



A Publication of the Young Entrepreneurs Group of Asia-Pacific (YEGAP)

April 2012, Vol. 10

Entrepreneur Asia-Pacific



A Note from the Chairman

Our dear readers,

This issue of Entrepreneur Asia-Pacific celebrates entrepreneurship, with a special emphasis on what makes the Young Entrepreneurs Group - Asia Pacific (YEGAP) truly dynamic – its primary members. Our members, after all, are an appreciating team. You only have to see how they transform their respective local organizations day after day as proof of these remarkable projects they embark on.



Our theme certainly takes this to heart: Bringing together young entrepreneurs in the Asia Pacific region and grooming them to be the next business leaders. I would like to think that the YEGAP, under the CACCI leadership, continues to rule the entrepreneurship sector in the region since its creation in 2004. What is most refreshing about celebrating entrepreneurship in the Asia-Pacific region are the young business leaders' disarmingly unassuming quality who are truly the business innovators by providing programs for young entrepreneurs - seminars and workshops, conventions, training, plant visits, mentoring skills and business matching sessions. YEGAP has certainly had its fair share of the spotlight, but somehow has managed to retain a savoir-faire that is action-oriented.

YEGAP is a testament to the wisdom of having a sound share of what is built up and what is left for continuous growth. Motivation and inspiration are key qualifications that have kept its member organizations moving forward. The best motivation is the fact that we members never give up. The best inspiration is in knowing that we can do a small thing and make its effect cascade down to the younger generation.

There will be more exhilarating things to come in the year 2012. Let us continue to pin our hopes on the strength of our leaders and members who are committed to make YEGAP serve as the anchor to the entrepreneurial movement in the Asia-Pacific region. Let us continue dedicate our work in the service of the next generation.

My heartfelt congratulations to the Young Entrepreneurs Forum (YEF) of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) for successfully organizing the Young Entrepreneurs Conference 2012 at Jinnah Convention Centre in Islamabad, Pakistan on March 27, 2012. Indeed, they have inspired a new wave of entrepreneurship. Congratulations as well to the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry's newly launched Youth Affairs Committee (YAC) which seeks to create opportunities for SMEs and develop their management skills as potential industry leaders. The launching of the PCCI YAC brings back fond memories, having chaired this committee some 20 summers ago as founder of the Young Executives Business Club of the PCCI.

So read through each page and take a little out of everything.

Enjoy the issue!

**Anna Marie Periquet
CHAIRMAN
YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS GROUP - ASIA PACIFIC**

YEF of Islamabad CCI Holds Young Entrepreneurs Conference



The Young Entrepreneurs Forum (YEF) of the Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) successfully organized the Young Entrepreneurs Conference 2012 at Jinnah Convention Centre in Islamabad, Pakistan on March 27, 2012.

Focusing this year on the theme “Inspiring a New Wave of Entrepreneurship”, the Young Entrepreneurs Conference was a landmark event that brought together the public and private sectors from Pakistan and the United States to support entrepreneurship and create linkages among businessmen for robust economic growth of Pakistan. It featured eminent Pakistani and American speakers, including a video message from the U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. The Conference proceedings was viewed by over 129 universities from all over Pakistan.

The YEF of ICICI is a group of young entrepreneurs who have come together to help promote the culture

and spirit of entrepreneurship amongst the upcoming and young individuals of the country. The members of YEF themselves are young entrepreneurs who have either started their own businesses or have successfully



contributed to already existing businesses. Having gone through the experience of starting innovative new businesses, YEF members feel the potent message of entrepreneurship needs to be brought to the fore. The YEF’s goal is to help potential entrepreneurs of the future through technical assistance,

various activities and started several initiatives to introduce and promote the entrepreneurship spirit. Some of these include the setting up of the Entrepreneurship Development



mentoring and capacity building, and make it easier for them by learning from our experiences.

