

## Launch of ACFI – India’s First Forum representing entire Air Cargo Logistics Industry

10<sup>th</sup> Oct’ 2012, New Delhi

India's First Forum **“Air Cargo Forum India (ACFI)”** representing entire Air Logistic Industry was **Officially launched**, by Mr. S. Machendranathan, Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor in Ministry of Civil Aviation.



**Left to right: Mr. Ajay Sahai**, DG & CEO - FIEO, **Mr. Pradeep Panicker**, President - ACFI & COO - DIAL, **Mr. S. Machendranathan**, Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor, MoCA, **Mr. I. Prabhakara Rao**, CEO-DIAL, **Mr. V.G. S. Mani**, Director, Logistics, Nokia, **Mr. Adil Malia**, Group President, Essar Group.



The Additional Secretary and Financial Advisor, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Mr. S. Machendranathan launched Air Cargo Forum India (ACFI) on 10th Oct'2012 at Hyatt Regency New Delhi in the presence of more than 200 guests including officials from Ministry of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Finance, Customs, BCAS, AAI, Airlines, Freight Forwarders, CHA, Express Industry, Other Cargo Associations, various Stakeholders of air logistic trade & industry and members of the media/press.

A dedicated ACFI website i.e. [www.acfi.in](http://www.acfi.in) was also launched by the Chief Guest on this occasion.

In his inaugural speech the Chief Guest Mr. S. Machendranathan appreciated the initiatives taken by the founding members of the ACFI and said that though the Air cargo sector is going through a stress period due to economic slowdown of Europe & America but it will grow steadily at a pace of 8 per cent. We have to understand the market, the knowledge of market and try to evolve a process which is fast, efficient and economical; Mr. S. Machendranathan appreciated the objective behind the formation of ACFI taking all the stake holders at one platform for bringing improvements in the air logistics industry.



Mr. Cyrus Katgara, Secretary ACFI in his welcome address touched upon the go green/paperless concept in the processing of air cargo to make the chain of logistics industry environment friendly. The positive and like-minded people of this industry shall take the industry to new heights.



The President of ACFI, Mr. Pradeep Panicker while explaining the evolution of the ACFI and its aims & objects said that ACFI is the first nationwide air cargo trade forum. Mr. Cyrus Katgara, Secretary ACFI in his welcome address touched upon the go green/paperless concept in the processing of air cargo to make the chain of logistics industry environment friendly. The positive and like-minded people of this industry shall take the industry to new heights. That aims to bring synergy among all stakeholders of air logistics sector and bring them on one platform for achieving high standards in the air logistic industry. He said the forum would pro-actively work with trade bodies and government departments including Customs, Finance Ministry, Commerce Ministry, Civil Aviation Ministry, Directorate General of Civil Aviation and Bureau of Civil Aviation Security proactively for achieving its goal.

The members of ACFI comprise of all segments of the air cargo logistics chain including Airlines, Freight Forwarders, Cargo Terminal Operators, Integrators, Courier & Express Operators, Airport Operators, General Sales Agents, Customs House Agents and several associations connected to the Air Logistics Industry. ACFI will work for bringing innovations to achieve high standards in the operational excellence. It will also seek best practices in handling, processes, and infrastructure facilities at all levels of the air cargo supply chain. The aim of ACFI is to promote and facilitate development of world class air cargo infrastructure and bring about improvements in the industry in India. He also informed that the ACFI subcommittee on process simplification and innovation has already started work on bringing more transparency and paperless acceptance of export cargo at the cargo terminal and a trial has already taken place successfully. With this airlines and freight forwarders will get online information of Customs LEO information and the acceptance of export cargo by the Cargo Terminal Operator without any exchange of additional documents.

The guest speakers at the dais welcomed the initiative but also advised that ACFI has to rise to the expectations of the industry and the end users.



Mr. V G S Mani, Director, Logistics, Nokia: Nokia has around 60,000 Mt Air Cargo mainly out of Chennai. They in fact contribute 30% of Chennai airports Air Cargo. He stressed the need to reduce dwell time of air cargo. He also suggested ACFI to engage Knowledge consultants to initiate end to end process improvements. He advised that while Delhi is a flagship station, ACFI should go all India to give pan India umbrella to the air logistics industry.

The Group President, Essar Group, Mr. Adil Malia started his speech explaining the various economies like Zooming, Booming, Gloomng & the Dooming prevailing world wide advised the Forum to design new growth dreams and to anticipate and be armed to counter the difficulties to be faced this pursuit. He forewarned that just having vision is not enough, without action vision is just a dream. Vision will succeed only through action. He also pointed out various challenges which ACFI' as an apex body is going to face for which new solutions to the brand new internal & external challenges to be found.



**Right to left: Mr. Vipin Jain**, Regional Manager, Lufthansa & Chairman, BAR India Cargo NR, **Mr. Satyan Nayar**, Secretary General, APAO, **Mr. Yashpal Sharma**, Treasurer, ACFI & Director, Skyways Air Services Pvt Ltd., (Fourth from Right), **Mr. Cyrus N Katgara**, Secretary, ACFI & Partner, Jeena & Company, **Mr. Mahesh Malik**, Member, ACFI & Vice President-Cargo Sales & Services, InterGlobe Air Transport Ltd. (Seventh from right).





ACFI Mr. Ajay Sahai, DG & CEO, FIEO a 16500 member organization, said that the logistics industry is very important for the country as it contributes 13% of India's GDP. Logistics is a very key component in the success and failure of Indian Export and there is a need to streamline the whole process rather than look at it in a piecemeal manner. He hoped ACFI will be carrying the voice of air logistic industry. He said that FIEO gives importance to this newly formed association & its bright future that's the reason he was there at its launch. He further advised ACFI to be a proactive organization a key word for success.



CEO of Delhi International Airport (P) Limited (DIAL) Mr. I. Prabhakara Rao, in his speech welcomed the launch of ACFI creating the platform of all stake holders of the logistics industry for taking it to new heights. He emphasized that ACFI should keep the customers in mind and convert the opportunities into action. He considers each stake holder of ACFI are the drivers of the Indian economy. He wanted that the air cargo procedures & the manpower engaged should be aligned for systematically achieving the vision. He assured full support of DIAL in making the IGIA a cargo hub of India.



Vote of thanks was given by Mr. Tushar K Jani, Vice President, ACFI He thanked all the guest including the dignitaries at dais for making this event memorable, successful and satisfying. Addressing the gathering Mr. Jani emphasized that with the positive approach and progressive vision of ACFI the international cargo shall move end to end faster, quicker and safer way giving larger customer satisfaction. He further concluded that with the proactive and collaborative approach and dedication of members ACFI is going to lead the air cargo logistics trade and industry to new heights.

## ACFI and its Membership:

ACFI has been registered under Registration No. S/ RS/ SW/ 0806 / 2012 as per Societies Registration ACT XXI of 1860,

The members of ACFI come from all the segments of air cargo logistics network including Airlines, IATA accredited Freight Forwarders, Customs House Agents (CHA), Cargo Terminal Operators, Integrators, Courier & Express Operators, Airport Operators, General Sales Agents on behalf of IATA accredited Airlines, etc.