



BRICS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

BUILDING BUSINESS-BRICS AND BEYOND





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Business Meets & Events

CLIMATE & ECONOMIC RESILIENCE FORUM



With the impulse of global Sustainability in sight, BRICS CCI, on June 8th, 2023, organized the "Climate & Economic Resilience Forum". With this, the Forum seemed to harness the collective strength and expertise of the BRICS countries to drive transformative action toward a more sustainable future.

The forum served as a platform for business leaders, policymakers, social activists and civil society representatives to exchange knowledge, best practices, and innovative ideas in the realm of climate change. It facilitated constructive dialogue on various aspects, including climate policy frameworks, renewable energy, sustainable industrial scopes, green finance, and more.

The BRICS CCI Climate Forum proved to be a testament to the commitment of the BRICS nations in fostering sustainable development and combatting climate change. It symbolizes a collective effort to create a better future for generations to come, where economic



growth goes hand in hand with environmental stewardship. The Forum was felicitated by prominent figures from government, academia, and the business community.

The event was graced by the auspicious presence of H.E. Dr. Shankar Prasad Sharma, Ambassador, Embassy of Nepal; H.E. Mr. Abdulrahman Mohamed Ahmed Al Gaoud, Ambassador, Embassy of the Kingdom of Bahrain & H.E. Mr. Claudio Ansorena Montero, Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of Costa Rica. Representatives from the embassies of Russia, China, Nepal, Costa Rica, Bahrain, Sudan, Australia, Brazil, and South Africa graced the Forum with their valuable presence.







The distinguished line-up of speakers and panelists at the BRICS CCI Climate Forum included Dr. Anil Prakash Joshi, Padma Bhushan, HESCO Dehradun; Shri Sunder Paliwal, Padma Shri, Social Activist; Mr. Tang Zhishao, First Secretary, The Embassy of the People's Republic of China in India: Mr. Sandeep Chandna, Sustainability Officer, Tech Mahindra; Shri R P Sharma, Secretary and Director General of the Recycling and Environment Association of India (REIAI); Ms. Kalpana Sharma, Former, Additional Secretary to Lok Sabha, Parliament of India.

BRICS CCI brought together the stakeholder from varied industries, including Mr. Arvind Bali, CEO, Telecom Sector Skill Council; Mr. Vishal Sharma, General Manager - Sustainability Initiatives, Esri India; Mr. Abhinav Prakash Singh, Vice President, BJYM; Assistant Professor, Shri Ram College of Commerce, University of Delhi; Prof. Shallini Taneja, Head of Center for Sustainable Development, Fore School Of Management; Shri Suresh K Goel, Former Ambassador of India to Lao People's Democratic Republic.

The event was co-powered by Saisha Group of Companies, Terasoft Technologies, Fore School of Management, Silvercraft, Sheatwork, GRC India, Fuschia, La Bella Torte, Ekomart.Co, Geetveda and TV BRICS.



2ND AFRICA-BRICS YOUTH FORUM



To celebrate South Africa Youth Month, the South African BRICS Youth Association (SABYA) in collaboration with the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) and the Innovation Hub organized the **2nd Africa BRICS Youth Forum**, from 26-28 June 2023 in Pretoria, South Africa.

The Africa-BRICS Youth Forum is held annually to promote cooperation and intercultural communication between young leaders from Africa and the BRICS countries. It provides an excellent opportunity for young African and BRICS leaders between 18-35 years old to engage in discussions on global issues, share their perspectives and strengthen the multilateral relationship between Africa and BRICS. The Forum witnesses participation from Young community leaders, youth activists, entrepreneurs, change agents, researchers, and academicians.

The forum aims to establish and strengthen multilateral relations between the African continent and the BRICS countries. In line with SABYA's mission to strengthen connectivity, institutional cooperation, and people-to-people exchanges in the BRICS countries, the forum aimed to provide opportunities for youth to engage meaningfully in BRICS relations from an African perspective and to promote cooperation and intercultural communication between African and BRICS youth. As South Africa has taken BRICS Presidency in 2023, SABYA seeks to engage young people in discussions on the key issues facing African and BRICS youth to ensure that key issues and solutions are presented to relevant stakeholders.



