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AMTOI
 CATALYSING MULTIMODALISM

AMTOI commences its Eastern Chapter in Kolkata

Exim News Service

KOLKATA, Aug. 11

THE Association of Multimodal Transport Operators of India (AMTOI), a leading organisation in the shipping industry, has extended its wings to the eastern part of India. AMTOI had identified eastern India as its next area of activity after the successful launch of its South India chapter in Chennai 2 years ago.

Ever since the Narendra Modi-led government has come to power, it has been taking numerous initiatives to



Mr Sailesh Bhatia (left) and Mr Ashok Janakiram addressing the gathering

improve connectivity in the eastern region, some of which are as follows:

1. Signing of the historic pact with Bangladesh for maritime cooperation
2. Connecting the NE region through Bangladesh by rail

3. Building rail and road networks in the NE border areas

4. Development of inland
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AMTOI commences its Eastern Chapter in Kolkata

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waterways

5. Free movement of vehicles across boundaries in the SAARC region

Kolkata has been a traditional gateway to India since the days of the East India Co. Post 1857, the capital of colonial India shifted from Kolkata to Delhi and so did some of the economic activity. Post Independence and partition, Kolkata has been steadily losing its position as a regional logistics centre for east India. Economic activity in the region has also dwindled over the years due to policies of the local state governments. However, it continued to remain a gateway to Nepal and Bhutan.

All this is now set to change with the above initiatives; Indian coastal vessels can now call Chittagong with a steaming time of 1 day as against the earlier arrangement of transshipment via Singapore and a TT of 7-10 days. This is just the beginning. When all these ini-



Mr Xerxes Master



Mr S. Varadarajan



Mr Vivek Kele



agenda will be promotion of 'Cargo Community System' and 'Skill Development'. The vision of the Cargo Community System will be to bring all the

stakeholders in the logistics sector, including Customs, sea and airports, carriers, clearing agents, forwarders, EIAs, Fieo, DGFT and all related govern-

economy and the federation will take a lead in discussing with government the needs of the trade and propose courses for skill development, it was pointed out.

The coordinator of the local chapter, Mr Ashok Janakiram, advised the audience and the visiting AMTOI MC members on how ASIC (Association of Shipping Interests, Calcutta) can assist in establishing the AMTOI Kolkata Chapter and how being an MTO will help members of the trade to offer a gamut of logistics services under one roof.

Thereafter, Mr S. Varadarajan of Shreyas Relay Systems and MC member AMTOI, made a presentation on coastal shipping. He briefed the audience on the developments in the Indian coastal shipping scenario, the simplicity of its operations and how the shipping community at large can benefit by participating in the coastal trade.

In his concluding address, Mr Vivek Kele, Hon. Secretary,



tiatives come to fruition, the eastern region will see a surge in multimodal transport activity. Foreseeing these developments, the Managing Committee of AMTOI decided to extend the Association's activity to the eastern part of India.

At a well organised function on August 4, 2015 at the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, the visiting team from AMTOI Mumbai office made a presentation to the Kolkata shipping fraternity and explained the benefits of becoming a multimodal transport operator and how AMTOI can assist members of the trade in undertaking MTO activities effectively and efficiently in the region and beyond. Mr Xerxes Master, MC member AMTOI, articulated the nuances of being a registered MTO and being a member of AMTOI.

Delivering his keynote, the President of AMTOI, Mr Sailesh Bhatia, briefed the audience about the various activities of AMTOI with special emphasis on influencing policymaking

and its significant achievements since inception in 1998. The most recent one being the acceptance of AMTOI's proposal of SRO (Self-Regulatory Organisation) for shipping trade by the office of DG Shipping. The Ministry of Shipping has taken comments of the trade on this and further developments are awaited. He also mentioned about the AMTOI extended Board meeting that took place in July in Goa wherein it was decided that AMTOI will take the lead in the formation of a Confederation of Logistics Organisations whose main



ment organisations, under a single platform. Most advanced economies globally have such systems in existence and attempts will be made by the proposed federation to convince the government to adopt such a system in India.

On the other objective, the Skill Development Ministry in the government of India is working towards increasing productivity through skill development in different sectors of the

said that AMTOI is helping its members through various international tie-ups with the likes of Port of Antwerp, Belgium, Peel Ports, UK, National Association of Freight and Logistics (NAFL), UAE and many more. He thanked the members of ASIC for coordinating this function and members of the trade who were there to understand what multimodal transport is all about as well as the activities of AMTOI.

The other members of the AMTOI MC present on the occasion were the Treasurer Mr R. K. Rubin, Mr Nailesh Gandhi, Mr Tej Contractor and Mr Yogesh Parekh. The Kolkata trade was well represented by the different segments—freight brokers, shipping lines, freight forwarders, clearing agents and consolidators.