Up till now the YEF has conducted

Center, conducting workshops, holding business plan competitions, and even philanthropic works. In recognition of the useful work it has done, in 2009, the YEF was awarded the Jinnah Youth Award: the highest award for the youth by the Government of Pakistan. ■

“Soyuru Lanka 2012”: Inspiring and Empowering the Youth of Sri Lanka

For the past three decades amidst the terrorism in most areas of the country, education and freedom of the youth was just another fruitless topic. But the story is now different and the necessity in blossoming up the youth community for the betterment of themselves and the country had emerged. In these regions there are many young people who have high potential and desires, yet hidden due to the lack of interaction with the world. They have many issues in their lives, poverty, lack of love and affection of parents and health problems are a few. Most of them are capable of making the best out of their lives with help and guidance, yet lack of opportunities and motivation ruins their chances of a better life.

The Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa being the pioneer among the University based Rotaract Clubs envisioned the immense need of supporting these youth communities to make their future dreams come true. Hence, “Soyuru Lanka 2012 -The Inspiring Youth Community’ was created for the youth in Sri Lanka who had to struggle a lot in their lives to achieve their goals. ‘Soyuru Lanka’ will inspire and motivate the hearts and the minds of the talented yet victimized youth in Sri Lanka. The project will be



carried in collaboration with the Rotary Club of Colombo West.

The focus of “Soyuru Lanka” is on in selecting a youth community with skills, talents and immense potential and providing them with educational and proper moral guidance through leadership training, vocational training and internship programs. The selected students will be enrolled for the training and internship programs according to the interest of their field of study, in order to enhance their professionalism and to make them educated to safeguard their carrier opportunities in the future. The objective behind the leadership programs, mentoring sessions and the other workshops is to build up their self confidence and to improve their personality by motivation and guide them to stand by the community they are live-in.

The initial phase of “Soyuru Lanka 2012” will be deployed in the district of Trincomalee, forming the ‘Inspiring Youth Community’ of Trincomalee. And the journey would continue, with Inspiring youth Communities

being formed in many districts all over the country. The youth in these communities in turn will render service and support to the next generation of youth in their community, guiding the next generation for a better future with fellowship and brotherhood as we guide them now.

Embracing this novel concept of “Inspiring Youth Community”, the website for “Soyuru Lanka 2012”,

‘<http://www.iycsl.org>’ was officially launched on 9th March, 2012 at Royal College Union Skills Center. The event was graced by the District Rotaract Committee Chairman Rtn. PHF. Yohan Kumarapperuma, District Rotaract Representative Rtr. PP. Subramaniam Sudhakaran, Incoming President of Rotary Club of Colombo West Rtn. Sebastian Karunakaran, Incoming Advisor of Rotary Club of Colombo West Rtn. Brian Selvanatagam, The Staff Advisor of the Rotaract Club of University of Moratuwa Dr. Ranga Rodrigo and fellow rotaractors.

Now, the workforce of ‘Soyuru Lanka’ is active and the publicity and awareness programs are already deployed with success being evident. The team visited the district of Trincomalee over the weekend and addressed the young adults in the district with the aid of Rotary Club of Trincomalee and Sarvodaya-Trincomalee. A lot of youth were very much interested and were willing to apply for the program.

Support from educational, professional and vocational training institutes are welcome in providing educational/carrier opportunities. Corporate partnerships and individual donations are also expected for the financial assistance.

Contributed by Selvanathan Anojan, Soyuru Lanka





PCCI Launches Youth Affairs Group

The Youth Affairs Committee (YAC) was formally launched in January this year by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI), taking the lead role in fostering activities for young entrepreneurs. With over 90% of PCCI membership base belonging to small and medium businesses, the YAC formation is in line with the PCCI's agenda to push for the development of Philippine SMEs.

Composed of young business executives and entrepreneurs representing diverse industries, YAC seeks to create opportunities for SMEs and develop their management skills as potential industry leaders.

Initiated by PCCI President Atty. Miguel B. Varela, the Committee is foreseen to bolster PCCI's goal of developing and attracting young talents and expertise that will help push the growth of Philippine economy. Developing a strong alliance with the National Youth Commission (NYC), its counterpart in government, is part of its overall plan to cascade opportunities to young entrepreneurs in the regions.