BRICS and Beyond News

BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting

The BRICS Ministers of Foreign Affairs and International Relations met on 1 June 2023 in Cape Town, South Africa. They exchanged views on major global and regional trends and issues. They reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the framework of BRICS cooperation under the three pillars of political and security, economic and financial, and cultural and people-to-people cooperation



upholding the BRICS spirit featuring mutual respect and understanding, equality, solidarity, openness, inclusiveness, and consensus.

Indian Minister of External Affairs Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said the gathering must "send out a strong message that the world is multipolar, that it is rebalancing and that old ways cannot address new situations".

The two-day meeting witnessed discussions on various issues, including local currency trading and a peace plan for the ongoing conflict between Russia and Ukraine. The meeting, hosted by South Africa, will pave the way for the 15th BRICS Summit scheduled to take place in August, which will bring together leaders from the member countries, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Russian President Vladimir Putin, and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Source: BBC.com

BRICS meet with 'friends' seeking closer ties amid push to expand bloc



Senior officials from more than a dozen countries, including Saudi Arabia and Iran, were in talks on forging closer links with the BRICS bloc of major emerging economies on June 2, 2023, as it met to deepen ties and position itself as a counterweight to the West.

BRICS is considering expanding its membership and a growing number of countries, have



expressed interest in joining.

Iran, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Comoros, Gabon, and Kazakhstan all sent representatives to Cape Town for the "Friends of BRICS" talks, an official program showed.

Egypt, Argentina, Bangladesh, Guinea-Bissau and Indonesia were participating virtually.

Source: Reuters

Bangladesh formally applies for BRICS membership

Bangladesh has formally requested to join the BRICS coalition, consisting of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

The request was put forward following a meeting between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and South African President Matamela Cyril Ramaphosa in Geneva.

It is noted that the South African leader supported the decision of the Prime Minister of Bangladesh.



To date, Bangladesh is part of the "Friends of BRICS". In early June, a meeting of BRICS+ foreign ministers took place in Cape Town. During the event, representatives of the South Asian country declared Bangladesh's readiness to become part of the economic bloc.

Bangladesh has already become a member of the New Development Bank (NDB), set up by BRICS in 2021, making it the first country to join the bank after its founding members.

Source: Dhaka Tribune; TVBRICS

BRICS meet with 'friends' seeking closer ties amid push to expand bloc



Egypt has submitted its application to join BRICS, Russian Ambassador to Cairo Georgy Borisenko confirmed.

"Egypt has submitted its application to join the BRICS group because one of the endeavors that BRICS is currently pursuing is to shift trade to alternative currencies, be it national currencies

or a new common currency. Egypt is very much interested in that," the envoy said in an interview with TASS.

According to him, Egypt is eager to boost trade and economic cooperation with Russia. "New payment mechanisms are being created for trade transactions," the ambassador added.

Source: TASS



New Development Bank Issues 8.5-Bln-Yuan Bond on China Interbank Bond Market

The New Development Bank (NDB) has issued an RMB-denominated bond of 8.5 billion yuan (about 1.2 billion U.S. dollars) on the China Interbank Bond Market, the bank announced. It is the bank's biggest RMB bond issuance to date.

The net proceeds from the sale of the bonds will be used to finance infrastructure and sustainable development activities in the bank's member countries, the NDB said.



"In order to support our operations, the NDB seeks to increase its presence in local capital markets of our member countries by issuing and lending in local currencies, including the China Interbank Bond Market," said Leslie Maasdorp, vice president and chief financial officer of the NDB.

Source: infobrics

The Ninth (9th) BRICS Environment Ministers Meeting

The ninth BRICS Environment Ministers Meeting was convened on 28th June 2023, wherein the Environment Ministers of the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Russian Federation, the Republic of India, the People's Republic of China, and the Republic of South Africa participated. The meeting was held under the theme of, "Advancing Environmental Cooperation amongst



BRICS towards the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," through video conferencing.

