

## **Australian Trade and Investment Partners Conference Successfully Completed**

The Australian Trade and Investment Partners Conference held at the Parliament House on the 22nd September brought together a panel of experts ranging from investment teams to Ambassadors, High commissioners, Trade commissioners, Industry leaders, Business Chambers and Industry Associations. Together they took into account of the challenges, achievements and strategies way forward in discussing inter Australian and international implications across diverse sectors.



Hon Julie Bishop, MP, Shadow Foreign & Trade Minister delivered a special welcome message and encouraged all the delegates for bilateral trade & investment opportunities with Australia. Australian Trade Minister Hon Dr Emerson and Foreign Minister Hon Rudd couldn't attend the conference due to their prior commitments. Over 52 countries trade offices along with over 20 high profile delegates were registered for the conference.

The conference was majorly divided into 2 major sessions- where the initial session focused on key emerging sectors like Biotechnology, Education and Agriculture. The presence of renowned

speakers from these respective industries like **Dr. Glenn Cross COO from Ausbiotech**, Mr. Peter Collins from ABARES (Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences) and Dr. Glenn Withers CEO Universities of Australia added great inputs to the conference in terms of various investment options available for the delegates present at the conference.

They addressed issues that covered multi-disciplinary research and analysis in their respective fields and how strong they are from point of view of bilateral investment opportunities. The key message given by the speakers addressed how these sectors and respective departments are dedicated to develop and grow by providing initiatives to drive sustainability, growth by bridging the gap across various markets.

The round table discussion chaired by BRIC expert, David Thomas also was another highlight of the conference. This round table discussion had some key participant - HE Rubem Antonio Corrêa Barbosa, Brazil Ambassador to Australia, Mr Mauritz Lindeque Political Counsellor and Deputy Head of Mission South Africa, Mr. Nikolay S. Nozdrev, Minister-Counsellor, Embassy of the Russian Federation in Australia. They addressed questions put up by the audience about the various emerging investment opportunities that their respective countries have to offer to Australia.

The conference also attracted participation from various cities across states like Queensland, Tasmania and Victoria, thus creating an opportunity for business across their cities as well as states. They discussed a range of business and investment opportunities from commercial to tourism and industrial to infrastructure. This only opened windows for business opportunities that exist in abundance.

The second half of the conference recognized the needs across other sectors like Tourism, films and a round table discussion between the key business chambers and associations. The presence of ICC CEO, Mr Bryan Clark as a moderator gave direction and surfaced concrete outcomes in terms of how Business Chambers and Industry associations are managing opportunities and challenges in Trade & Investment.

Overall, the delegates had an opportunity to explore and discuss potential investment opportunities not across just one specific sector but a plethora of growing and developed sectors within Australia. This extended across ten sectors ranging from AusBiotech to Education, Tourism, Films, Sports and Innovation and Research. The 3 step process of Dialogue, Discussion and Discourse through round table discussion, trade booth interactions, initiated a platform for networking with the right contacts across various states, cities and also the foreign trade officers as well as embassy officers.

On the same day organizers also launched next year's "International Trade & Investment Expo" where over 12 countries expressed their interest to participate and bring trade delegation to next year exhibition. There was a great satisfaction from all the sponsors and delegates including

trade offices, business chambers and industry association that this could be a common platform for trade & investment in Australia and globally with time.

Consistent with the theme “Australian Trade and Investment Partners Conference” the event reached beyond the conference center and featured sessions with wider implications addressing both current as well as futuristic trade and investment opportunities. On a good note the delegates have expressed their keen interest on being updated about the various opportunities that shall only aim to add a mutually benefitting long term relationship between Australia’s inbound as well as outbound trade and investment opportunities.