The Committee will also be the PCCI's key coordinating group with young entrepreneurs abroad such as the Young Entrepreneurs Group of Asia Pacific (YEGAP) under the Confederation of Asia Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) and the ASEAN-China Young Entrepreneurs Association (ACYEA).

Atty. Varela has formulated a work plan dubbed "Invest 2012" focusing on twelve key sectors considered top revenue earners that will have significant effect on the economy. Tapping its domestic and international networks, PCCI teams up with partners in government and other



business groups, to wage an intensive campaign to attract foreign investors to do business in the country.

With Invest 2012 in mind, the Youth Affairs have appointed sectoral focal officers to identify trade and investment potentials, assist in business matching and recommends programs and activities for their respective groups.

The Agri-Business Committee proposes for instance to undertake a series of talks in select universities to present modern concepts that would encourage growth of agro-industry and agro-technology. The talks will have the theme: Philippine Agriculture – Towards the Next 15 Years.

The Creative Committee, on the other hand, identified four strategies to develop the creative industry namely, (1) facts and awareness exchange (networking, brokerage, web platform, events and publications); (2) advocacy and collaborations (values and sector opportunities); (3) programme development (support, labelling and capacity building); and (4) investment support (resources).

Another strategy that is being worked out is making the Philippines a premier destination for English language instruction for both local and foreign students. Remote English education program is being proposed

providing a cheaper and more flexibility in learning the language. This is also in reaction to the growing and lucrative Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry which English proficiency is required. The Committee shall work for the approval of the curriculum by the local Department/Ministry of Education and the partner country to achieve official recognition and in selling the ESL program.

Young entrepreneurs from PCCI corporate members, business councils, local chambers of commerce and attached trade and industry associations nationwide will be encouraged to participate in the youth group. Budding entrepreneurs are also invited to enable them to broaden their business knowledge and effectively manage their respective businesses.

Mr. Louie Kaw of Amsteel Structures, Inc. serve as Chairperson of YAC, with Ms. Michelle Lim of Milesy Company Limited and Mr. Dave Almarinez of Drink ACT Southeast Asia, Inc. as Vice-Chairpersons.

The first major project of the Committee is the PCCI All Star Golf Cup to be held on 14 May 2012 at the Alabang Golf and Country Club. The proceeds of this golf tournament will be used to finance the Committee's activities. ■



Budget Proposal 2012: The FCCISL View

Editor's Note: The following article was contributed by the Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka (FCCISL). It reviews the effects of Sri Lankan budget 2012 on the business community of Sri Lanka. The FCCISL says the contents of the article would be useful for businessmen in the Asia-Pacific region who have business and trade transactions with Sri Lanka.

The President in his capacity as the Minister of Finance and Planning delivered the 7th consecutive budget of the present government for the year 2012 to the parliament on November 22, 2011. Prior to the preparation of the budget, the president himself, secretary minister of Finance and Planning and most of the line ministries conducted extensive consultations with all stake holders and economic actors of both private and public sectors. This Federation also engaged in this consultations process with all those government agencies particularly by emphasizing the necessity for providing new impetus to revive and development of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Sector. It is encouraging to note that the budget proposals 2012 clearly recognized the vital role played by the SME sector and in fact proposed several measures for the benefit of SME Entrepreneurs in the Agriculture, Industry and the service sector.

We observed that the trust of the budget proposals configure inter-alia on five major themes such as (1) continuation of the private sector development friendly tax proposals introduced by the government in the budget 2011. (2) Introduction of enhanced and fresh welfare measures for the weaker segment of the society. (3) Agriculture development and ensuring food security in the midst of rising food and fuel prices in the international market (4) Providing incentives for SME Development and (5) Preparing the economy to meet the future challenges by taking measures to develop the technological advancement and research.

The Business community particularly, cooperate business

sector and the personal tax payers are reassured that the extensive and business friendly tax regime and the reforms introduced in the last years budget are continuing without any changes. This will provide much needed business predictability to facilitate future investment in the economy. The new sources of revenue largely generated by adjusting exercise duties on cigarettes and liquor, income from revenue licenses and luxury taxes on motor vehicles, telecommunication charges, Electronic visa system and transfer of profit from central bank and public enterprises.

