

SWEDISH SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES NETWORK

Swedish Business and Politics

related to South Asia:

News:

India business seminar to be held in Lund

• On Wednesday 23 May 2007, the Sweden-India Business Council (SIBC) organises an afternoon seminar in Lund titled "The New India" (Det nya Indien) in collaboration with SASNET and Ideon Science Park. It targets companies and people in and around Lund interested in India. SASNET's Director, Prof. Staffan Lindberg will be the moderator for the day, and he will also lecture about "*Vad är nytt med Indien – förändringar de senaste 25 åren*". Other participants include Susanna Bill, Innovations Manager at Sony Ericsson Mobile Communications AB in Lund. She will talk about "*How to Unleash the Power of Emerging Markets*", based on Sony Ericsson's experiences. Anne-Charlotte Sukhia from ACS Interkulturell Utbildning will talk about cultural differences in business life, and Ingemar Ljungdahl from CTO Telelogic AB will present the development of Telelogic AB in the Indian market. Venue: Ideon Science Park, Knut Wicksells konferensrum, Scheelevägen 17, Lund. [More information](#) (as a pdf-file) **NEW**



Swedish trade delegation visited India

• A Swedish trade delegation led by Maud Olofsson, Swedish Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Enterprise and Energy, visited India in the last week of January 2007. The visit coincided with the much publicized two weeks visit to Chennai harbour by the Swedish ship Götheborg (the replica of a 250-year-old original East Indiaman ship), and this formed the highlight of the delegation's tour. In New Delhi, Maud Olofsson also met Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, the Congress Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and several other politicians. The India tour otherwise focused primarily on visits to telecom- and automobile industries (including Ericsson, Sony Ericsson – that has recently decided to manufacture mobile phones from Sriperumbudur near Chennai – and Volvo). The delegation also participated in an India-Sweden Business Forum, where Ms Olofsson in a keynote presentation said India and



Mr R. Seshasayee, CII President and Ashok Leyland MD, presenting a memento to Ms Maud Olofsson, Sweden's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Enterprise and Energy, at the India-Sweden Business Forum in Chennai. At right is the Union Minister for Communications & IT, Mr Dayanidhi Maran.
Photo: V. Ganesan/Business Line

Suggested sites and web reports:

Doing Business in South Asia 2007

• Web based regional report for South Asia, prepared by the [World Bank](#). The report, released on 13 February 2007, covers eight countries in the World Bank's South Asia region and examines 12 major cities in India, six in Pakistan, and four in Bangladesh. Doing business became easier in India and Pakistan in 2005-2006, according to the report. Within India, Hyderabad has the most business-friendly regulations. Mumbai is in 11th place, ahead of Calcutta. Karachi is at the top in Pakistan, while Dhaka ranks best in Bangladesh. Entrepreneurs in South Asia face large regulatory obstacles to doing business: A standard company in India pays 81% of commercial profits in taxes, and in Pakistan it takes 560 hours per year to comply with all tax regulations. [More information about the World Bank's Report](#). **NEW**



South Asian growth and integration

• In conjunction with the February 2007 SAARC Business Conclave in Mumbai, the World Bank and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) released today a new report entitled "South Asia: Growth and Regional Integration". South Asia is the least integrated region in the world, but high growth, averaging close to 6 percent ! per year since the 1990s, is creating a new momentum for closer regional integration. The report says closer regional cooperation can be an effective tool in addressing energy shortage, improve connectivity, increase investment, and promote peace and stability. [Access data and findings in the report](#). **NEW**

Amnesty Business Group

• Amnesty Business Group (ABG) in Sweden is part of the Swedish section of Amnesty International. ABGs vision is that Swedish companies will not violate human rights, as they are defined in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights. ABGs aim is to influence and educate Swedish companies to take their responsibility in respecting and defending human rights wherever they do business. Swedish companies with international subsidiaries and international



Sweden could jointly work in areas such as information, communication and technology, biotechnology and environment. [More information about the delegation's tour to India](#) (only in Swedish). **NEW**

