provide the Director fraternity not only an opportunity for networking but also foster peer group learning, get expert advice on many issues, including director protection and leave you some bit less vulnerable to the increasing risks. The types of memberships available and the fee structure are as follows;

Type of membership	For directors & professionals	Registration fee (one time Non refundable) Rs.	Per year fee Rs.
Platinum membership	below the age of 60 yrs	15000/-	15000/-
Gold membership	above the age of 60 yrs	15000/-	12000/-

1. **Platinum membership** (for age group between 21 to 59 years of age)
2. **Gold membership** (for age group 60 years and above)

The membership is essentially by invitation and restricted to Chairmen, MDs, CEOs and board of Directors, (Independent & whole time). The membership is based on certain criteria and decision in this matter, by Asian Centre will be final. For receiving the invitation please [click here](#) or write to;

***Asian Centre Director Network***

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