It seems that the government was keen in sharing the economic benefits achieved so far with the weaker segment of the society who is unable to engage themselves with gainful employment or economically marginalized in the society. A targeted welfare measures have being directed towards income support for low income families, increase of monthly allowance for elders, up word revision of "Samurdi" Allowance, child and women protection, development of most difficult villages and empowering artist and journalist. Increased allocation have also being provided for the provision of drinking water, Electricity for all, investment in irrigation development and the road network and "Divineguma" programme.

Sri Lanka is a Net Food Importing Country. We have seen the food crises of 2008 and its negative implications

on the Net Food Importing Countries particularly for urban low income families, children and women. Due to global climate changes, rapid population increase and economic and financial uncertainty, we have to take early measures to assure the food security. It is noteworthy that the budget recognized this fact and proposed measures to facilitate agriculture research, seed development, strengthening expansion services, allocation of resources for fisheries and livestock development, removal of V A T, import duty and taxes in agriculture inputs and further enhancing the "Gama Neguma" Programme.

The FCCISL many times highlighted institutional and administrative difficulties encountered by the SME Sector in obtaining financial facilities from the commercial banks. We are pleased to note that the budget proposes to establish special branches of People's Bank, Bank of Ceylon and Regional Development Bank in all districts to serve specially the SME Sector. It is also encouraging to observe that government is providing a 50% guarantee for banks providing loans to restructure SME Sector. The threshold income of the ESC was increased from Rupees 25 million to 50 million. The commercial banks were encouraged by reducing their income tax from 28% to 24% on interest income received on loans provided to SME Sector. SME engaging collection of fresh milk, Green Tea leaves, Cinnamon and latex are exempted from NBT. The SMEs with a quarterly turnover of less than Rupees 500 Million to be exempted from payment of ESC. SMEs engaged in agriculture, Agro processing,

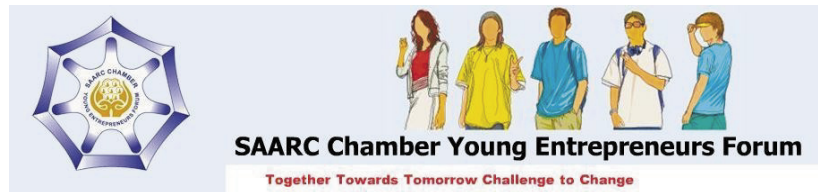
Continued on page 6



SAARC CCI Young Entrepreneur Forum Aims to Bring Together South Asia's Young Business Leaders



Mr. Shahrukh Malik



Mr. Tariq Sayeed

The South Asian Young Entrepreneurs Forum (SYEF) is a strategic initiative taken by the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation Chambers of Commerce and Industry (SAARC CCI) to bring together young business leaders so as to groom them to be the next generation of business leaders for South Asia.

Launched in November 2009 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, SYEF "aims to help its members realize their full potential so that young entrepreneurs from the region can contribute fresh, effective ideas and feedback for the future of South Asian businesses." It intends to serve as a platform to share ideas among youth of the region and bring together the like-minded young entrepreneurs to work collectively for the socio-economic development of the region.

Mr. Shahrukh Malik, Chairman of SYEF and Director of Guard Group of Companies from Pakistan, said that

the South Asian region as a whole has tremendous potential. "Catering to a fifth of world population with over 60% under the age of 30, this region is geared to blossom. SAARC Young Entrepreneurs Forum was envisioned to bring together youth business leaders of the region to capitalize on synergies. Expansion of technical knowhow plus the regional competitive advantages can aid in bringing down costs of goods and services for our export markets. As the global economic advantage begins to shift towards the east the youth must be empowered and geared to deal with the tide of change, which will set the bar higher for competition and innovation. SAARC YEF is a force to contribute positively towards economic growth and above all to bring people of this vibrant region together."

