

eic comm

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From Director's Desk

Dear friends,

EIC has come a long way. The walk has been long and arduous. There have been a lot of challenges for the organization - making it relevant in the WTO scenario; making its presence felt both within the country, as well as in other countries, with their regulatory bodies; getting new work for the organization, specially in view of the fact that other organizations in the country have also been staking their claim on certification; developing Agreements with other countries for recognition of EIC's certification. But with great pride we can say that we have achieved quite a lot. Adding another feather in its cap, you would be happy to learn that EIC has been recommended to be an ISO 9001:2000 certified organization and would get its certificate soon. This would mean greater transparency at EIC.

There have also been the issues relating to a clean, neat and modern working environment and we should take pride in the fact that not only have EIC and the EIA HOs at Delhi, Chennai and Kochi been provided new premises, but also some of the Sub offices like Jaipur, Bhubneshwar, PTH, Quilon, Thane & Faridabad to name some have been done up and given a modernized look.

On the personnel & personal front, efforts have been made to address some of the long standing issues such as ACP, regularization of adhoc/ daily wagers/ contract employees, agency-wise promotions for group C&D, regular recruitments, increase in TA/DA for travel, 5-day week at par with government organizations, increase in medical, streamlining the payment of pension to retired employees, etc. Of course it has not been possible to sort out all issues to the satisfaction of everyone, such as transfers and promotions, but efforts were made to follow a transparent criteria and I do appreciate that most have generally been very understanding.

In this last issue of my eight year long and eventful journey in EIC, we at EIC have tried to highlight some of the major activities & achievements of 2007-08. I would like to express that all this would not have been possible without the support of the government, Chairman EIC and most of all the support & cooperation of the entire EIC/EIA family.

On the eve of my leaving the organization, I take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for the support and cooperation extended to me and wish you and the organization a very successful future. I am sure that the organization would reach greater heights in the near future and I would always look back at it with pride.

With best wishes

Shashi

Ms. Shashi Sareen

Appreciation and Awards:

Recognition of organizational efforts is always a pleasurable experience. EIC received the Rajbhasha Trophy for implementation of Official Language for the year 2006-07 which was presented by the Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce, Shri Jairam Ramesh. EIC also won the 3rd prize in the India International Seafood Show held from 8th to 10th February 2008 at Kochi. EIA-Kochi received the Rajbhasha Trophy Commendation Certificate for the year 2006-07 (4th place) from Koch Town Official Language Implementation Committee.

New Areas of Work:

After continuous efforts and support of the government, additional products have been brought under the purview of Export (Quality Control & Inspection) Act 1963. These include

- Ayurvedic, Siddha & Unani Products :
- Certification/ Attestation of Equivalence of Hop and Hops Products :
- Feed additives and premixtures
- Gelatine

The draft preliminary notifications have already been prepared and will be circulated shortly

Review of schemes / executive instruction

– Many of the existing schemes / executive instruction have been modified to align these with the new EC Directives. The revisions have also been validated by the TIDP expert, Mr Lars Herborg under the EU-India capacity-building project.

around 840 samples were tested. In 2008-09, the honey RMP will also be implemented by EIC and the RMPs for all areas have already been prepared and sent to the EC.

Modernisation and up-gradation of EIAs Laboratory:

These include:

- Poultry Meat & Poultry Meat Products
- Pre-processing Centre and Ice-plant.
- Milk Products.
- Scheme for Landing Centre/ Fishing Harbor/ Auction Centre :

Scheme for Landing Centre/Fishing Harbour/Auction Centre was modified and circulated on 19th October 2007. MPEDA and EIC/EIA officials have assisted the State governments to upgrade the landing sites and fishing harbours in line with the revised requirements. It is expected that around 12 fishing harbours would get approved in the next few months.

Organic Certification Scheme:

A detailed organic certification scheme including quality/ operation manual, standards, audit trail and templates has been worked out under EIA-Delhi for units all over the country and four units have already applied for certification. The application of accreditation has been submitted by EIA-Delhi to National Accreditation Body on 5 March 2008.

