

PRESS RELEASE

Appointment of Sharon Bamford in newly created position of Chief Executive

The Indo-British Partnership Network (IBPN) is pleased to announce the appointment of Sharon Bamford as its new and first Chief Executive.

Ms Bamford, who is currently CEO of the Scottish Institute for Enterprise (SIE), will assume her new role in August 2007.

The appointment of a new Chief Executive comes at an important phase in the development of the IBPN and follows the announcement earlier this year by the then Chancellor, Gordon Brown, of a commitment to significantly increased funding from the UK Government of £1 million per annum.

The increased funding confirms the Government's recognition of the IBPN's position as the UK's lead body in promoting and developing Indo-British trade relations. It is intended that the increase in funding will be matched by private sector sponsorship, membership fees and the provision of charged services.

As Chief Executive, Ms Bamford will be responsible for developing the IBPN, as was recommended in a House of Commons Trade and Industry Committee report on India, as 'the de facto Indo-British Chamber of Commerce'. To that end, Ms Bamford will liaise and work closely with the UK and Indian governments, alongside UK Trade & Investment and the Indian High Commission in London.

Lord Karan Bilimoria, CBE DL, Chairman of IBPN, commented:

"Our significantly increased funding - from £75,000 to £1 million - has given us the opportunity to explore and develop a host of new initiatives including the appointment of our first ever Chief Executive. I know how much the IBPN board is looking forward to working with Sharon in our mission to bilaterally increase trade, business and investment between Britain and India. Sharon has a very impressive background in enterprise and education and these are two areas where there are so many opportunities for Britain and India to collaborate and work together. We couldn't wish for a better addition to the team than Sharon."

Ms Bamford commented:

'I am delighted to be joining IBPN at this very exciting time for the organisation. With outstanding leadership from the Indo British Partnership Co-Chairmen, and the involvement of senior business leaders, the IBPN is set for a major boost to the leading role it is already playing. The IBPN will play its full part in supporting the governments of India and the UK in their endeavours to enhance trade and investment. This is a unique and opportune time for the development of Anglo-Indian relations and I am honoured to be a part of it.'

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IBPN - The India Britain Business Organisation

The UK-based Indo British Partnership Network (IBPN) was established in 2005 to implement the Indo British Partnership (IBP) initiative, created in 1993 by the then Prime Ministers of the UK and India. Since then, the IBPN has quickly risen to become the standard bearer for fostering Indo-British trade relations, with a mandate to increase bilateral trade, business and investment between the two countries. The IBPN is supported by UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), with the secretariat provided by Asia House. Current Co-Chairmen of the IBP are Mr Phiroz Vandrevala (Executive Vice President, Tata Consultancy Services Ltd) and the Lord Bilimoria of Chelsea (founder and Chief Executive of Cobra Beer), representing Indian and UK industry respectively. Lord Bilimoria additionally serves as Chairman of the IBPN.

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