Mr. Tariq Sayeed, who was President of SAARC CCI at the time of the launching of SYEF, said that the

Forum "will hone the leadership and strategic business skills of SAARC CCI members and help them to gain broad perspectives beyond company and industry concerns. With globalization and the rapidly changing market dynamics, it is imperative that we nurture young, visionary business leaders who are aware, articulate and willing to serve a larger cause.

Mr. Sayeed, further added that SAARC CCI recognized the need to cultivate a core group of Young Entrepreneurs and CEOs aged 40 and below to be the next generation of business leaders to steer South Asia ahead in the local and international arena. "The biggest advantage to South Asia is that their 45% of the total population of are young community (below 30 years). According to an estimate one fourth of the small and medium enterprises are owned by young entrepreneurs," Mr. Sayeed pointed out. ■

Budget Proposal 2012

.... from page 5

Animal husbandry, processing fisheries product and Art work would be eligible for a four year tax holiday subject to minimum investment of Rupees 25 million. The FCCISL also highlighted for the necessity of simplification of taxes, levies and other charges being paid by the SME Sector to a number of Government Agencies at the provincial level. We hope that this issue will also be addressed by the government, soon.

The depreciation of the external

value of Sri Lanka Currency by 3% is welcome by the exporters as the competitiveness of their products and services in the International Market would increase due to this measure. No doubt that this measure will also enhance the Rupee income of inward remittances of Sri Lankan expatriate workers. There is a tendency for increase of all imports prices marginally. It seems that the government has taken this measure cautiously by making adjustment, moderately.

The second post conflict budget submitted by the government has

attempted to continue its development policy Agenda by taking measures to percolate the economic benefits in to the economically weaker segment of the society as well. In this context, both public and private sectors and the civil society at large should assume responsibility to utilize limited resources economically and effectively by re imposing transparency and accountability, across the board.

Contributed by: Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Sri Lanka on 22 November 2011. ■



Status of Organic Agriculture Products and Their Marketing in Bangladesh

Conventional agriculture is a production system relies on following inputs: (1) Synthetic tilling; (2) Synthetic weeding; (3) Genetically modified organisms; (4) Synthetic fertilizer; (5) Synthetic pesticides; and (6) Synthetic harvesting

Organic agriculture as a holistic production management system avoids usage of synthetic inputs and genetically modified organisms, minimizes pollution of air, soil and water, and optimizes the health and productivity of interdependent communities of plants, fisheries, animals and people.

Organic Agriculture

The Bangladesh Organic Products Manufacturers Association (BOPMA) uses the following methods for Organic Agriculture as developed by the Halal and Organic Bangladesh Ltd: Green tilling (without emitting GHG); Soil should be 3 years free from synthetic fertilizer; Land area should be well protected by fence or by hedge plants; 30 mtrs safe distance; Seeds must be organic; Organic and green manuring; Intercropping; Crop residues; Mixcropping; and Animal manure.

Weed Management

The BOPMA uses the following methods for weed management as developed by the Halal and Organic Bangladesh Ltd.: Manual weeding; Mechanical weeding; and Mulching to block weed emergence with organic materials.

Soil Improvement Technology

The eminent soil scientist Mr. Z. Karim submitted his survey reports to the Ministry of Agriculture in 2006. In

the report, he claimed that the soil of Bangladesh is seriously polluted and almost dead. "We need 6 crore tons of organic fertilizer to bring about healthy soil throughout the country," he reported.

The BOPMA supports the following measures for soil improvement technology: Organic and green manuring; Intercropping, increasing soil nutrients and controlling pests, insects and diseases; Crop residues aiding nutrients; Mixcropping to increase soil nutrients; Animal manure for soil nutrients; Banana stalks and green sands provide potassium; Dolomite powder provides magnesium and calcium; Lime and sulfur are natural pH amendments; and Iron sulfate, aluminium sulfate, magnesium sulfate and soluble boron products are allowed in organic farming.

Nutrient Management

The BOPMA is working to enrich soil and crops nutrition through organic procedure. The Association has been working to establish one organic fertilizer factory at each upajila throughout the country aiming to produce 3 million tons of organic fertilizer yearly and one pesticide factory in every jila aiming to produce 100000 tons of organic pesticides yearly based on 100% local raw materials.

