

**Minutes of 18th Annual General Meeting of Sahiwal Chamber of
Commerce & Industry held on 28th September, 2024**

18th Annual General Meeting of Sahiwal Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Sahiwal was held on 28th September, 2024 at 7.30 p.m. at Victoria Marquee, Sahiwal. Mr. Muhammad Kashif Riaz Ch, President of the Chamber presided over the meeting. The meeting was started with recitation of Holy Quran by Mr. Muhammad Ibrahim Mohyuddin, a distinguished guest from Egypt, followed by Naat Sharif by Mr. Asim Aslam and relay of National Anthem. The proceedings were conducted by Mr. Muhammad Tariq Awan, Secretary General of the Chamber.

At the very outset, the President welcomed the participants in the 18th Annual General Meeting of Sahiwal Chamber of Commerce & Industry and expressed his heartfelt gratitude for their participation.

Prior to the start of formal proceedings of the meeting in lines with its agenda circulated vide SCCI letter No. SCCI/2024/1646 dated the 4th September, 2024, pray for the **Forgiveness** to the deceased members of the Chamber during the last 2 years namely Mian Muhammad Younus, Muhammad Hussain Zahid, Muhammad Arshad Bhatta, Latif Akbar, Mian Muhammad Arshad, Saleem Iqbal, Ch Muhammad Shafique, Haji Muhammad Hanif, Dr. Muazzam Beg, Muhammad Shafique, Safer Kaaba walleye and Muhammad Pervaiz was held by Syed Faiz-ul-Hassan Gillani.

1. Approval of minutes of last Annual General Meeting held on 29th September 2023

The House unanimously approved the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 29th September, 2023.

2. Passing of Audited Accounts of the Chamber for the financial year 2023-24

Mr. Faiz-ul-Hassan Gillani, Chartered Accountant of M/s Mahboob Sheikh & Co., presented the audited accounts of the Chamber for the financial year 2023-24 and highlighted its salient features categorically stating at the same time that no serious violation/lapse/ misappropriation of any nature came across during the conduct of audit. The House expressed their satisfaction over it.

3. Appointment of Auditor and fixation of their remuneration

The House was apprised that the periodical audit of Sahiwal Chamber is being conducted by M/s Mahboob Sheikh & Co., Chartered

Accountants, Multan at the remuneration of Rs.60,000/- since last year and their services have been rated as satisfactory by all the stakeholders. Hence it was proposed that the said Firm may be engaged for the current year 2024-25 as well at the same remuneration of Rs.60,000/- which the House unanimously approved.

4. Approval of expenditure approx. Rs. 9,60,000/- for the Dinner to be served in AGM being held on 28.09.2024

The House was apprised that as per item No.4 of the Agenda of the Annual General Meeting-2024 circulated vide Chamber's notification dated 4.9.2024, approval of the House was proposed for an estimated expenditure of Rs.8,00,000/- to be incurred on the Dinner being hosted on that very day of Annual General Meeting i.e. 28.09.2024 for 800 expected guests. In the wake of current wave of inflation across the board, negotiations were made with various Marquee owners but none was agreed to offer services at the rate less than 1300/- per head. Finally, the owner of Victoria Marquee was made agreed to charge Rs.1200/- per head for 800 guests at the total expense of Rs.9,60,000/-. Therefore, approval of the House for an expenditure of Rs.9,60,000/- was solicited which the House having been convinced with the logical reasons putforth before them have unanimously approved the amount of expenditure of Rs.9,60,000/- for the stated purpose.

5. Consideration of the Annual Report of the Chamber

The salient points of the Annual Report were read out in the meeting by Mr. Muhammad Tariq Awan, Secretary General of Sahiwal Chamber of Commerce & Industry which are enumerated below: -

i. EXPO-24

- a) The Chamber upheld its tradition and organized a high-profile Expo-2024 with the title "**Sahiwal Expo-2024**" in Hockey Stadium, Sahiwal from 19th to 21st January, 2024 wherein more than 100 stalls were installed. The objective of the Expo was to project the potential of "**Made in Sahiwal**" products, domestically and internationally. It was witnessed by Mr. Ahmad Qasim Khan, Advisor to Mr. S. M. Tanvir, Provincial Minister for Energy, Industries, Commerce, Investment & Skill Development (ISI&SD) and thousands of legend businessmen and inhabitants of the city. It proved to be a very useful and impressive Expo, duly recognized at National and International level.
- b) Mr. Muhammad Kashif Riaz, President of Sahiwal Chamber of Commerce & Industry led a delegation comprising of tycoons of the business community to witness 7th "**Pakistan Industrial Expo-23**",



organized by Everest International Expo (Private) Limited in Expo Centre, Lahore on 27th November, 2023.

