



High Commission of India
Abuja

PRESS RELEASE

The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry, a national Apex Chamber (ASSOCHAM) with its Headquarters in New Delhi, India, opened its Nigeria Chapter at Hotel Transcorp Hilton, Abuja, Nigeria on June 28, 2016. The Event was launched by His Excellency, Dr. Okechukwu Enelamah, Minister for Industry, Trade & Investment of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. H.E. Mr. B.N.Reddy, High Commissioner (Desig) of India to Nigeria, was the Guest of Honour on the occasion. The other prominent speakers present were H.E. Oby Ezekwesli, former Minister and Vice President, Africa, World Bank, Engr. Joe Makoju, Managing Director, Dangote Cements and President of the Cement Manufacturers' Association of Nigeria and President, ASSOCHAM, Mr. Sunil Kanoria.



ASSOCHAM is one of the oldest and largest pan-India industry Associations with more than 450,000 members. Abuja Chapter of ASSOCHAM is its 26th international office world-wide and 10th in Africa.

In his key-note address, Hon'ble Minister expressed happiness that one of India's most reputed trade associations was at this time promoting the setting-up of a council to promote business and trade between Nigeria and India. The Minister said Nigeria and India of course share much in common: the legacy of British colonial rule (and by extension the language, the bureaucracy and the judicial traditions of the British), a multicultural and multi-religious make-up, and a rich history of military engagement. He shared with the audience that an Indian General was the first Commandant of the Nigerian Defence Academy and that several of Nigeria's military heads of state received, at some point in their careers, training in India. The Minister hoped that launch of the ASSOCHAM India-Nigeria Business Promotion Council will mark the start of a new phase in economic ties between the two countries.



While briefly touching upon Indo-Nigeria relations and a series of initiatives taken by Government of India under Prime Minister Modi to stimulate economy, High Commissioner (Desig) B.N.Reddy said India remained ready and committed to work with Nigeria in all sectors of its economy and expressed confidence that Nigeria Chapter of ASSOCHAM would help provide the business community of both sides opportunities to explore and identify mutually beneficial projects.



In his welcome address, Mr. Kanoria, President, ASSOCHAM hoped that given the shared history and values India and Nigeria espouse for, the Nigeria Chapter of ASSOCHAM would play a catalytic role in promoting, strengthening and expanding business-to-business contacts between the two countries. In her speech, Mrs. Oby Ezekwesli said that going by her experience and the progress India has made over the decades, be it Green revolution, milk revolution etc., India remains the best and strong partner among emerging economies for Nigeria. Engr Joe Makoju appreciated the participation of Indian companies in various projects of Dangote Group of Industries. Members representing the Indian and Nigerian business community, senior government officials, Banks, MNCs and media attended the Event.

The coordinates of Nigeria Chapter of ASSOCHAM are :

Mr. Biju Koshy, Chairman, ASSOCHAM India-Nigeria Business Promotion Council
Cell No. 08037037740 : Website: <http://www.assocham.org/>

June 28, 2016