24th Annual International Seminar and First GCC Conference of ICAI's Abu Dhabi Chapter

Minister of Corporate Affairs (Independent Charge) Shri Sachin Pilot, Infosys Chairman Emeritus Shri N. R. Narayana Murthy, Advisor to the Prime Minister of India Dr. Sam Pitroda, ICAI President CA. Jaydeep Narendra Shah and ICAI's Abu Dhabi Chapter Chairman CA. Ramesh Krishnan among other dignitaries during the seminar.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India's (ICAI) Abu Dhabi Chapter organised its 24th Annual International Seminar and the 1st GCC Conference on 8th and 9th November 2012 on the theme *"Waves of Change…Oceans of Opportunity"*. The two day seminar saw a very large gathering. **HE Sheikh Nahayan Bin Mabarak Al Nahayan,** Minister for Higher Education and Scientific Research, UAE was the Chief Guest of the event and **Hon'ble Sachin Pilot**, Minister of Corporate Affairs (Independent Charge), Government of India, **Her Excellency Huda Al Matroushi,** Board Member, Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce & Industry, **Shri M. K. Lokesh**, Ambassador of India to UAE and **CA. Jaydeep Narendra Shah**, President of ICAI were the Guests of Honour. Other noted dignitaries who attended the Seminar included **Mr. N. R. Narayana Murthy,** Chairman Emeritus, Infosys and **Mr. Sam Pitroda**, Advisor to the Prime Minister of India, ICAI past-President **CA. R. Bhupathy**, MCA Joint Secretary **Shri Manoj Kumar,** MCA Director **Shri B. Koteswara Rao** and an ICAI Central Council member.

Shri Sachin Pilot

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, **Hon'ble Shri Sachin Pilot** spoke very high of Indian accountancy profession and showed his keen desire to more actively include Indian Chartered Accountants in his benevolent scheme of things. He congratulated Indian accountants for fostering India's relationship with the Gulf region through their good work. He said that with reforms being done in India, Chartered Accountants will have tremendous opportunities to serve India and the world in future.

HE Sheikh Nahayan Bin Mabarak Al Nahayan in his address as the Chief Guest, praised the contribution of the Chapter and Indian Chartered Accountants in furthering the friendly relation-ship between India and UAE and helping in the development and growth of the UAE.

HE Sheikh Nahayan Bin Mabarak Al Nahayan

In his Presidential address, **CA. Jaydeep Shah** noted Abu Dhabi Chapter as one of the most active Chapters of ICAI abroad. In his speech, CA. Shah covered various activities conducted by the Chapter including the first IFRS course organised for members, signing of an MoU with Higher Colleges of Technology and the first ever joint seminar with the Dubai Chapter which was attended by a large number of members. CA. Shah congratulated the

Chapter as it was for the first time the new Minister of Corporate Affairs Hon'ble Sachin Pilot was attending the Annual International Seminar of Abu Dhabi chapter of the ICAI.

Facing waves of change in today's world bring along significant opportunities said **CA. Ramesh Krishnan**, Chairman of the Abu Dhabi Chapter. He further mentioned that the Chapter has grown from its humble beginnings of about 40 members in 1984, to a strong membership base of around 600 members. The Chairman's address was also followed by the unveiling of seminar brochure by the dignitaries.

UAE's Minister for Higher Education and Scientific Research HE Sheikh Nahayan Bin Mabarak Al Nahayan, India's Minister of Corporate Affairs (Independent Charge) Shri Sachin Pilot, Infosys Chairman Emeritus Shri N. R. Narayana Murthy, Advisor to the Prime Minister of India Dr. Sam Pitroda and ICAI's Abu Dhabi Chapter Chairman CA. Ramesh Krishnan among a large gathering at the seminar.

The Seminar brought together leading industry and financial sector experts who shared their insights and exchanged ideas. Keynote addresses were delivered by **Mr. N. R. Narayana Murthy**, Chairman Emeritus, Infosys and **Mr. Sam Pitroda**, Advisor to the Prime Minister of India. Technical sessions were addressed by **Liz Martins**, Senior Economist HSBC; **A. Muruganantham**, Social Entrpreneur; **Mr. Dushyant Dave**, Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India and **Mr. Neil D. Miller**, Global Head Islamic Finance, KPMG. The seminar addressed key issues such as the global economic crisis, corporate social responsibility, Islamic finance and current issues affecting the profession and industry.

The seminar included a panel discussion with the Chairmen of GCC Chapters to discuss various matters affecting the Chartered Accountancy profession. The panelists raised an important issue on the legal structure of the overseas chapter for the consideration of ICAI. The panelists included **CA. K. Muralidhar**, Chairman of Bahrain Chapter, **CA. James Mathew**, Chairman of Dubai Chapter, **CA. Ramesh Krishnan**, Chairman of Abu Dhabi Chapter, **CA. P. R. Subraminam**, Chairman of Muscat Chapter, **CA. Gaurav Dholakia**, Chairman of Kuwait Chapter and **CA. Hatim Hussain**, Vice Chairman of Doha Chapter. The panel discussion was moderated by **CA. Padmanabha Acharya**, Vice Chairman of Abu Dhabi Chapter.

The event also included a panel discussion on the subject –"*Will the GCC have its own Euro*". The panelists included **Mr. Vassilis Makkas**, Executive Director, Bank Sarasin-Alpen (ME) Ltd; **Mr. Giyas Gokkent**, Chief Economist, NBAD and **Mr. Surya Subramanian**, Group CFO, Emirates NBD Group.The panel discussion was moderated by **CA Rajiv Shah**, CFO, Emirates National Holding and Secretary of Abu Dhabi Chapter.

The seminar was followed by musical performance by Dunes of Rajasthan, a fusion band and Mika Singh. ■

ICAI President CA. Jaydeep Narendra Shah with Minister of Corporate Affairs (Independent Charge) Shri Sachin Pilot.