Residue Monitoring Plans:

Presence of residues of environmental contaminants and veterinary drugs in food products is a major concern for the food business all over the world. Under the Export (Quality Control & Inspection) Act, 1963, Government of India is committed to ensure safe products for the exports markets. Keeping this objective in view, residue monitoring plans for milk, egg products and poultry products in line with EC directive 96/23/EC were implemented in 2007-08 in which

After significant efforts to streamline the laboratory activities, the four main EIA labs at Chennai, Kochi, Mumbai, & Kolkata received accreditation from NABL for chemical and biological testing in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025:2005.

Kochi lab was the first to get accredited in

December, followed by Chennai in October 2007; Mumbai lab in February 2008 and Kolkata lab as recent as March 2008. The labs were also upgraded in terms of equipment such as ICPMS, HPLC, and GCMS MS procured through Plan funds as well as under EU-India TIDP project. The Chennai lab is now equipped to test for Dioxins (by GCHRMS) making it the second lab in India with such facilities.

Implementation of ISO 9001- 2000 at EIC:

In the last few months EIC officials had been working very hard to streamline and document its functioning in line with ISO 9001: 2000. The final audit for certification was carried out by DNV on 26th March 2008 and the organization was recommended for grant of certification.

EU-India Trade & Investment Development (EU-India TIDP) project:

Capacity building of EIC/EIAs was a significant activity carried out during 2007-08 under the EU-India Trade & Investment Development Programme. Various aspects covered included upgradation and strengthening of laboratories, strengthening the official control systems for certification, implementing quality assurance systems in EIC/EIAs, strengthening schemes for recognition of inspection bodies in India to meet international requirements, development of sanitary & phyto-sanitary measures (SPS) database, automated interpretation of Rules of Origin, organic

2006.

certification etc. through 7 Work Packages. Under this activity, 10 study trips to various countries were organised in which exposure was given to 56 officials of EIC/EIAs. Interactive meetings with trade/exporters of Kolkata region was organized in June 2007 at Kolkata in which 65 persons participated. Eight awareness programmes for exporters were also organized from 23 Oct-23 Nov 2007 at Veraval, Kochi, Tuticorin, Chennai, Vizag, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata in which 290 persons participated.

Laboratories Recognition Scheme:

EIC under its laboratory approval scheme, recognizes external laboratories in accordance with ISO/IEC 17025 to supplement its own testing. In 2007-08, 8 new labs were approved taking the total figure of approved labs to 17.

Equivalence/ Recognition agreements:

Seeking recognition of EIC certification is a very important activity for EIC as it places credibility on the activity of EIC/EIAs and allows a streamlined entry of Indian products in overseas markets. During 2007-08, such draft Agreements were developed with Japan, New Zealand, Russia, Brazil, Thailand, Malaysia, Italy, Australia, etc. These would be further discussed and negotiated during the next year with our trading partners for finalization.

EIC's certification has earlier been recognized by several of India's trading partners as given in the box below:

EIC RECOGNITIONS

Country	Products covered	Year of Agreement/ Recognition
USA	Black Pepper	1988
European Commission	Fish and Fishery Products, Basmati Rice	1997
Australia	Fish & Fishery Products	2002
Korea	Frozen Marine products, processed spice goods, processed nuts, tea, Honey, jam, preserved goods, sauce, sugar	2004
Turky	Food products, food packaging materials and stainless steel	2004

	utensils.	
Sri Lanka	More than 100 products under the Import Inspection Scheme of Sri Lanka namely milk products, edible oils, packaged water, preserved food, toiletries, bicycle tyres & tubes, steel section & wires, electric goods & PVC cables & cords etc.	2005
Singapore	Food & Agriculture (egg products, dairy products, drinking water), Electric & electronic products, Telecommunication equipments and drugs & Pharmaceuticals.	2005
Japan	Poultry & marine products	2005
Italy	Marine sector (Technical cooperation)	2005
China	Iron ore.	2006
Nepal	Fish and Fishery Products	2007

PERSONNEL ISSUES

Manpower Recruitments for Technical Posts:

As a result of various rounds of discussions and correspondence, finally EIC has been exempted by the Government from the provisions of ADRP for future. This will lead to sustained recruitments on regular basis and we will be able to fill up all DR posts in the organization in technical cadres.