- c) The President also inaugurated 85th Pak Life Style Furniture Expo which was exhibited in Five Star Marquee, Sahiwal
- d) The President also led a delegation comprising of former Presidents of Sahiwal Chamber of Commerce & Industry and Members of sitting Executive Committee to witness "*Al-Barq E-Business Expo*" organized by Pakistan Military Establishment in Okara Cantonment

ii. **Seminars**

- a) With the courtesy of Trade Development Authority of Pakistan, Seminars were organized on the topic of "E-Commerce 101 as well as on "National Exporters Training Program" on 1.1.2024 and 26.08.2024 respectively.
- b) Another Seminar was arranged through the courtesy of SMEDA on the topic of "*Documentation relating to Import & Export activities*" which were based on the sale promotion. The participants took full use of both the Events.

iii. **Construction of Chamber's own building**

The House was apprised that our dream to have Chamber's own building is taking practical shape and by the Grace of Almighty Allah it is becoming an actuality. Alhamdulillah, Chamber has paid Rs.50,00,000/- to the Contractor during the current term and have succeeded to complete tiles fixing on roof, Parapet (Boundary wall of roof), Stairs Case, Conduits (water outlets), Sewerage, Side Passages, Ground Floor (Building up of walls) & Entrance, Plaster Ground floor, Underground pipes for electrification, Sanitary (underground bath, kitchen, sewerage) and Complete floor PCC. It was reiterated that very soon you all will be there in Sahiwal Chamber of Commerce own building at Sahiwal Bypass provided our members exhibit generosity in donations for ensuing atleast one or two years.

iv. **Close Liaisoning with other Chambers**

- a) Sahiwal Chamber of Commerce & Industry kept on its old tradition to strengthen relations with other Chambers across the board. At the outset, it visited Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry as well as Regional Office of Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce & Industry and exchanged useful information.



b) On the invitation of President, Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Mr. Muhammad Kashif Riaz, President participated in All Pakistan Presidents Conference from 15 to 16th May, 2024.

v. **Events organized in the premises of Chamber**

- i) This year as well, the Chamber welcomed high profile dignitaries in the Chamber which include Mr. S.M. Tanveer, Provincial Minister for Industries, Commerce, Investment & Skills Department, Dr. Ilyas Faisal, a renowned Scholar, Mr. Muhammad Taqi, Chief Commissioner, Inland Revenue who imparted very useful information to the participants.
- ii) Under Awaz Do Lodhran Pilot Project Scheme, discussions were held with the delegation of District Forum of Awaz Do and exchanged very important prioritized development program with them.
- iii) A lecture was arranged on the topic of **“Islamic Principles in Business activities”** by Mr. Shuja-ud-Din Sheikh, Head Tanzeem-ul-Islami.
- iv) Regional Director, Punjab Small Industries, Sahiwal delivered a lecture on new loan schemes on subsidized rates introduced by the Government of Punjab
- v) An awareness program was organized through the courtesy of National Business Development Program on **“Marketing Strategies for SMEs”**. Likewise, awareness programs about various schemes through the courtesy of National Bank of Pakistan and Soneri Bank Limited were also arranged.
- vi) Condolence References on the deaths of our legend members namely Mian Muhammad Younus, Muhammad Hussain Zahid, former President, Muhammad Arshad Bhattah, Aftab Qamar Latif Akbar, Mian Muhammad Arshad, Saleem Iqbal, Ch Muhammad Shafique, Haji Muhammad Hanif, Dr. Muazzam Beg, Muhammad Shafique, Safer Kaaba walleye and Muhammad Pervaiz and paid tributes to their efforts to improve the image of the Chamber.
- vii) Emergent meeting was convened to raise voice against the high-power tariffs by Independent Power Providers (IPPs) and to enjoin upon the Government to review/rewrite the agreements with the IPPs so as to provide an opportunity to the public at large especially the business community to sigh a relief. Finally, a Resolution was passed by the Committee urging the government to terminate or re-write the IPPs contracts. It was followed by a Press Conference urging upon the Government to terminate or rewrite the agreements with the IPPs forthwith so as to provide electricity to the Industries at cheaper rate so that wheel of



national economy is kept running and pain and misery in the lives of majority of the citizens of Pakistan is mitigated.

