

# Dissecting FTAs and anti-dumping issues



Mr Ramesh Kumar Agarwal, Regional Chairman, FIEO(ER) delivering the welcome address. On the dais from left, are Mr Manab Kr. Majumder, Asst. Secretary General, FICCI; Mr G C Yadav, Under Secretary; Mr Manish Mani Tiwari, Addl. Commissioner & OSD, International Customs Division, CBEC; Ms Sonia Pant, Deputy Secretary, DoC; and Mr Abhay Jain, Under Secretary, Department of Commerce.

FIEO in association with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), the Department of Commerce, Government of India, the Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties and the Directorate General of Foreign Trade organized a seminar on "India's Free Trade Agreements and the Aspects of Anti-Dumping Issues" on March 23, 2012 in Kolkata. The seminar was held under the aegis of the Department of Commerce, Government of India.

More than 100 participants, consisting of top level executives from corporate houses, export promotion councils, chambers of commerce and faculty members from leading business schools of the region participated in the seminar.

Mr Ramesh Kumar Agarwal, Re-



Session on Anti-Dumping: From left, are Mr M K Sahoo, Costing Officer, DGADA, DoC; Mr D P Mohapatra, Director, DGADA, DoC; and Mr Agneshwar Sen, Jt. DGFT, Kolkata interacting with the audience.

gional Chairman, FIEO (Eastern Region) delivering his welcome address dwelt on the FTAs in view of the emerging importance of building economic bridges with

various countries and the aspects of anti-dumping duties in order to protect exporters from the onslaught of dumping of goods from other countries.



A View of the participants.

Mr Abhay Jain and Mr G.C. Yadav, Under Secretaries, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industries, Government of India, presented the current scenario of different trade agreements in India, with a special note on different Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement & Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreements that India has signed with different countries.

After their presentation, Ms Sonia Pant, Deputy Secretary, Department

of Commerce, presented the different aspects of the India-Malaysia trade agreement. After her presentation, Mr Manish Mani Tiwari, Additional Commissioner & OSD, International Customs Division, Central Board of Excise & Customs, presented the role of the Board in negotiating India's trade agreements. He also spoke about the different aspects under which a trade agreement is being negotiated.

Following the presentations, an in-

teractive session was held wherein Mr Siddharth, Joint Secretary, Department of Commerce, briefly spoke about the need for a trade agreement between two countries, and fielded questions from the audience on the subject.

The post-lunch session dwelt on aspects of anti-dumping issues. Mr D.P. Mohapatra, Director, Directorate General of Anti-Dumping and Allied Duties, was the keynote speaker. Mr M.K. Sahoo, Costing Officer, Directorate General of Anti-Dumping & Allied Duties, presented an overview of the trade remedy instruments under the WTO framework and also dwelt upon the basis on which anti-dumping, countervailing duties and their safeguards were imposed.

The presentation also mentioned the legal framework on trade remedy, the initial and the subsequent investigation procedures, dumping margins, export price and the criterions under which it is being determined, effect of pricing and the different provisions in the Customs Tariff Act. The presentation was followed by an interactive session where Mr Mohapatra and Mr Sahoo replied to queries from the participants. ■

## GST ROLLOUT BY APRIL 1, 2013 TO BOOST EXPORT COMPETITIVENESS: FIEO

Mr M. Rafeeqe Ahmed, President, FIEO, while commenting on the statement given by the Empowered Committee on tentative GST roll out on April 1, 2013, stated that the move will significantly benefit exports by adding to competitiveness through lower incidence of taxation and reducing cost of compliance by simplifying the tax administration.

The FIEO Chief said the sluggish growth in world exports in 2012 would compress demand and put pressure on prices. Therefore both the Government and exporters should look at ways and means of im-

parting competitiveness to exports. At present, exports are losing 3-5% of FOB value due to non-rebating of state taxes and local levies like sales tax on petroleum and diesel, electricity duty, turnover tax, entry tax, mandi tax etc. Even two-tier GST, as planned, will provide some respite to exporters, observed Mr Ahmed.

He hoped that GST will be implemented as announced by the Empowered Committee on April 1, 2013 and a larger number of States would ratify the same.