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Press release

Beginning of a New Era for the Indian Rubber Fraternity India Rubber Meet 2014 (IRM 2014)

The first India Rubber Meet (India Rubber Meet 2014) is being held on 20 and 21 February 2014 at the Le Meridien Convention Centre, Kochi, Kerala. This is the launching episode of the Meet which will be held annually thereafter at different locations.

Arrangements are in progress for the India Rubber Meet – 2014 (IRM-2014) organized by all the stake holders of the rubber industry which includes rubber growers – small and large, - tyre and non-tyre rubber product manufacturers, synthetic and reclaimed rubber producers, trade organizations, promotional bodies, research and skill development institutions, media dedicated to rubber industry, the work force and consumers . The organizers of the Meet include The Rubber Board of India , All India Rubber Industries Association, Association of Latex Producers of India, Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India, Automotive Tyre Manufacturers Association, Block Rubber Processors Association of India, CAPEXIL, Indian Rubber Dealers Federation, Indian Rubber Growers Association, Indian Rubber Institute, Indian Rubber Manufacturers Research Association, Kerala State Co-operative Rubber Marketing Federation, Latex Rubber Thread Manufacturers Association, National Federation of Rubber Producers Societies, Rubber Skill Development Council, The Cochin Rubber Merchants Association, United Planters Association of Southern India, GRP Limited, Harrisons Malayalam Limited, Indian/International Rubber Journal, Reliance Industries Limited and Rubber Asia.

The theme of this first edition of the IRM 2014 is “Indian Rubber: New Horizons”. The visualization of the new horizons of Indian rubber industry involves examining strategies to confront emerging challenges and to capitalize budding opportunities. There will be invited talks by internationally renowned speakers. The topics include global economic outlook and the future of commodities; short and medium-term outlook for the global rubber industry; future of India in the global map of auto-tyre industry; short and medium-term outlook of China’s automobile industry;

demand for rubber in auto-tyre manufacturing sector; new legislations for auto-tyres and their implications for rubber sector; current trends, emerging developments and challenges for the global synthetic rubber industry and Innovations for the forward movement of the global rubber industry.

The speakers include Mr. Sunny George Verghese , Group MD and CEO, Olam International, Singapore, Dr. Stephen Evans , Secretary-general, IRSG, Singapore, Ms. Mary Xu , Secretary-general, China Rubber Industry Association, Beijing, Dato' Dr.Kamarul Baharain Basir ,Secretary-general, ANRPC, Kuala Lumpur, Ms.Fazilet Cinaralp , Secretary General, European Tyre and Rubber Manufacturers' Association, Brussels, Mr. James L. McGraw , CEO and MD, International Institute of Synthetic Rubber Producers Inc.Texas , Mr.Sandana Das , CEO, R1 International, Singapore, Datuk Dr.Salmiah Ahmad , Director-general, Malaysian Rubber Board and Ms.Sheela Thomas ,Chairman, Rubber Board, India.

The panellists for the discussion on 'Present and near-term global scenario of NR in the perspective of NR producing countries' will represent Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, India, China and Sri Lanka. Those for the discussion on 'Indian rubber scenario: Stakeholders' perspective' will represent different sectors of rubber industry like rubber growers, processors, traders, tyre and non-tyre product manufacturers, synthetic and reclaimed rubber producers and developmental bodies that support the industry.

A grand gala dinner and a cultural programme to feast the eyes of delegates is also arranged on the evening of 20th February. The programme is scheduled in such a way that there will be ample time for networking.

IRM 2014 is targeted to attract more than 600 delegates from India and abroad. Rubber sector stakeholder associations have been keen on having a regular forum for discussing rubber industry interests on an annual basis. IRM is visualized as such an annual gathering of rubber industry stakeholders for facilitating networking and information sharing for furthering business relations for mutual benefit. A national level organizing committee under the chairmanship of Smt. Sheela Thomas IAS, Chairman, Rubber Board with representation of all segments of

rubber industry, is constituted to formulate the programme and to organize the event. A logo which depicts the unity of rubber stake holders and vibrance of the industry has been launched for the India Rubber Meet.

IRM will bring the rubber fraternity of the country under a single umbrella to take stock of emerging trends in raw material production and processing, trading, end product manufacturing, export, etc.

The meet is so timed that it coincides with the tourist season in 'God's own Country', Kerala. Kochi, the Queen of Arabian Sea as well as the nearby tourist destinations, Kumarakom, the Backwater Paradise and Alappuzha, the Venice of the East – offer the right ambience to unwind. Hence it is worthy to plan the weekends stay after the Meet as well.

The registration of delegates is open now on a first come first served basis. For details visit the website: www.indiarubbermeet.in or contact Chairman, Organizing Committee, India Rubber Meet 2014 at indiarubbermeet@gmail.com.

