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Dr A. Didar Singh
Secretary General

September 2, 2014

Sri Kaushik Mukherjee, IAS
Chief Secretary
Government of Karnataka
Bengaluru

Dear Sri Mukherjee,

Subject: FICCI Support on Destination Karnataka-Initiative

I am very grateful to you for providing FICCI with an opportunity to conduct a workshop on the Destination Karnataka theme. The objective of this workshop was to take up an initiative which is on the State government's priority and provide inputs for enhancing the quality of work going in and thereby improve the outcomes significantly. The workshop was organized by SAKALA Mission on August 2, 2014 and chaired by Sh Arun Maira, ex-Member, Planning Commission. Key speakers from the GoK included Mrs Rathna Prabha, Additional Chief Secretary, Department of Industries and Commerce, Mr Arvind Jadhav, Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism Department, and from the resource person team organizations represented were PEMANDU-SAKAL, German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), and FICCI Quality Forum.

I wanted to apprise you of the outcomes of the workshop from the viewpoint of using the momentum generated by this exercise. Very clearly, one of the outcomes was a genuine acceptance by government functionaries that much more collaboration and co-ordination is required among departments to realize the full benefits of Destination Karnataka initiative. Our resource person team could, very briefly, demonstrate tools available to strengthen inter-departmental collaboration and also collaboration with industry. Key comments received as feedback from participants on workshop achievements and next steps are listed below for your reference:

1. A good think tank forum created including all stakeholders. A very creative initiative
2. Good workshop to create awareness on working together to make Karnataka a preferred destination. Still more work to be done
3. Interaction in the group discussion was lively and main problems were discussed
4. It is a good initiative by the DPAR. This initiation & thrust should continue till we reach the goal
5. More information & exchange of ideas would have added value. Implementation issues should have more role. A presentation from industry also should have been added
6. Need these to be converted into 'ACTION'
7. This is different experience to motivate us with bureaucrats on one side & professionals at another side. It is really good to implement the suggestions
8. This type of program should be held very often so that the administration can take clues and implement while introducing more initiatives
9. We should create a system which will take care of the development of the state and good service to the citizen
10. Workshop quality is good and it should be open time for discussion

Our own observation is that the workshop generated very healthy discussions. Much of the time was used in talking about the positive aspects of what is being done; also the lack of collaboration and co-ordination was admitted to a large extent. We now look forward to further discussion on solutions to strengthen collaboration/co-ordination and substantially improve outcomes from the Destination Karnataka Initiative. As mentioned above, the solutions could include tools demonstrated briefly by the resource persons.

I also take this opportunity to thank you for addressing the delegates during Interactive Meeting & Launch of "Karnataka Investment Tracking Mechanism" organized by FICCI on June 17, 2014. We are sensitizing industry on the new investment tracking mechanism and are also working with PMG to study the single window mechanisms in various States including Karnataka. We are very keen to work with your State to take forward the agenda on improving business regulatory environment at the State level using methodologies like Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA). RIA is being used by OECD and some countries in transition to improve decision making processes that shape the final regulation.

I will be glad to further discuss the application of Collaboration/Co-ordination solutions and RIA application in GoK and request for a meeting to take our common agendas forward.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Didar Singh', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

A Didar Singh