

Inauguration of INDEE St. Petersburg

March 11, 2008, St.Petersburg

The 18th INDEE of Engineering Export Promotion Council was inaugurated amidst huge turnout at St. Petersburg, Russia. The exhibition was inaugurated by Vice Governor of St. Petersburg Mr Mikhail Eduardovich and was graced by several dignitaries including Mr S.N. Trofimov, President , RESTEC. Mr Sathpati, Counsellor, Economic and Commerce from the Indian Embassy, Moscow and Mr Abhay Kumar, Acting Consul General were also present at the occasion.

Addressing the august gathering, Mr Rakesh Shah, Chairman, EEPC said that exhibitions like INDEE St. Petersburg will go a long way in increasing business relations between two countries. He further added that "this exhibition was being held at the most opportune time when "Year of Russia" is being celebrated in India in 2008 while "Year of India" will be celebrated in Russia in 2009 to further strengthen all round strategic partnership between the two nations. The first day of the fair, i.e. today was being devoted to India Industry to commemorate the Year of Russia.

The National Chairman of EEPC said that India and Russia have a long and shared history, going back more than 50 years to India's independence. Immediately prior to the collapse of the Soviet Union, India was the largest trading partner. For instance, Indian engineering exports to Russia amounted to US\$ 123.54 million in 2006-07 which is 48% higher compared to US\$ 83.26 million engineering exports registered in 2005-06. This growth has been on top of 68% growth in exports in 2005-06 over 2004-06.

INDEE in St. Petersburg has been organized in association with Petersburg Technical Fair, 2008, which is organized by RESTEC Exhibition company. EEPC signed two Memoranda of Understandings with St. Petersburg Chamber of Commerce and Leningrad Chamber of Commerce to formalize various methods of exchange of business and commercial information benefiting the engineering community of both the countries. A Joint Venture Agreement between M/s Sharp Tools, Coimbatore and Elswere (Russian Company).

The Vice Governor of St. Petersburg, H.E. **Mikhail Eduardovich** stressed upon the strong bonding between Russia and India and said that the fair will bring about resurgence in trade between the two countries. He appreciated the efforts of EEPC in putting together such a show at Russia, despite several hurdles. He also said they would work together in dissemination of information amongst members and establish exchange of information on continuous basis for projects having potential in priority areas.

Mr M C Shah, Former Chairman of EEPC and Chairman of the Publication, Exhibition and Delegation Committee in his address thanked the business

fraternity for their participation in huge numbers and said that the Russian economy is poised to take a big leap forward. In recent years, the economy has witnessed impressive economic growth at around 6-7 percent annually. Russia's GDP has nearly quadrupled from USD 260 billion in 2000 to USD 985 billion in 2006. The forecast for the current year is that it will top USD 1.2 trillion mark. The two countries should take the opportunity and get into business relation now.

The Vote of Thanks, was delivered by Mr. S.N. Trofimov, President, RESTEC™.

Soon after the inaugural function the dignitaries came to the India Pavilion for formal ribbon cutting and lighting of the lamp ceremony. The Vice Governor and other dignitaries then visited the booths of several Indian companies.

The day ended with a Gala India evening with cocktails, dinner and a cultural show put up by a famous Russian troop.

Official Opening of St. Petersburg Technical Fair

12th March, 2008, St. Petersburg

The official opening of St. Petersburg Fair was held on 12th March, 2008 amongst august gathering of business representatives of over 16 countries and more than 300 companies participating at the Fair. The Fair was inaugurated by the Vice Governor of St. Petersburg Mr Mikhail Eduardovich. Mr Rakesh Shah, National Chairman, EEPC also spoke at the occasion on Indian Engineering Industry.

After the official opening ceremony the dignitaries took a tour around the exhibitions. Soon after the tour there was a press conference. Throughout the day, several important workshops and conferences were held focusing on various industries including Integrated automation in metallurgy and mechanical engineering, Round table meeting on Mechanical Engineering – latest trends, strategic approaches and perspective technologies , presentation of large companies commissions in the domain of subcontracting and outsourcing for small business.

Mr Rakesh Shah, Chairman, EEPC was interviewed by “TV RUSSIA” and questioned of prospects of Indo Russia Trade Relations, Share of Engineering Industry and so on.

A number of Indian companies received serious business enquiries and a number of contacts were developed by Indians with Russian counterparts.

The evening was celebrated with a gala dinner hosted by RESTEC, the fair authorities. Participants from all the countries including India were invited at the dinner.