## CII's Institution Development Programme for Afghan executives

s part of its continuing efforts to strengthen the Afghan private sector, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in February organised an Institution Development Programme for key members of leading Afghan chambers of commerce and industry associations.

The programme — conducted from February 3 to 17 in New Delhi with the support of the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), a non-profit affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce — was attended by 15 senior executives from Afghan industry bodies, including eight women. The team was led by Hamidullah Farooqi, CEO, Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce.

The programme, which comprised 32 subject-wise sessions, saw CII affiliates like the Automotive Component Manufacturers Association of India (ACMA), Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM), Indian Machine Tools Manufacturers (IMTMA), and the Electronic Components Industries Association (ELCINA) share their experiences with the Afghan team.

There were sessions on the Role and Functions of Chambers/Associations; Membership Promotion; International Trade and WTO; Regional Structure; Industry and Media Partnership; Total Quality Management (TQM); Skills Development Initiatives; Human Resources Development; Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) as Drivers for Economic Development in India; Public Policy; Building Consensus at Political Levels; Industry Involvement in Social Development-HIV/AIDs; the Information Technology (IT) Sector in India; Agriculture and Food Processing Industry; Environment; Energy Management; Infrastructure; and International Partnership Building.

There were also sessions on Integrated Socio Economic Development; Rural Development; Women Empowerment; Enterprise Development; Agriculture Development and its Future Prospects in Rural India; and the Role of Information and Communication Technology.

The EXIM Bank of India conducted a session on Finance and Credit for International Trade and Investment, while computer education major NIIT organised one titled 'Hole in the Wall — IT Application for Villages'.

It was, however, not all theory for the visiting Afghan team. For practical experience and to get a deeper insight into the Indian economy and trade, the team visited various companies, expos and fairs, including the Tooltech Exhibition and Surajkund Handicraft Mela.



PHOTO ABOVE, Dilip Sinha, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, centre, with senior executives of leading Afghan chambers of commerce and industry associations, in New Delhi to attend a CII-sponsored Institution Development Program. PHOTO RIGHT, the team with CII Director General N. Srinivasan, standing centre.



The team also visited SSP Ltd., a Faridabadbased SME engaged in the design and manufacture of plant and machinery for the food processing, dairy and chemical sectors.

## **Programme Objectives**

- To focus on strengthening activities of Chambers of Commerce and Industry Associations by strategic planning, membership development, skills promotion, etc.
- To help identify the requirements of industry from chambers/associations and how to fulfill those requirements.
- To hone the skills of consensus-building, networking and partnership building.
- To help promote management skills,
  SMEs, social development and regional cooperation.
- To help serve industry by providing specialised services.

Dilip Sinha, Joint Secretary (Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran), Ministry of External Affairs, briefed the team on the support India provides Afghanistan, and future initiatives such as a proposal for setting up an institution for Skills Development. He also spoke on the Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between India and Afghanistan and bilateral trade.

The women members of the team visited a project on 'Empowering Women through Information, Communication and Technology' and also made a trip to Dilli Haat to learn more about marketing rural crafts and arts in the city.

The team also attended a special session with CII Director General N. Srinivasan, who assured the participants of CII's commitment to the economic development of Afghanistan.

The CIPE, which supported the programme, is one of the four core institutes of the National Endowment for Democracy. It has been working in over 90 developing countries and aims to build democracy through market-oriented reforms. CIPE's Afghan unit was set up in October 2003 and helped form the Afghan International Chambers of Commerce and the Afghan Women Business Federation.