Representing India, the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav stated that the Implementation Plan of the BRICS Environment MoU signed in July 2018 can be a platform for exchange of knowledge, information, ideas, best practices, etc. among the BRICS nations.

Shri Yadav called upon the BRICS nations for urgent concrete climate actions, and to intensify the efforts for saving the planet. He urged that finance and technology partnerships are the key pillars for the BRICS Nations to foster greater efforts to combat climate change and to protect biodiversity while joining hands for ensuring environmental justice; climate justice; fair, just and inclusive transition.

Source: PIB



"BRICS CCI | CSR PRESENTS

"FILTERED RESULTS FOR CSR | ESG READERS & LEADERS"

Section A : CSR | ESG NEWS - By Guardian Nigeria & India CSR wire

1. Firm plans over N1b CSR investment

As part of its Corporate Social Responsibility efforts, MTN Foundation has said that it would be investing about a N1billion to upgrade not fewer than 40 Primary Healthcare Centres (PHCs) across the country under its 'What We Can Do Together Initiative'. According to the Executive Secretary, MTN Foundation, Mrs Odunayo Sanya, MTN Foundation does not assume that it knows what a community wants as many corporate bodies that have assumed they knew what a community needed at a point in time had built projects that ended up with little or no impact on the people.



Dr. Sushi Singh

President, Centre for CSR, BRICS CCI Director, S2 Education Champs (OPC) Pvt. Ltd Director, Sai Social Responsibility & Research Centre

At the unveiling of the project, in Lagos, Sanya said there are 30,000 PHCs in Nigeria, adding that less than 25 per cent of them are functioning. From inception to date, Sanya said that MTN Foundation has invested about N25 billion in different projects, adding that, for the fifth phase of the project, the Foundation will be investing over N1 billion to ensure that Nigerians at the community level, have access to quality healthcare services. She called on more corporate organisations to come into the space.

2. Squamish Chamber calls for corporate responsibility from FortisBC

The Squamish Chamber of Commerce released a letter acknowledging the potential economic growth of the Eagle Mountain - Woodfibre Gas Pipeline Project but also calling for "corporate responsibility" from FortisBC to address the risks. Christopher Fehr, the executive director of the chamber, penned a letter outlining some of the positives and challenges associated with the project. Among the positives included employment opportunities as well as "stimulating local businesses and contributing to regional energy security. "However, Fehr also wrote there were risks of putting pressure on the housing supply, local workforce and municipal infrastructure.

"This is an opportunity for FortisBC to set an example of what corporate social responsibility is. While the project timeline is five years, the positive impacts to the community can last a lifetime."



Fulton Bank's Corporate Social Responsibility Report discusses environment, volunteerism. Fulton Bank employees spent more than 13,500 hours volunteering in their communities in 2022, and the bank made more than \$6.6 million in charitable contributions, according to Fulton's Corporate Social Responsibility Report. It also helped manage manure, proving that "Going green" is not just about LED lights and recycling. The report for 2022 reflects on how the Lancaster-based bank pursues social goals and makes money. Fulton Financial, parent company of the bank, had record operating earnings of \$1.76 per share in 2022.

"It is because of that solid performance that we were able to advance our environmental, social and governance (ESG) efforts," Curtis J. Meyers, chairman, chief executive and president of Fulton, said in the report.

The bank's environmental commitment includes recycling electronic waste and paper, and in 2022, it set up a group to review Fulton's climate impact. Fulton also sells ESG investment products for customers who want to invest in a "green" way. The environmental goals extend to working with farmers, an important customer base. That commitment extends beyond the boardroom, all the way to the barnyard. To the management not of money, but of manure. Fulton Bank provided funding for a "methane digester" at AR Joy Farm in Chester County. The digester diverts food waste from landfills and reduces manure odor and runoff. That project generates carbon credits and renewable energy credits that can be sold, Fulton says. On the social front, 24% of Fulton's staff consists of people of color, according to the bank.

