

**Annual General Body Meeting
Jammu and Kashmir Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry (J&K JCCI)
Kuala Lumpur, Jan 22-23 2014**

21 members of the J&K JCCI including representatives of (a) the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) (b) the Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JCCI) (c) the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (AJKCCI) (d) Kotli Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) (e) Muzaffarabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) (f) members of constituent cross LoC trade associations met in Kuala Lumpur on 22-23 January 2014. The meeting was facilitated by Conciliation Resources, a London based organization. [Add Federation of Jammu]

Members took stock of the current climate for the cross-LoC trade in Jammu and Kashmir and deliberated upon the challenges and opportunities for expanding and strengthening such trade. Members expressed their strong support for the process of cross-LoC trade and reiterated its importance as a confidence building measure (CBM), promoting peace amongst the various regions of Jammu and Kashmir as well as between India and Pakistan. Members unanimously stressed the need for policymakers to dissolve current barriers to cross LoC trade. They urged the governments of India, Pakistan to ease restrictions on travel, communication and meeting of traders across the LoC, expand the list of tradeable items, and set up banking facilities to support the trade.

Regarding the operational aspects of the J&K JCCI, members reiterated their commitment to the principles outlined in the 'Agreement on restructuring the Jammu and Kashmir Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry' (Istanbul, 28 November 2011). Building on the principles agreed in Istanbul, a consensus was also reached by the members present on the following issues:

Status of this meeting

- This meeting is to be considered as a Annual General Body Meeting of the J&K JCCI and as such, all decisions reached by members at this meeting shall be binding on the J&K JCCI.

J&K JCCI Constitution

- The principles in the Istanbul agreement shall form the basis for J&K JCCI's constitution. The draft Constitution circulated during the meeting was largely acceptable to the members. The newly elected J&K JCCI President and his team shall be tasked with

preparing a final draft of the constitution which shall be agreed by the general body of members by no later than 15 March 2014.

Membership

- LoC traders' representation will be increased from eight to twelve members i.e. three LoC traders to be drawn from each of the four trading points. Therefore the total membership of J&K JCCI shall increase from 44 to 48 members.
- Each constituent body of J&K JCCI shall submit its list of representative members in J&K JCCI to the Election Commissioners on either side of the LoC by 3 February 2014 at the latest.

Appointment of elected office bearers

- J&K JCCI shall have the following office bearers who are to be elected in the absence of a consensus on these candidates from the respective regions from which these posts are to be drawn. Each office bearer shall hold office for a maximum term of two years.
 - a. President – this post shall revolve amongst the three regions, Jammu, Kashmir and AJK. The next President shall be elected from Jammu.
 - b. Joint President – this post will be filled from LoC West if the President is from LoC East and vice versa.
 - c. Three Vice Presidents – two will be filled from amongst LoC traders on either side of the LoC respectively and one from the region that has not been represented by the President or Joint President (e.g. if the President is from Jammu region, it follows that the Joint President will be from AJK and the third Vice President will be from Kashmir).
- The next election for the posts of the 5 elected office bearers shall be conducted simultaneously at 11 am (Indian standard time)/11.30 am (Pakistan standard time) on 8 February 2014. Conciliation Resources, acting through Zafar Choudhary and Ershad Mahmud, shall oversee the conduct of elections on either side of the LoC. The last date for the submission of nominations is 6 February 2014. The last date for withdrawal of nominations is 7 February 2014.
- The electoral college for each elected post shall comprise the entire membership of the J&K JCCI.
- The election shall be conducted by secret ballot and candidates will be elected on the basis of a simple majority of members present and voting.
- Constituent bodies that do not send their list of members by 3 February 2014 will not be allowed to participate in the elections.

J&K JCCI Secretariat and applicable fees

- J&K JCCI shall aim to set up a secretariat on either side of the LoC and appoint the following salaried posts:
 - a. Executive Secretary – to be appointed by the J&K JCCI President.
 - b. Joint Secretary – to be appointed by the J&K JCCI Joint President.
 - c. Two Treasurers from either side of the LoC respectively.
- An annual subscription fee (Rs.25,000 in the currencies of India and Pakistan respectively) per member shall be levied and deposited with the respective Treasurers on either side. For the year 2014 this fee shall be paid by members no later than 3 February 2014.

Frequency of meetings and communication

- The J&K JCCI President and Joint President will aim to convene quarterly meetings on either side of the LoC respectively.
- The J&K JCCI President will aim to convene General Body Meetings of the J&K JCCI every 6 months (if practicable) or in any event, annually.
- The President and Joint President as well as the Secretariats on either side of the LoC will aim to maintain regular and open communication (incl. through Skype, video conferencing and other means).