

RECORDER REPORT

Global supply chains, Industries urged to take advantage of AEO certification

KARACHI: Pakistan Apparel Forum Chairman Muhammad Jawed Bilwani has urged the business and industrial community to take optimum advantage of the Global Authorized Economic Operators (AEO) Programme as AEO certification will enable entities to become the trustful member of international supply chains.

Addressing the first meeting, Bilwani, who is also the focal person of AEO stakeholders group notified by Pakistan Customs, said that in view of its significance and importance, it is imperative that Pakistan Customs, being member of the World Customs Organizations, should immediately launch the AEO certification programme without further delays to rank the country among the states having fully operational AEO programme, he added.

He said Pakistan Custom is envisaging a robust taxpayers' facilitation programme in their supply chains according to international standards. Many countries have successfully introduced such programs under the AEO. Under the anticipated AEO programme for Pakistan, eligible businesses will be recognized as credible clients and will accrue various benefits, nationally and internationally, in accordance with their AEO status, he added. Customs Collector Saeed Akram said Pakistan Customs is the member of World Customs Organization, which comprises 182 members divided into six regions and responsible for processing of 98 percent of the international trade. The Customs role has been evolved and transformed from the Revenue Collection to Economic Development and Security with focus on Supply Chain, he added.

He informed that to launch AEO program in Pakistan, the government has introduced Section 212A of the Customs Act, 1969 and also drafted certain rules. In addition, the ECC has also approved a summary for the introduction of AEO in Pakistan and the timeframe for launch of AEO has been communicated to World Customs Organization (WCO) while discussions with business community initiated to finalise recommendations.

In another presentation, Sheeraz Ahmed, Additional Collector Customs said a comprehensive AEO programme has been conceived covering all sectors directly dealing in international trade, mainly exporters and importers.

He said that proposed benefits on AEO certification are speedy green channel and high level of facilitation in imports and export consignments, thereby ensuing shorter cargo release time - priority placement, assessment & examination and scanning on priority by giving frontline of treatment.

Muhammad Zubair Motiwala, Chairman, Council of All Pakistan Textile Association (CAPTA), Aslam Karsaz, Chairman (SZ), Pakistan Hosiery Manufacturers & Exporters Association (PHMA), Shaikh Shafiq, Chief Coordinator, Pakistan Readymade Garment Manufacturers & Exporter Association, Shaheen Merchant, Chairman, Pakistan Denim

Manufacturers & Exporters Association, Kamran Chandna, Chairman Pakistan Knitwear and Sweater Exporters Association, Khawaja M. Usman, Chairman Pakistan Cotton Fashion Apparels Manufacturers & Exporters Association, Sulaiman Chawla, President SITE Association of Trade & Industry, Muhammad Babar Khan, Former President Federal B Area Association of Trade & Industry, Riaz Ahmed, Senior Vice Chairman, Landhi Association of Trade & Industry, Umair Mianoor, former chairman (PHMA), Khizer Mehboob, Senior Vice Chairman PHMA, Abdur Rehman, Vice Chairman PHMA, Rafiq Godil, former chairman (PAKSEA), Faisal Ahmed of M/s Artistic Denim, Munif Kapadia of M/s Al-Rahim Trading, Khurram Zuberi of M/s Ryan Agencies, Mustafa Hemani of M/s Hemani International, Asif Khan of CRU, Shujaat Hussain from Pakistan International Container Terminal Limited, Abdul Rehman Punjwani from Qasim Freight Station, Shariq Vohra of M/s Shazil Pakistan, Navaid and Danish of M/s Artistic

Milliners also participated in the session and gave their valuable inputs for the proposed AEO programme.