"Our commitment to promoting diversity, equity and inclusion is at the heart of Fulton's values," according to the 35-page 2022 report.

Section -B CSR | ESG Views by Harvard Business School→HBS Online→Business Insights

3.7 WAYS CLIMATE CHANGE AFFECTS GLOBAL BUSINESSES

Despite greater access to clean energy and awareness of the business case for sustainability, the effects of climate change are worsening. As such, business leaders must understand how to navigate its challenges in an ever-changing landscape.

Here's an overview of the negative impacts of the climate crisis on global businesses.

Read more:

https://online.hbs.edu/blog/post/climate-change-affecting-businesses



4. Sustainable investing strategies to solve the world's biggest challenges

Sustainable investing has helped shape the world by contributing to positive social change. It's also proven that individuals and businesses can financially benefit by making their investments more sustainable. By solidifying sustainable business strategies, purpose-driven leaders and organizations can thrive as they solve the world's biggest challenges. Here's an overview of what sustainable investing is, what it means for companies and investors, and how it can help improve your portfolio and the world. (Read more

5. 15 EYE-OPENING CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY STATISTICS

While the concept of CSR has been around for decades, its importance has grown in recent years as consumers have become more conscious of issues such as climate change, income inequality, health care disparities, unfair labor practices, and gender inequity. As is often the case, this increased consumer awareness has led to businesses embracing CSR practices: An estimated 90 percent of companies on the S&P 500 index published a CSR report in 2019, compared to just 20 percent in 2011.

To help put this into perspective, below is a look at 15 statistics related to customer, employee, and executive beliefs that make the business case for corporate social responsibility.

Read More:

https://online.hbs.edu/blog/post/purpose-driven-firms

6. SOCIAL IMPACT SKILLS YOU NEED TO EFFECT CHANGE

To succeed in today's market and overcome global challenges, business leaders must understand how to combine purpose and profit by operating sustainably.

Here's an overview of sustainability in business and five social impact skills leaders need to effect change.

- a. Practicing Corporate Social Responsibility
- b. Socially Responsible Investing
- c. Managing Business on a Global Scale
- d. Crafting a Business Sustainability Strategy
- e. Building Networks as Sources of Power and Influence Read More

Collated by-

We at BRICS CCI | CSR cell aspire to be CSR |ESG trendsetters by helping corporates and companies bring ESG into the DNA of their business. Join us as we present the latest trends and updates on global CSR and ESG and provide us with your valuable time and your feedback at BRICCICSR@gmail.com





BRICS CCI-WOMEN VERTICAL



Ms. Ruby Sinha has been appointed as the President of BRICS CCI WE, Women's Vertical of BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Ruby Sinha takes over from Shabana Nasim, who has now become the Executive Director of BRICS CCI and Chief Patron of BRICS CCI WE. Formerly the Convenor of the Women's Wing of BRICS-CCI WE, Ms. Ruby has been designated this new position for 3 years.



Ms. Ruby Sinha

Managing Director-Kommune Brand President-BRICS CCI WE

Ruby Sinha is the founder of sheatwork, a knowledge hub for women entrepreneurs that works to guide and support every woman that aspires to build an enterprise of their own. She is a panel expert for "Saks-Hum" - Power of She, an initiative by the Ministry of and Information Electronics Technology, Government of India, entrepreneurship among women under 'Digital India'. Ruby runs an award-winning brand communications firm, Kommune and is a regular contributor to leading publications on women entrepreneurship.

BRICS CCI WE (BRICS Chamber of Commerce & Industry-Women Entrepreneurship) focuses on initiatives and policies with the objective of creating an enabling support system and a sound environment for women entrepreneurs and professionals across geographies. The Women's Vertical organises trade fairs, exhibitions, seminars, symposium, mentorship and training programs, lectures and business campaigns from time to time to intensify the institutional links and business relations between BRICS countries and other friendly nations. The Women's Vertical aims to create an ecosystem that is congenial to the women community, where they can work to their maximum potential, and help the world move on the right path of prosperity.