Pests management

The BOPMA uses the following measures for pest management developed by the Halal and Organic Bangladesh Ltd.: Crop rotation/diversification reduce insect and pathogen infection. Soybean, kawn, baqui, yam, sugar beet, bajra, dhemshi

etc. can be produced rotationally; Perching; Biological pest control; Habitat for beneficial organisms; Pheromone trap; Light trap; Aerial net; Predatory insects; Predatory mites; and Vertebrates.

Good Agricultural Practice

The Halal and Organic Bangladesh Ltd. has developed the following Good Agricultural Practice (GAP) for safe agriculture and safe products through inorganic procedures: Soil management; Crops management through crop rotation, crop calendar etc.; Weed management through recommended procedures; Pests management through recommended dose, duration, disposal and through Integrated Pests Management; Irrigation through safe water; Health & Sanitation for the farm and farmers/workers; Pre & post-Harvesting procedures; Processing; Preserving; and Cultivation, production and usage instruction for leafy and instant vegetables etc.

Marketing

Bangladesh is the biggest market of Organic Products in the world. As per requirement for establishing a healthy nation, the country should produce: About 30 million tons of cereal crops; About 20 million tons of vegetable crops; and About 10 million tons of fruit crops.

There is also good demand for organic products in the global markets and it is increasing day by day: In 2003 total sales volume was US\$ 25 billion; In 2009 total sales volume was US\$ 55 billion; and Predicted in 2012 total sales volume will be US\$ 138 billion.

NB: Global organic products market is up-to 22% and it is increasing 10% annually.

Constraints to organically production

From the beginning the Ministry of Agriculture has been discouraging organic agriculture. Up-to 2008 there was no Organic Fertilizer Act and up-to 2010 there was no Organic Pesticides Act. Hence, the Ministry of Agriculture

Continued on page 8

Status of Organic

... from page 7

did not allow the entrepreneurs to produce organic fertilizer and organic pesticides (only three organic fertilizer companies obtained license through special arrangements in 2000)

The eminent soil scientist Mr. Z. Karim submitted his survey reports to the Ministry of Agriculture in 2006 but the Ministry of Agriculture is yet to receive any initiative for developing organic Agriculture although he reported the soil as seriously polluted and almost dead.

In 2008, the Organic Fertilizer Act was announced but the terms and conditions were totally objected to by the entrepreneurs, as follows:

- * The physical and chemical parameters were specified in the circular, therefore the Ministry of Agriculture has instructed for field trial through Integrated Plant Nutrient System at point # 7. The concerned authority has been taking 120 kgs organic fertilizer as sample and Tk. 48,000 for field trial charge but wasting 2/3 years time in the name of field trial. If the result is negative the entrepreneurs are to submit the same again.
- * After achieving field trial positive report and fulfilling all terms and conditions the chairman of the National Fertilizer Standardization Committee plays a game in the meeting. He declares pass or fail or hang as he wishes.
- * The circular point # 5 clearly shows that the DAE will go for legal action against the manufacturer if they find any discrepancy in quality. Therefore, the Ministry of Agriculture has been harassing the entrepreneurs for nothing and not permitting for production.
- * The Ministry of Agriculture is yet to establish and circulate the National Organic Policy.

Marketing and Future Potentials

Everyone wants to be free from harmful chemicals. Organic agriculture and products have potential for the

following 10 reasons: (1) Reduce toxic load (2) Reduce farm pollution (3) Protect future generations (4) Build healthy soil (5) Taste better and truer has more natural flavor (6)

Assist family farmers of all sizes (7) Helps avoid the use of hasty and poor science in food production (8) Promote biodiversity (10) Celebrate the culture of agriculture.

