

LET'S MAKE ALL TRADE AND INVESTMENTS BETWEEN INDIA AND THE NETHERLANDS SUSTAINABLE ●●●



The Platform for sharing knowledge
and best practices on Sustainability

Promotes partnership between businesses
to address common sustainability issues

Recognises Netherlands as a leading partner
in promoting sustainable business in India

'One Stop Shop' for all the information regarding
sustainability & CSR for the businesses of both
the countries

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MESSAGE FROM THE HON'BLE AMBASSADOR OF THE NETHERLANDS TO INDIA



Welcome!

It is my great honour to welcome you to the third edition of the Indus Forum. A place where we aim to make trade and investment between India and The Netherlands sustainable. And a place where we connect smart minds, smart ideas and smart initiatives.

The fast growing size and significance of the corporate sector in India has encouraged us to develop the Indus Forum. What's more: India is the only bright spot in the world economy, according to the IMF. With its impressive economic growth, the Indian private sector is well placed to contribute to sustainable and equitable development, at home and abroad. We see partnerships with the private sector as powerful tools for progressing sustainability.

As a European hub for Indian exports, the Netherlands has a clear responsibility for social and inclusive sustainable supply chains. Together with India we are looking at how we can work with businesses, civil society organisations and local communities to not only solve these challenges - but to turn these challenges into concrete business opportunities.

Through Indus, we can all engage in partnerships with the business community. Together we can climb the sustainability ladder to a cleaner and safer world.

I wish you all a successful meeting of the INDUS forum.

Alphonse Stoeleing

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alphonse Stoeleing'.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON, CENTRE FOR RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS (CRB)



Embedding sustainability parameters into core business practices can help businesses be more competitive, support them in dealing better with risks and vulnerabilities and be responsible, in India and globally. To support businesses with embedding sustainability and to energize India's strong and substantive contribution to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), supporting initiatives to meet the Paris Climate Agreement, and leading on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs), we at CRB have identified the need for focused and dedicated forums on sustainability and CSR across industry sectors and themes in partnership with relevant partners and supporters. These forums will help businesses and their stakeholders to push the boundaries of collaborative and collective thinking, imaginations and actions. INDUS Forum in partnership with the Dutch Embassy in India is a prime example of such an effort of CRB.

CRB has been working towards setting up the INDUS Forum since October 2015, with an overall aim to promote and facilitate dialogues, debates and thought leadership between Indian and Dutch businesses, policymakers and other stakeholders, on strategic and operational aspects of CSR and sustainable business. Over this time, CRB has interacted with both Dutch and the Indian businesses, policymakers and stakeholders in both India and The Netherlands to assess their interest about the need for such a platform, and we have received strong interest and support.

INDUS Forum aims to build common understanding on CSR and sustainability in the context of international business, especially around the bilateral trade and investments between The Netherlands and India. This will help further bolster the expanding trade, commercial and social relations between the two countries. I hope that the business leaders from both countries realize this and drive the INDUS Forum's agenda forward. Let's make all trade between India and The Netherlands sustainable.

Dr. Bimal Arora

Chairperson
Centre For Responsible Business (CRB)



WHY INDUS FORUM

It is widely known that sustainability and related issues are getting an increasing reference in trade and investment related discussions and processes.

There is little doubt, therefore, that an exchange of ideas & good practices and thought leadership between India and its trade & investment partner countries on business sustainability and responsible business would be mutually beneficial. The Indo-Dutch trade volumes show a steady increase since 2000, which is a sound indicator of the positive trade and investment relations between the two. The Netherlands is ranked fourth among India's top FDI investing partners, and as the sixth most important trading partner.

As major trade partners both the countries also has a clear responsibility for social and inclusive sustainable supply chains.

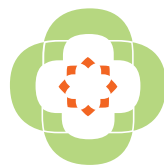
Keeping this in view, The Embassy of Netherlands in india initiated the INDUS-Forum project with CRB to facilitate dialogue and thought leadership on Sustainable business between India and The Netherlands, with the aim of aligning it with the growth of industry, society and economies of both the countries.



CENTRE FOR RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS: A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

The Centre for Responsible Business (CRB) is an independent international centre of excellence, working with business and stakeholders to promote responsible business strategies, policies and practices. Based out of New Delhi and global orientation, CRB's activities are organized under four verticals: (i) Action and Policy Research, (ii) Training and Capacity Building, (iii) Customized Advisory Services, (iv) Convening Knowledge Forums

- UN Forum on Sustainability Standard (UNFSS)
- > Bureau of Indian Standards Committee on Social Responsibility
 - > Consumer Information Programme of UNEP-10YFP Programme
 - > Indian Institute for Corporate Affairs (IICA)
 - > Quality Council of India (QCI) & Embassy of Netherlands In India



INDUS
FORUM

INSPIRE

Wider adoption of 'good sustainability practices' based on Dutch and Indian experiences

INFORM

Promotes awareness about CSR/Sustainability frameworks and tools among businesses and stakeholders

ADVISE

Link experts and practitioners from both countries, co-create joint initiatives/partnerships, help access relevant knowledge/resources

CONNECT

Provide inputs and guidance through the INDUS-Forum network to benefit the community & members

**THE GO-TO PLACE FOR INDO – DUTCH
BUSINESSES ON CSR & SUSTAINABILITY**

Centre for Responsible Business

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CRB CENTRE for
RESPONSIBLE
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Enabling Change for Impact