Ms. Ruby, being the former convenor of the Vertical, has worked whole-heartedly to the cause of women empowerment and has taken every righteous step to uplift the community. Her work has been held in high regard by the Chamber with every ounce of faith in her as she embarks on this journey to take women entrepreneurs one step above the ladder of global change in autonomy and entrepreneurship.

These words of the Director General-Brics CCI, Dr. B.B.L. Madhukar outrightly portray his confidence in Ms. Ruby: "We firmly believe that Ruby Sinha's vision, strategic acumen, and dedication will elevate the women's vertical to new heights of success and significantly contribute to the overall objective of the Chamber."





Announcement

BRICS CCI Women Vertical is thrilled to announce the launch of our empowering podcast series in association with She at Work. Starting July, join us as we bring inspiring stories, valuable insights, and expert advice to women professionals across the BRICS nations. Together, we aim to foster leadership, address challenges, and promote career growth. Stay tuned for thought-provoking discussions on career development, entrepreneurship, work-life balance, and more. Let's create a supportive network and celebrate women's achievements. Follow us on social media and visit our website for updates. Get ready to be inspired and empowered!

BRICS CCI - WE IN NEWS



SheAtWork founder Ruby Sinha appointed president of BRICS CCI women vertical

Jun 20, 2023 05:21 PM IST 🔲 📳 🕥 👣 🌚 Google News







Ruby Sinha takes over from Shabana Nasim, who has become the Executive Director of BRICS CCI and Chief Patron of BRICS CCI WE.





BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry appoints Ruby Sinha as President of BRICS CCI WE Women's Vertical

President of BRICS CCIVE, the women's vertical of the BRICS BRICS CCI for a period of three year. The BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry works towards promoting active trade, commerce entrepreneurship between the BRICS and other friendly nations. She takes over from Ms. Shabana Nasim who has become an Executive Director in BRICS CCI and Chief Patron of BRICS CCI WE.

professionals, entrepreneurs, business partners across different geographies and industry vertical moting business interactions among members by organizing regular events platforms and otl ms of interactions. It also facilitates mentoring/training programs for women professionals.



Ruby Sinha appointed as President of BRICS CCI WE Women's Vertical



रुबी सिन्हा को बिक्स सीसीआई वी का बनाया गया अध्यक्ष

विक्स चेंबर ऑफ कॉमर्स एंड इंडस्टी (विक्स सीसीआई) ने रूवी सिन्डा को तीन वर्षों के लिए विक्स सीसीआई की महिला शासा ब्रिक्स सीसीआई वी का अध्यक्ष बनाया है। रूची सिन्हा ने शबाना नसीम से कार्यभार ग्रहण किया है।



नई दिल्ली. ऑनलाइन डेस्क। विकस चैंबर ऑफ कॉमर्स एंड इंडस्टी (बिक्स सीसीआई) ने रूबी सिन्हा को तीन वर्षों के लिए ब्रिक्स सीसीआई की महिला शासा ब्रिक्स सीसीआई वी का अध्यक्ष बनाया है। ब्रिक्स चैंबर ऑफ कॉमर्स एंड इंडररी बिक्स और अन्य मित्र राष्टों के बीच सक्रिय व्यापार. वाणिज्य एवं खामशीलना को पोल्पाहित करने की दिशा में काम करना है।





moneycontrol

entrepreneurs, and Kommune Brand Communications

BRICS CCI WE appoints Ruby Sinha as president

NewsDrum Desk





New Delhi, Jun 20 (PTI) BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BRICS CCI) has appointed Ruby Sinha as the president of BRICS CCI WE, the women's vertical of the body, for three years.

An entrepreneur herself, Ruby Sinha is the founder of sheatwork.com, a knowledge hub for women

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Dr Huzaifa KhorakiwalaExecutive Director
Wockhardt Limited



WHAT ROLE DO YOU SEE BRICS PLAYING IN SHAPING GLOBAL SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDAS AND INFLUENCING INTERNATIONAL POLICIES IN THE FUTURE?