The ship Göteborg visited Chennai on the route from China back to Sweden, and it created lots of publicity in Indian media. During the stopover in Chennai, the Swedish embassy organised a so-called "Sweden Comes to Chennai" programme, including the business seminars mentioned above, but also a seminar on sustainable city planning, being jointly organised by IIT Madras and the city of Göteborg. There were also a number of exhibitions and the public was invited to visit the ship. On the culture front, the Swedish jazz fusion group Mynta performed in Chennai, a Swedish food festival was organised at the Taj Coromandel, and a Swedish film festival was held. [More information about Göteborg's visit to Chennai](#) (only in Swedish). **NEW**



India Business Forum in Stockholm in April 2007

• An India Business Forum was arranged in Stockholm in April 2007, titled



"Forward thinking in Emerging Markets". It was organised by Globe Forum, a Stockholm based company established in 2000. Behind it stands a group of professionals who believe in building strong relationships by bringing people and companies together. Its world-wide network includes some of the most prominent business leaders in the world; people with extensive experience in their respective fields of business. The 2007 India Business Forum provided participants opportunities to interact and network with corporate leaders and gain further insight into the Indian market. The aim of the forum was to increase the knowledge on business opportunities and business climate developments in India for Nordic companies, and to create a Nordic platform for exchange of business knowledge about India. Invited key speakers included Kamal Nath, Minister of Commerce, Government of India; R.Gopalakrishnan, Executive Director for Tata & Sons; Percy Barnevik, Adviser & Donor, Hand in Hand (and former President of Sandvik, Skanska, ASEA/ ABB, Investor & Astra Zeneca); Vikram Singh Mehta, Chairman for Shell India; Deepak Kapoor, India Transactions Leader, Pricewaterhouse Coopers; and Dr. Viloo Morawala Patell, Founder & Managing Director, Avesthagen. Mr. Ajay Jindal, Head for the Economic Times Intelligence Group, was one of the moderators. [More information](#) (as a pdf-file). **NEW**

• Another Business Forum focusing on India: "*Företag, Indien & Mänskliga Rättigheter – hur blir ditt företag en del av lösningen*" (Private companies, India & human rights – how can your company be part of the solution?) was held in Stockholm on 15 November 2006. Representatives from [Amnesty Business Group](#) (ABG) – organiser of the forum; the International law firm Bird & Bird; KPMG Bohlins AB; and Banco Fonder, made presentations on related issues. [Read a report from the Business Forum by Nina Virkkala](#), trainee at ABG (as a pdf-file, in Swedish only). **NEW**

Stockholm Conference about Swedes in India

• A one-day conference titled



operations risk being involved in human rights violations. ABG can supply a company specific analysis over the violations that may occur in various industries and countries, Go to ABGs web page, <http://www.amnestybusinessgroup.se/>. **NEW**

Global Reporting Initiative

The Global Reporting Initiative was initially convened by the [Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Economies](#)



(CERES), a non-profit coalition of over 50 investor, environmental, religious, labour and social justice groups. The GRI was established in 1997 with a mission to elevate sustainability reporting to equivalency with financial reporting. It has recently been established as an organisation in its own right. GRI's vision is that reporting on economic, environmental, and social performance by all organizations becomes as routine and comparable as financial reporting. GRI accomplishes this vision by developing, continually improving, and building capacity around the use of its Sustainability Reporting Framework. An international network of thousands from business, civil society, labor, and professional institutions create the content of the Reporting Framework in a consensus-seeking process. Go to its web site, <http://www.globalreporting.org/>. **NEW**



Pak's Food for Development Office (FfDO).

• The Swedish company Tetra Pak is a world leader in processing and packaging of liquid foods, with activities in more than 165 countries worldwide. Through its Food for Development Office (FfDO), Tetra Pak is also engaged in promoting sustainable economic and social development is by building strong partnerships between governments, private industry, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), international and national development agencies. Together with Tetra Pak's sister company 'DeLaval', the FfDO also participates in integrated agricultural development projects addressing the entire food value chain from "cow to consumer". [More information about FfDO.](#)

In South Asia FfDO has been engaged in dairy and milk distribution projects in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Pakistan. On 29 January 2006, the opening of Bhutan's first UHT plant was celebrated in Phuentsholing in the southern part of the country. Bhutan Dairy & Agro Products Ltd, led by Mr. Ugen Wangdi, will market UHT milk packed in Tetra Brik Aseptic, partly based on raw milk from Bhutanese farmers. Tetra Pak has been instrumental in bringing together financial partners, including Swedish risk capital company Swedfund International

Tetra