

44th EEPC India National Awards for Export Excellence 2011-12

15th March 2013 at 6.15 pm

Welcome Address by Mr Aman Chadha, Chairman, EEPC India

Mr. Martin Kuba, Minister of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic, Mrs.Ramatoulaye Bah, Minister of Industry & SME's – Guinea Minister for Commerce – Togo, Mr.Milan Hovarka, Dy Minister for Trade & Industry, Czech Republic, Mr.Zak Jiri, Dy. Minister for Transportation, Czech Republic, Mr. U Myint Than, Minister for Agriculture & Livestock Breeding , Mandalay Region, Myanmar, Dr. Myint Kyu, Minister for Industry & Electricity Mandalay Region, Myanmar, Mr.U Than Htike, Sagaing Region Minister for Forest, Mining and Energy, Sagaing Region, Myanmar

Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Friends,

I deem it a proud privilege to welcome you all this evening to the 44th EEPC India National Awards for Export Excellence for the year 2011 -12 In 1967-68, EEPC India, then called the Engineering Export Promotion Council, recognized the contribution of its member exporters and awarded badges and certificates of merit to those members who had exported more than 10% of their production and/or had exceeded an export performance of Rs 2.5 lakhs during that year.

74 firms were recognized on this basis that year.

Thus, the 2011-12 National Awards for Export Excellence is the 44th year of presentation of National Export Excellence Awards by EEPC India.

The members of EEPC India are not mere exporters.

Most of them are also importers and hence the activities of our members are beneficial not only for the Indian economy but the global economy at large.

Clearly, therefore, our National Award winners are true champions whose contributions we will be recognizing today.

On behalf of the entire fraternity of those belonging to the foreign trade sector, let me heartily congratulate all the National Award Winners for 2011-12.

May I also congratulate those who did not receive the award as they gave stiff competition to the Award Winners?

We received a record number of applications this year and we also intend to streamline the Award Scheme further next year so that it is possible for our members to file the on line Award applications in a more easier fashion. World merchandise trade value surpassed the pre-crisis (2008) level of US \$ 16 trillion, reaching US \$ 18.26 trillion in 2011.

However, world trade volume decelerated sharply to 2.8 per cent in 2012 from 5.9 per cent in 2011 and 12.6 per cent in 2010.

With regard to India's engineering exports, our exports grew by nearly 17% from USD 49.81 billion in 2010-11 to USD 58.23 billion in 2011-12.

Thus, there was a bounce back for two successive years after the sharp fall in 2009-10.

Today, the world economic order remains in a state of flux.

As per the January 2013 update of the IMF, world trade volume is projected to grow by 3.8 per cent in 2013 which is down 0.7 percentage points compared to its October 2012 update.

Import and export volume growth rates of emerging market and developing economies are however projected to be higher than those of advanced economies.

Global economic uncertainty including doubts about the ultimate resolution of the crisis in the euro area, doubts about the pace of fiscal withdrawal in the US, challenges to sustaining growth after the earthquake reconstruction rebound in Japan and trade disruptions with China, though of a passing nature, continue to cast their shadows on the trade growth of emerging and developing economies (EDEs) including India.

For the moment, however, we need to celebrate our heroes who helped us to stabilize the export scenario in 2011-12.

Today, Hon'ble Minister Mr. Martin Kuba will be giving away a total of 110 Awards, As mentioned earlier, the Who's Who of Indian Engineering has competed with each other in order to bag the Awards.

As I conclude, I must thank the entire team in Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry and the Government of India for the support that we have received from them at all times.

My congratulations to the National Award Winners for 2011-12, once again, and hope that they will continue to serve the cause of the country in future with all determination.

With these words, may I, once again, thank Mr. Martin Kuba for their encouragement and valued presence on this momentous occasion.