As BRICS consists of some of the fastest growing & developing economies, its policies and decisions can & will create a long lasting impact on citizens of its member countries. In today's world, every policy decision made by BRICS will play a vital role in directly or indirectly altering the economic, political and social development goals or agendas of their respective countries.

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE PLANS AND ASPIRATIONS FOR WOCKHARDT FOUNDATION? ARE THERE ANY NEW PROJECTS OR AREAS OF FOCUS THAT YOU PLAN TO EXPLORE?

The mission of Wockhardt Foundation is 'To work towards and fight for the upliftment of the poor, weak and needy' and as such all future plans & programmes will continue to revolve around this mission. All our initiatives are undertaken to provide maximum benefit to the underprivileged.

2 of our new initiatives are Hunger Project & Online Skills.

The Hunger Project aims to reduce hunger prevalent among the poor in Mumbai. We provide 1 nutritious, freshly cooked meal to the beneficiaries in orphanages & slums. Over 20,000 meals have been distributed till date.

Online Skills (an extension of our ongoing programme - Wockhardt Skills Development Institute) aims to develop & offer vocational courses that cater to a wide variety of jobs across different industries / sectors.

WOCKHARDT FOUNDATION HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN VARIOUS INITIATIVES ACROSS HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION, AND OTHER SOCIAL SECTORS. WHICH PARTICULAR PROJECT OR ACCOMPLISHMENT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF AND WHY?



The project that I am most proud of is Wockhardt Foundation's flagship healthcare initiative, Mobile 1000 which provides doorstep delivery of free primary healthcare to people living in the remotest and rural parts of India. Each Mobile 1000 van has a doctor, driver and pharmacist and is equipped with medicines, diagnostics and consumables. It covers the ADCR formula of Awareness, Diagnosis, Cure and Referral. During the last financial year (2022-23), over 3.6 million patients benefitted from the 211 vans that were operating in 20 Indian states and 1 union territory covering 4171 villages in 100 districts.

WOCKHARDT FOUNDATION HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN VARIOUS INITIATIVES ACROSS HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION, AND OTHER SOCIAL SECTORS. CAN YOU PROVIDE US WITH A SYNOPSIS OF THE WORK YOU HAVE DONE SO FAR?

Besides the Mobile 1000 initiative, Hunger Project & Wockhardt Skills Development Institute, we have various other programmes like

- **E-learning** ensures academic excellence through quality, innovative & interactive teaching methods that provide the complete syllabus in an audio visual format for school students. E-Learning sets have been installed in 425 schools in 6 states.
- **Khel Khel Mein** Edu Recreational Centres (toy libraries) for the underprivileged children aged 6 to 12 years. We currently have 6 toy libraries in Mumbai & Bangalore.
- **Gur+ (Dialysis centres)** Free dialysis for poor renal failure patients. Our 3 centres in Chennai have completed over 7500 dialysis sessions in the last financial year alone.
- Anaaj+ Free grocery kit distribution to underprivileged families in Mumbai

ARE THERE ANY SPECIFIC INITIATIVES OR PROGRAMS THAT YOU BELIEVE SHOULD BE PRIORITIZED OR EXPANDED UPON WITHIN THE BRICS FRAMEWORK TO ADDRESS EMERGING SOCIAL ISSUES IN THE FIELD OF HEALTHCARE OR RELATED SECTORS?

No, the BRICS is moving in the right direction & with adequate focus on various social issues.

ARE THERE ANY KEY LESSONS OR INSIGHTS YOU HAVE GAINED THROUGH YOUR INVOLVEMENT WITH BRICS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS OR INDIVIDUALS WORKING TOWARDS SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS?

In addition to the promotion of commerce & industry, BRICS CCI has taken an active & keen interest in bringing together businesses and social entrepreneurs on a single unified platform. These knowledge sharing opportunities and partnerships will ultimately benefit society & the underprivileged at large.





Gallery















Gallery

















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