

## Diplomatic Roundtable Led by Kaustubh Dhavase and WTCA Asia Pacific Conference Spotlight Global Connectivity and Regional Collaboration



"Maharashtra has been the foremost leading state in terms of development, economic planning and attracting investments. With a forward-looking approach towards the development, Maharashtra is pioneering India's developmental journey towards 5 trillion-dollar economy", said Kaustubh Dhavase, Chief Advisor to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra at the Diplomatic Roundtable along with Ambassadors and Consuls Generals of over 30 countries here at the 10th Global Economic Summit and WTCA Asia Pacific Conference which saw participation of more than 50 World Trade Centres across the Asia Pacific region, cementing the position of the state of Maharashtra as the region of convergence of ideas, investments, trade and progress.

Kaustubh Dhavase, Chief Advisor to the Chief Minister of Maharashtra along with Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Consul Generals at the Diplomatic Roundtable at the 10th Global Economic

Summit. Dhavase further stated that, "Barring Covid years, CAGR growth rate of the state has been in double digits, positioning the state as the engine of India's growth over the past 12 years. This growth is powered by the exponential focus on creating infrastructure- social as well as physical, transforming the landscape of the state. We are creating a completely new ecosystem of development where infrastructure is the pillar. For example: the conception of a coastal road network by land reclamation which will run parallel to our suburban railway network which carries on an average of 9 million passengers daily thereby boosting urban mobility". Speaking on the goal of Maharashtra to be a trillion-dollar economy, Dhavase spoke on the consistent zeal of policymakers to carry out reforms to boost economic productivity of the state. Outlining the forward-looking vision of Chief Minister he also spoke on the development of Navi Mumbai and further sub cities in it like Edu City for foreign universities, Innovation and IT city for service sectors, new Navi Mumbai airport to strengthen domestic as well as international connectivity and the Wadhawan port to boost sea trade. Welcoming all the foreign ambassadors and consul generals, Dhavase invited investments and business opportunities for the state of Maharashtra. The roundtable was attended diplomats from Bangladesh, South Africa, Egypt, Thailand, Ghana, Ukraine Argentina, Malaysia, Japan, Mali, UK, Vietnam, Yemen, Kuwait, Belarus, Ecuador, Czech Republic, Sri Lanka, Guyana, Tanzania and Uganda. Representatives of World Trade Centres from the Asia Pacific Region at the inaugural session of the WTCA Asia Pacific Conference held on the sidelines of the 10th Global Economic Summit and 6th World Trade Expo. The WTCA Asia Pacific Conference was also organized which brought together distinguished leaders from over 50 countries of the World Trade Centres Association network to share perspectives on how WTC community continues to uplift regional economies, catalyse investment, enhance infrastructure, and strengthen connectivity-driven innovation. The conference featured topic specific panel discussions involving WTCs from across the region. Speaking on the role which WTC play in facilitating trade and connectivity, Ms. Crystal Edn, Executive Director, Member Services, World Trade Centre Association gave her insights on how the whole WTC movement is helping countries and regions form trade partnerships thereby facilitating dialogue with the active participation of the World Trade Centres. Scott Wang, WTC Vice President, said that "The WTC community give a platform to its members to showcase the unique opportunities which lies in their respective states." He further added that, "the objectives of holding events at World Trade Centre is never to make money but to uplift societies through trade promotion activities".

Vijay Kalantri, Chairman of World Trade Centre, Mumbai and Board Director, World Trade Centre Association at New York welcomed the participation of World Trade Centres across the regions for the conference. Speaking on the occasion, Kalantri said, "The whole WTCA movement has brought exponential benefits for the global trade. WTC Mumbai is the first World Trade Centre from India and one of the pioneers of the movement which strengthened the roots of World Trade Centres here in the region. India, being the largest growing economy, is proud to host this conference to strengthen dialogue and focused engagement.