Continued on page 9

At a glance:

Merits of Organic Agriculture	Demerits of Synthetic Agriculture
It is safe and cheaper (saves up 60%)	It is hazardous, toxic and expensive
Sustainable, ecological and reduce Global Warming	Non-sustainable, non-ecological and responsible for 30% of Global Warming
Activates Microorganism in soil	Destroys Microorganism in soil
Adds humus and increases the limit of Organic Matter in soil	Destroys humus and decrease the limit of Organic Matter in soil
Develops texture and structure of soil	Destroys the C.N ratio, texture and structure of soil
Initiates thousands of roots of plants	Sucks the natural nutrients from soil
Makes plants strong and healthy	Makes the plant weak, succulent and soft
Protects plants and crops from diseases, pests and other disasters	Invites diseases, pests and other disasters to the plants and crops
Gives optimum production (15-20% more)	Gives less production
Decreases fertilizer requirements day by day	Increases fertilizer requirements day by day
Gives Poison and Toxicity free crops	Gives Poisonous and Toxic crops
Saves money of the Farmers	Loses money of the Farmers
Decrease water requirement in the soil	Increase water requirement in the soil
Discourage pesticides requirements	Increases pesticides requirements
Nourishes friends pests / insects	Nourishes harmful pests / insects
Nourishes fishes	Destroys fishes from rivers, bils, haors etc.
Establishes a good and fresh environment	Pollutes environment
Establishes public health	Destroys public health as a result Hospitals & Clinics are increasing day by day

Status of Organic

... from page 8

Bad Effects of existing toxic Agriculture and toxic foods

- * Our blood is seriously polluted as each gram blood contains 9.7 micro gram toxicity instead of 0.2.
- * About 90000 people including innocent children are being attacked by cancer every year in Bangladesh.
- * 60% people are attacked by kidney disease, heart disease, diabetes, liver disease, stomach disease, skin disease, mental disease etc. throughout the country.
- * Tasty and nutritious fishes are lost from rivers, haors, bils, lakes, canals, ponds.
- * Worldwide, about five million farm workers are estimated to suffer pesticide poisoning every year (WHO, UNEP).
- * Loss of topsoil, decrease in soil fertility, surface & ground water contamination, loss of genetic diversity etc.

Recognitions

- * "It has been demonstrated that organically produced foods have lower levels of pesticides and veterinary drug residues and, in many cases, lower nitrate content." FAO
- * "Organic plant-based food products generally contain higher amounts of anti-oxidants, vitamins, minerals, and other beneficial substances." FAO
- * "Organically processed products do not contain hydrogenated fats and other additives whose negative health impacts are widely acknowledged." FAO
- * "Only Organic Agriculture can establish Food security" FAO: Rome 03/05/2007
- * "Organic Agriculture will Feed the World very soon" – International Research finds
- * "Organic agriculture can be more conducive to food security" UNEP, UNCTAD



Sustainability

- * 15-20% more production (DAE reports)
- * Fisheries and live-stocks will resume
- * Reduces 30% Global Warming
- * It is more likely to be sustainable in the long-term
- * Soil fertility and drought resistance improves
- * Potentially a profitable enterprise
- * Certification is a pre requisite

Continued on page 10

Land and crops area:

Hunger Free World	Panchagarh, Jhenidah	14 Acres	Vegetables
FACE	Sylhet, Madaripur, Rangpur	150 Acres	Rice
Diamond Agro Ind.	Tangail, Chittagong, Jamalpur, Sherpur	160 Acres	Vegetables & Rice
Proshika	Manikganj	150 Acres	Cereal crops & Vegetables
UBINIG	Pabna, Tangail	100000 Acres	Cereal crops, spices, Fruits vegetables
CARITAS	Dinajpur, Thakurgaon	30 Acres	Cereal crops & vegetables
Shauly Agro Ltd.	Bandarban, Rangamati, Khagrachari, Sunamganj, Sylhet	350 Acres	Cereal crops, Vegetables, Fruits, Spices
Shams Enterprise	Vola, Cox's Bazar, Barguna, Laxmipur, Noakhali	1100 Acres	Soybean, Vegetables
NRDP	In maximum districts	1500 Acres	Vegetables, Cereal crops, Spices
H & O	Rajbari, Faridpur, Kustia, Magura, Jessore, Jhenidah, Poradah	1500 Acres	Vegetables, Cereal crops, Spices
Chitra Organic Foods	Khulna, Shatkhira, Norail, Bagerhat, Jessore, Magura	2500 Acres	Vegetables, Cereal crops, Spices
Karatoa Agro Services	Bogra, Sirajganj, Gaibandha, Naogao, Sherpur, Mymensingh	150 Acres	Vegetables, Cereal crops, Spices
NAPL	Lalmonirhat, Nilphamari, Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur	350 Acres	Vegetables, Cereal crops, Spices
UFIL	Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, Panchagarh	110 Acres	Vegetables, Cereal crops, Spices
GGEL	Comilla, Chandpur, Sunamganj, M.Bazar	430 Acres	Vegetables, Cereal crops, Spices
BOPMA	In maximum districts	960 Acres	Vegetables, Fruits, Cereal crops, Spices
About 36 members of the BOPMA	Different districts		Organic foods, fertilizer, pesticides, food supplements, instant foods, edible oil etc.
	Total:	109454 Acres	