23 New Recruitments:

Consequent to approval of fresh recruitment at AD (Tech & Non-Tech), Sr. A.O., Technical Officer and JSA, an advertisement has been issued and soon we will have 23 new recruits at these levels in the organization.

New Scheme for Financial Upgradations where minimum qualifications not met:

After protracted correspondence, the Government has agreed to grant two financial upgradation on completion of 12 and 24 years respectively, to such employees of EIC/EIAs who are not qualified for promotion in terms of Recruitment Rules. Further details are being worked out and these upgradations would be carried out in near future.

Regularization of adhoc/ daily wage/ contract employees:

The issue of regularization of 21 adhoc/daily wage/contract Group 'D' employees

rendering services in EIC/EIAs for the last 10-15 years was addressed during the last year. As a result, 16 such employees (except those whose cases were pending in the various courts) have been appointed afresh as Peons in the EIAs wherever vacancy existed.

Government has also agreed to regularize services of adhoc/daily wage/contract employees in Group 'C'. Process for regularization has been initiated and would be completed shortly.

Trainings & Awareness:

During the last year Human Resource and Quality Development Centre (HR&QDC) has organized 19 awareness programmes & 29 in-house programme where a total of 1011 representatives of trade & 552 officials of EIC/EIAs, respectively, participated. In addition to these programmes, officials of EIC/EIAs were also nominated in various short terms training programmes including foreign trainings organized by external bodies. 45 officials were nominated in domestic training programmes and 64 officials were nominated in foreign trainings, including 55 nominations under Trade and Investment Development Programme (TIDP).

Computerization of EIC/EIAs

The lab test module was implemented in the EIA HOs under the Integrated Computerization Project. The inspection module for fishery sector has also been

finalized and is slated for implementation at the 4 EIAs at Chennai, Mumbai, Kolkata & Kochi shortly.

New Premises

New office premises have been built/procured for various EIAs/ Sub offices. Such initiatives have considerably improved the working environment with an open-office culture to enable better functioning of the offices. Some of these are:

- **EIA-Delhi** - EIA-Delhi was shifted to its new premises at Jhandawalan, New Delhi.
- **EIA-Kochi** – The building for EIA Kochi is expected to be inaugurated in early April. The new place would have the head office as well as the lab & inspectorate under one roof.
- **EIA-Kolkata** – New premises have been purchased for the lab of EIA-Kolkata. Refurbishing of the premises is under process and likely to be completed within two to three months.
- **Pilot Test House** - The guest house located at PTH is under renovation and alongwith the modernization of the conference room is likely to be completed very shortly.

Some Other Activities/ Achievements:

Annual Report – During this year EIC placed its Annual Report in Parliament in the Month of December 2007, within the desired time for which the credit goes to all employees.

EIC website is now 100 percent bilingual & can be accessed in both hindi & english.

COO - Preferential Trade Agreement between India – Chile (PTA) was introduced during the year. Now, EIC through its EIAs are issuing CoOs under ten schemes namely GSP, GSTP, SAPTA, SAFTA, APTA, ISFTA, IAPTA, PTA

between India-Chile, CECA- Singapore, Indo-Thailand.

TA/DA - EIC has revised its TA/DA for its employees to significantly higher rates which are at par with BIS rates. This means easy and more convenient touring.

Creation of Pension Trust Fund – This was created to ensure that the organization has the capacity to meet the pension requirements of the GPF retirees. The disbursements of pension have also been outsourced to LIC.

Medical Reimbursement - Medical reimbursement facility was enhanced from Rs.3600/- to Rs.5000/- for OPD treatment and made more simplified.
