

Ambassador's Remarks at Inauguration of "Astana Build-2016"
(May 18-20, 2016, Venue: "Korme" Exhibition Centre, 3 Dostyk Street, Left bank,
Astana)

H.E. Mr. Bulat Sarsenbayev, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the Republic of India;

H.E. Mr. Nursultan Saymasayev, Head of Construction and Woodworking Industry,
Ministry of Investment and Development;

Distinguished Guests, Business Representatives and friends from Media,

I am delighted to be present here at the Opening Ceremony of the 18th International Exhibition "Astana Build-2016".

I am happy to note that Astana Build ' has grown into an important exhibition in the construction sector of Kazakhstan since it was first held in 1999. I am happy to note that over 200 companies from 17 countries are participating in the exhibition.

I am extremely glad that 45 well-known Indian construction companies led by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry are participating in this exhibition. Their products display include a wide range of construction equipment, building interiors & fittings, floor, wall and ceiling finishes, marble & granite products, lighting equipment, CCTV & remote monitoring control systems and so on.

The construction sector in India accounts for 8% of India's \$ 2.1 trillion economy and employs over 33 million people.

Both India and Kazakhstan have a lot in common in terms of strong emphasis on infrastructure development as a driver for growth, focus on affordable housing and development of smart cities. India being a much larger economy, has an advantage of economies of scale in its manufacturing as well as service industry, which guarantees high levels of quality, resilience and cost competitiveness of its products and services.

The Indian construction industry is growing at a robust rate of 8.1% and has strong prospects for further growth in consonance with India's emergence as the fastest growing economy in the world. An impressive presence of the Indian construction companies at Astana Build demonstrates their readiness to share their rich experience with their Kazakhstani counterparts and market their products and services to Kazakhstan.

The exhibition provides an excellent opportunity for businesspersons from two countries to interact and forge mutually beneficial long-lasting business partnerships.

I thank ITECA Group and ITE Eurasian Exhibitions for hosting this exclusive sectoral exhibition and the Ministry of Investment and Development of Kazakhstan, Ministry of National Economy of Kazakhstan, the Committee for Construction of Kazakhstan, Akimat of Astana and the Union of Builders of Kazakhstan for supporting this exhibition.

I extend warm welcome to all the participants of the exhibition and wish them success in their business interactions.