CACCI is reminding members to submit their nominations to the 4th Asia-Pacific Young Entrepreneur Award. We are eager to hear from you and look forward to receiving your nominations.

The Award aims to recognize excellent young entrepreneurs in the Asia-Pacific rim who not only are successful in their business but also advocate corporate social responsibility for the good of their country. Presentation of the 4th Asia-Pacific Young Entrepreneur Award will be made during the Gala Dinner of the 26th CACCI Conference to be held in Kathmandu, Nepal on October 3-5, 2012.

For more information, please contact the CACCI Secretariat by telephone (+8862 272 5 5663/4), fax (+8862 2725 5665), or e-mail (cacci@cacci.org.tw)

ABOUT CACCI

The Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) is a regional grouping of apex national chambers of commerce and industry, business associations and business enterprises in Asia and the Western Pacific.

It is a non-governmental organization serving as a forum for promoting the vital role of businessmen in the region, increasing regional business interaction, and enhancing regional economic growth. Since its establishment in 1966, CACCI has grown into a network of national chambers of commerce with a total now of 29 Primary Members from 27 Asian countries. CACCI is a non-governmental organization (NGO) granted consultative status, Roster category, under the United Nations.

Status of Organic

.... from page 9

- * Good post-harvest handling and rural income generation
- * Effective and efficient infrastructure and export logistics
- * Good and trustworthy relations among farmers, growers, importers, traders

Conclusion

It is important to save our soil, nation, water, air, fisheries, animals from the harmful hazardous toxic and synthetic chemicals. Both the government and the people should move ahead in establishing organic agriculture as well as organic products immediately for a healthy land and nation.

Contributed by: Mu. Abdus Salam, Managing Director, Halal & Organic Bangladesh Ltd., Cell Phone# +8801198-132535, www.bopma.org ■

About YEGAP

The Young Entrepreneurs Group Asia-Pacific (YEGAP), formerly called the Committee on Youth Entrepreneurship, was created during the 68th CACCI Council Meeting held in May 2004 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Its goal is to provide a venue for young entrepreneurs in CACCI member countries to get actively involved in entrepreneurial development. CACCI hopes that the YEGAP will serve as an effective venue for identifying suitable programs geared towards entrepreneurial development for young entrepreneurs. Ms. Anna Marie Periquet from the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry serves as Chairman of the group and Mr. Teisuke Suzuki from the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry as Vice Chairman.

The YEG-AP held its inaugural meeting in February 2005 during the 20th CACCI Conference held in New Delhi, and has met annually since then.

For more information on YEGAP, please visit our website at www.yegap.org



*Published monthly by the Secretariat, Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry
Dr. Webster Kiang - Director-General*

*Amador R. Honrado, Jr. – Editor; Wendy Yang / Mark Ko – Contributing Editors; Julia Hsu – Assistant Editor
14/F, No. 11, Songgao Road, Taipei 11073, Taiwan; Tel: (886 2) 2725-5663/4; Fax: (886 2) 2725-5665
Email: cacci@cacci.org.tw; Website: www.cacci.org.tw*