- viii) Delivered as many 72 letters to the Chairmen of various Standing Committees

VI) Events organized outside the premises of Chamber

- a) Our top most priority was establishment of Small Industries Estate, Phase II at Sahiwal and in order to achieve the goal, various meetings were held with M/s S.M. Tanveer and Shafay Hussain Ch. Provincial Ministers for Industries, Managing Director, Punjab Small Industries Corporation, Secretary, Industries, Government of Punjab, Lahore, Regional Director, Punjab Small Industries Corporation, Sahiwal, Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner, Sahiwal for the acquisition of State Land and derived tangible achievements.
- b) Held meeting with the high-ups of China Embassy and succeeded to include name of Sahiwal Chamber in the list of mega Chambers who have been authorized to issue Guarantee Letters to their members for the issuance of visas.
- c) Participated in the 126th Independence Day of Philippine
- d) Participated in the "World's Teachers Day" organized by Ripah University, Sahiwal. Apart from it, participated in the various programs organized by COMSAT University, Government of Technology, Annual Convocation of Sahiwal Medical College, Perfect Cadet High School and Punjab Prisoners Staff Training College, Sahiwal.
- e) Participated in a Seminar organized by Environment Protection Department, Lahore in TMA Hall, Sahiwal on the topic of "Negative Environmental & Health Impacts of single use plastics".
- f) Participated in inauguration ceremony of Al-Hajj M Siddique & M Sharif Hospital, Sahiwal and its handing over to the Government of Punjab
- g) Participated in the meeting of Advisory Committee (Central) of Federal Tax Ombudsman at Lahore under the Chairmanship of Dr. Asif Mahmood Jah, FTO



- h) Participated in the meeting of Punjab Chambers of Commerce Coordination Committee (PCCCC) under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister, Punjab in his Secretariat at Lahore
- i) Participated in All Pakistan Presidents meeting, followed by visit to Desert Rally, organized by Rahim Yar Khan Chamber.
- j) Arranged participation in Consultative Session on the draft "**Punjab Climate Change Policy**" organized by Strategic Planning & Implementation Unit, Environment Protection & Climate Change Deptt, Govt of Punjab, Lahore in Aiwan-e-Iqbal Complex, Egerton Road, Lahore
- k) Delegation of Chamber visited Lahore Chamber of Commerce & Industry & FPCCI Regional Office, Lahore
- l) Led delegation to Sahiwal Coal Power Plant (Qadirabad) and shared very useful and important information with Mr. Huaneng Shandong Ruyi, Chief Executive of Coal Power Plant
- m) The Chamber took active part in the welfare activities of the public in general. It arranged supply of 20 stretchers to District Headquarter Teaching Hospital, Sahiwal, 20 numbers of Foam Mattresses, 5 Sewing Machines, one Barber Chair, shaving Kit and foot-wares to the Child Protection Bureau, Sahiwal through the philanthropists of Sahiwal. The President also took part in Shaukat Khanum Net Working Funds Raising Campaign and Funds Raising Campaign of "**Akhuwat**".

VII. Meetings of Executive Committee

In order to conduct day to day activities of the Chamber in a harmonious and befitting manner, as many as 7 meetings of Executive Committee and 1 Emergent Meeting was convened which played pivotal role in smooth functioning of the Chamber.

VIII. Close liaising with Local Government Departments

The Chamber maintained its tradition to have close liaising with the Local Government Offices and held 20 meetings at different occasions which are enumerated in brief as under:-

- a. Meetings were held with the Commissioner, Sahiwal Division to resolve the problems being confronted by the business community viz: to take immediate steps for the outflow of standing rainy water in the central



market areas, to review Annual Valuation Table and other allied matters of emergent nature.

- b. Held meetings with the Deputy Commissioner, Sahiwal at 9 different dates to resolve the issues relating to Annual Valuation Table, Regional Development Plan, issues relating to Pakistan Red Crescent and District Peace Committee.
- c. Held meetings with the Regional Police Officer and District Police Officer to discuss security measures in the sacred month of Ramadan as well as during transition of cash from and to the Bank on the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr and general law and order condition in their jurisdiction.
- d. Held meetings with the Chief Commissioner, Commissioner, Inland Revenue and Chief Officer, Sahiwal Metropolitan Corporation to discuss issues of mutual interest.

IX. **Signing of Memoranda of Understandings**

As many as 5 Memoranda of Understandings were signed with the following Organizations who will provide full support and discount to the members of the Chamber at large.

1. Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce in UK
2. HUDA Consultants (Pvt) Ltd in organizing Expos
3. West & North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce to promote bilateral trade & industry between Pakistan and United Kingdom
4. Delta Solar, Karbala Road, Sahiwal which will provide 50% discount on service charges
5. Karwan-e-Abdullah Pvt Ltd, Police Line Road, Sahiwal who will allow Discount of Rs.10,000/- from total package of Umra & Rs.25,000/- of Haj Package
6. **Any other item with the approval of the Chair**

**Approval for an expenditure of Rs.2, 14,400/-
spent on the preparation of 44 Shields**

The House was apprised that an expenditure of Rs.2,14,400/- was incurred on the preparation of 44 Shields to be presented to the retiring Members of Executive Committee, Election Commission, Secretariat Members

& 15 other eminent members who rendered meritorious services to the Chamber to improve its image. The House unanimously approved the said expenditure.

Address by Mr. Muhammad Kashif Riaz, Retiring President

Mr. Muhammad Kashif Riaz, the Retiring President in his valediction address expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the retiring Office Bearers and Members of Executive Committee for their unwavering support and cooperation which enabled him to achieve his landmarks. He also welcomed the newly elected Office Bearers and Members of Executive Committee especially Mr. Sheikh Azmat Saleem on his unopposed election as President of the Chamber for the Term 2024-26. He assured them all for his resolute support and assistance as and when needed. He also prayed for their success in the times to come.

While revealing glimpses of his achievements as President for the Term 2022-24, he asserted that during his tenure of Presidentship, registration of as many as 673 and 57 members of Associate as well as Corporate Class respectively was made through which funds to the tune of Rs.75,85,000/- in the shape of Registration Fee were generated. Likewise, he issued 390 Visa Recommendations Letters and added Rs.7,80,000/- in the Chamber's Account. Likewise, Chamber issued 31 Certificates of Origin and earned Rs.31,000/-, 6 Guarantee Letters for China Visit and fetched Rs.30,000/- . The House appreciated his performance.

He also disclosed that establishment of Small Industries Estate, Phase-II, and completion of construction work of Chamber's own building always remained his paramount priority. A series of meetings were held with the Provincial Ministers (Industries), Authorities of Punjab Small Industries Corporation, Lahore and Sahiwal yet it could not be materialized despite Chief Minister's explicit directives during a meeting held with him. However, a little bit efforts could materialize the long outstanding issue.

So far as construction of Chamber's own building is concerned, its construction of 1st floor, tiles fixing on roof, Parapet (Boundary wall of roof), Stairs Case, Conduits (water outlets), Sewerage, Side Passages, Ground Floor (Building up of walls) & Entrance, Plaster Ground floor, Underground pipes for electrification, Sanitary (underground bath, kitchen, sewerage) and Complete floor PCC, meaning thereby that whatever was possible was got completed yet a lot is yet to be done. He presented a Cheque of Rs.4,00,000/- to the incoming President as donation from his pocket and hoped that new management would certainly complete this task in due course of time.



Address by Sheikh Azmat Saleem, newly elected President

At the very outset, Sheikh Azmat Saleem, President expressed his cordial thanks to all the members of the Chamber and said that his un-opposed selection as President could be made possible only and only with the blessings of Almighty Allah and the overwhelming support and trust reposed in him by his Comrades which resulted in absolute win of his Alliance with wide margin. He added that he will warmly welcome sharing of any issues, challenges or suggestions they may have. Their insights will guide him in providing effective support and advocacy. Together we can foster an environment conducive to growth, innovation and prosperity.

He disclosed to the audience that during his tenure of Presidentship for the Term 2009-10, the offices of the Chamber were shifted from a small shop to the present building and now he is determined to again get credit of shifting of Chamber's office in its own building during his current tenure but at the same time, I believe that it would only be possible with team efforts. He also announced his immediate and initial donation of Rs.2.5 Million towards Building Fund and said that he is optimist to complete this task in due course of time provided our valued members generously contribute to this Head.

Before the winding up of meeting, Shields were bestowed to the nominees, followed by pray by Mr. Antar Abdul Aziz Al-Shafi, a distinguished guest from Egypt. Thereafter, the meeting was wrapped up with a vote of thanks, followed by scrumptious dinner.



(Muhammad Tariq Awan),
Secretary General SCCI

Dated: 10th October, 2024